

Colorado College/Fine Arts Center Alliance Redefines Arts in Colorado Springs

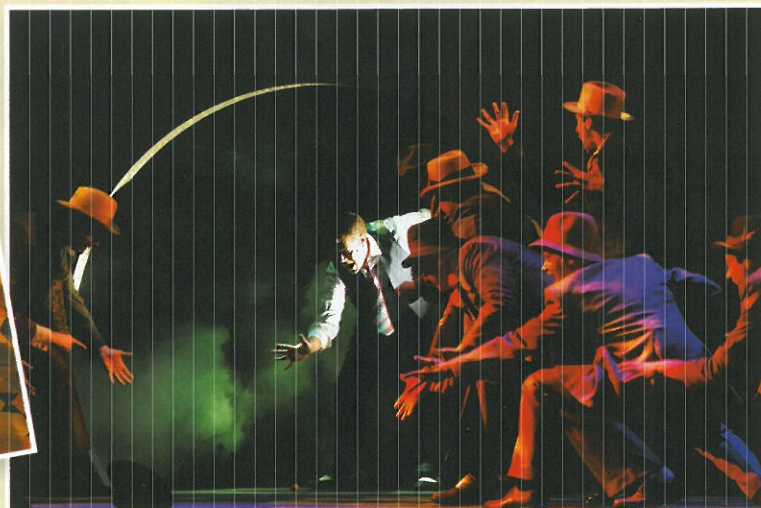
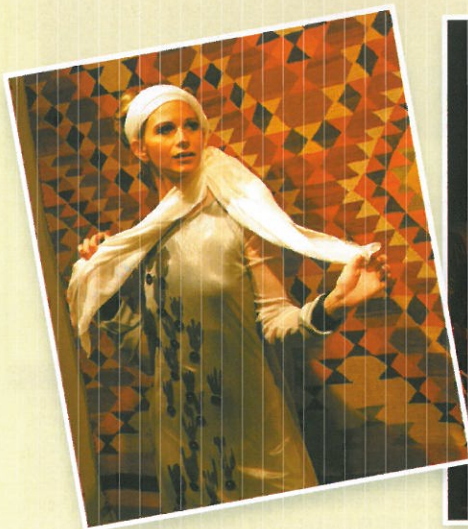
Two Historic Arts and Education Powerhouses Join Forces

Big news was announced in late August by Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler and Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center President and CEO David Dahlin. After many months of dialogue and negotiation the two institutions made a formal agreement that signals the re-envisioning and redefining of both organizations' contributions to the arts in the region. The partnership supports the missions of both organizations while expanding innovative learning opportunities, arts programming and cultural resources for the greater Colorado Springs community.

"The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is a cultural gem, and I'm excited about the immense possibilities this alliance presents for all involved," Tiefenthaler said.

"This creates a strong and vibrant future for the Fine Arts Center that will enable us to thrive and build upon our legacy for the next 100 years," Dahlin said. "This is truly a win-win-win agreement benefiting the Fine Arts Center, Colorado College and the entire community."

Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers praised the affiliation. "This partnership brings together two of our most prominent institutions in arts and higher education. It is something we should all look to as an example of innovative, collaborative future-building," he said. "We all benefit as a community from the expanded and dynamic possibilities this represents in our arts, culture and education sectors." For nearly 100 years, the two institutions have collaborated in a variety of important ways. This includes the FAC serving as the college's de facto art department in the 1920s-1940s, co-hosting an annual Conference on Fine Arts in the 1930s, collaborating on shared programming and exhibitions throughout the decades, and the recent gift in 2015 of the FAC's extensive art publication archives to the Tutt Library at Colorado College. The goal of the alliance goes beyond merging two existing organizations: It seeks to create something new, ground-breaking and forward-looking, leaders



of both institutions say. The result will be expanded community offerings and enriched student experiences. Alliances between institutions of higher education and nonprofit cultural institutions are an increasingly common model. Many liberal arts colleges and universities have alliances with museums, producing theaters and art schools.

The agreement between Colorado College and the Fine Arts Center calls for a four-year transition period to allow for careful planning and integration. The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center will retain its current name until July 1, 2017, when it will become known as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. By July 1, 2020, the Fine Arts Center entity will be fully transferred to the college along with existing donor restrictions on the assets including the building and the art collection. The college will dedicate more than \$20 million of its endowment for the ongoing support of the Fine Arts Center. The Colorado

Springs Fine Arts Center Foundation will continue as a separate supporting foundation managing the existing FAC \$13 million endowment for the mission of the Fine Arts Center at Colorado College.

"As president of both El Pomar Foundation and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Foundation, I am pleased to see this alliance between the Fine Arts Center and Colorado College," said Thayer Tutt. "Arts institutions around the country are finding that alliances with institutions of higher education create great programming synergies and long-term sustainability. This alliance will allow the Fine Arts Center to build upon its nearly 100-year legacy as the center of our arts community and to develop new initiatives that serve the academic mission of the college, all for the betterment of our region. The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Foundation looks forward to working with Colorado College in the years to come to strengthen the bond between the college and the Pikes Peak community."

