



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC

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MEDIA ADVISORY AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The Fine Arts Center's kick-off celebration ushers in 100th year

Colorado Springs (January 25, 2019) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is marking its 100-year anniversary with a free community kick-off celebration, honoring the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA) and the Fine Arts Center's rich history for over a century. Details below:

When: Saturday, Jan. 26; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with galleries open until 7:30 p.m.

Where: Fine Arts Center; 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: FREE and open to the public

More: Celebration events and activities will include:

- Guided tours of featured exhibitions *O Beautiful! Shifting Landscapes of the Pikes Peak Region* and *Scenes from Life: Drawings by Bernard Arnest* at 12 and 12:30 p.m.
- One-act play readings of *Suppressed Desires*, the first play performed by the Academy Players in 1919, in the museum galleries at 1 and 3 p.m.
- Hands-on art activities and demonstrations for all ages 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Virgil Ortiz sculpting demonstration
 - Garret Oaks glassblowing demonstration
 - Hand building with clay activity
 - Wheel throwing demonstrations and experiences
 - And more!
- Complimentary hot beverages and sweet treats 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Broadmoor Art Academy was born in 1919 grounded in western exploration and discovery. The beauty of the American West has long attracted artists and at the turn of the century, both artists and tourists were drawn to the distinctive geography of Colorado Springs.

The Fine Arts Center's story begins as a burgeoning art colony at the foot of Pikes Peak. Colorado Springs founder Gen. William Jackson Palmer had envisioned a city he nicknamed "Little London" – an oasis of culture and refinement amidst the untamed rugged landscape – and early in the city's history, artists from around the country streamed into the region to bring the vision to life.

In the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose, located on the current site of the Fine Arts Center, the BAA was established with a vision of creating a new art school of national stature. The BAA represented the long-held dream of an art school that emphasized easel painting and served the community by hosting music recitals, drama and dance performances, and art exhibitions.

After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into one of the first multicultural and multidisciplinary arts centers to encompass a fine art museum,

arts education, and theatre, essentially an entire arts district under one roof. In 1935, the BAA shifted in name to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, followed in 1936 by the grand new facility, but the ongoing commitment to arts education remained a pillar of the institution.

Julie Penrose donated the land, Alice Bemis Taylor donated her Southwestern collection of art and publications as well as the funds for the new building and an endowment, and Elizabeth Sage Hare volunteered to serve as the first President of the Board of Trustees.

A century after the founding of the BAA, the FAC celebrates the ingenuity of the artists and patrons who helped to shape the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College into the fine museum, performing arts theatre, and art school it is today.

As Colorado Springs continues to grow, so does the importance of a strong cultural identity. The FAC is proud to have been an early and ongoing participant in this endeavor and strives to embrace the many avenues toward a doubly inclusive and dynamic Fine Arts Center for all.

The community is invited to take part in the FAC's yearlong celebration through a variety of exciting events, exhibitions, art classes, and more! Further details on anniversary related events and happenings can be found at www.coloradocollege.edu/fac100

Special Membership Offer

For a limited time only, the FAC will offer a special 100th Anniversary Medallion Club family membership for \$100, which includes a special FAC branded gift! Visit the website for more details.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. For 100 years, 30 West Dale Street has been the hub of rich cultural history throughout the region. The Broadmoor Art Academy served as a pillar in the cultural community of the Rocky Mountain West. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof – ultimately evolving into what is known today as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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