



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

Taylor Museum
Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts

30 West Dale Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
tel: 719.634.5581 fax: 719.634.0570
www.csfineartscenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Charlie Snyder, Director of Communications
719.477.4316; csnyder@csfineartscenter.org

BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

FAC one of more than 1300 museums to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer

COLORADO SPRINGS (May 23, 2011) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center announces the launch of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1300 museums across America to offer free gallery admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from today through Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2011.

The FAC is open Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The FAC is not open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30.

“The Fine Arts Center is pleased to build upon the momentum of last year’s Blue Star Museum program with another summer of free gallery admission to the men and women of the military,” said Sam Gappmayer, FAC President and CEO. “The FAC continues to look for ways to make the arts accessible to the entire Colorado Springs community.”

“Blue Star Museums may be the program at the NEA of which I am proudest,” said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. “Blue Star Museums recognizes and thanks our military families for all they are doing for our country, and simultaneously begins young people on a path to becoming life-long museum goers.”

Last year the success of the inaugural year of the Blue Star Museums program showed that partnerships between the nation’s museum and military communities are a natural,” said Blue Star Families Chairman Kathy Roth-Douquet. “We are thrilled that 300,000 military family members visited our partner museums in the summer of 2010. We hope to exceed that number this year as the military community takes advantage of the rich cultural heritage they defend and protect every day. We appreciate the NEA and the nation’s museums who chose to partner with us. We also are grateful to our friends at the MetLife Foundation, the lead supporter of the Blue Star Museums outreach initiative, whose generous donation helps make our work possible.”

This year, more than 1,324 (and counting) museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative, including more than 500 new museums this year. Museums are welcome to join Blue Star Museums throughout the summer. The effort to recruit museums has involved the partnership efforts of The American Association of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Association of Children’s Museums, and the American Association of State and Local History.

This year’s Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, nature centers, and 70 children’s museums. Other participating Colorado museums include the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Pueblo’s El Pueblo History Museum, Denver’s Museum of Contemporary Art and Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art.

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, established in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education school. Built on the foundation of the prestigious Broadmoor Art Academy, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, performing arts through the FAC Theatre Company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. In 2007, the FAC unveiled a \$28.6 million renovation and expansion. Visit csfineartscenter.org.

Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums runs from Memorial Day, May 30, 2011 through to Labor Day, September 5, 2011. The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active duty National Guard and active duty Reserve members. Some special or limited-time museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. For questions on particular exhibits or museums, please contact the museum directly. To find out which museums are participating, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums. The site includes a list of participating museums and a map to help with visit planning.

#####