



# Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

Taylor Museum  
Bemis School of Art  
Performing Arts

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## REACCREDITATION

### The American Association of Museums reaccredits the Fine Arts Center

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (Aug. 13, 2009) – The American Association of Museums (AAM) has reaccredited the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. The Accreditation Commission decision was announced this week.

AAM Accreditation is a widely recognized seal of approval that brings national recognition to museums, regardless of their size or location, which recognizes museums' commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement.

There are approximately 17,500 museums in the United States and, as of January 2009, 776 are accredited, which means only four percent of the nation's museums attain this seal of approval.

The AAM Accreditation Program began in 1971 and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center was one of the 16 charter members on that list, which included just eight art museums.

"It is no small thing that the Fine Arts Center was part of the original class of 16 institutions to receive accreditation from the American Association of Museums back in 1971," said Sam Gappmayer, FAC President/CEO. "I hope we honor the hard work of nearly 75 years with our ongoing commitment to the highest possible standard of excellence. The Fine Arts Center is grateful to all past and present supporters that have made this honor possible."

Institutions on the accredited list go through the reaccreditation process approximately every 10 years. The process includes a year-long self-evaluation, a peer review site visit and an Accreditation Commission Review. The accreditation process for art museums examines various standards, including:

- Mission and Planning
- Public Trust and Accountability
- Leadership and Organizational Structure
- Collections Stewardship
- Education and Interpretation
- Financial Stability
- Facilities and Risk Management

## **Fine Arts Center**

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The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, established in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education center. 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 accredited 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. For more, visit [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org).

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