



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

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Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FINE ARTS CENTER EARNS RECOGNITION FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

“Excellence in Local Industry” for Unique and Exceptional Contributions

Colorado Springs, CO (November 27, 2006)... The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center was the recipient of *Chairperson Award* given by the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation at the 1st Annual Excellence in Local Industry Awards on November 2, 2006. This award was presented to organizations making a unique and exceptional contribution to our community. Specifically, the award noted the progress and vision of the Fine Arts Center’s renovation and expansion efforts.

“Workforce attraction and retention is a critical component of the local economy,” says Mike Kazmierski, President and CEO of The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation. “The world-class programs offered at the Fine Arts Center coupled with the new expansion offer the type of cultural assets sought by a dynamic and creative workforce.”

“We are very proud of this award. It recognizes the important correlation between the arts and the economy. By building a vibrant arts community, Colorado Springs also churns the economic engine of our region,” comments Fine Arts Center President and CEO Dr. Michael De Marsche.

When new construction is complete, the Fine Arts Center's building will expand from 88,388 to 132,286 gross square feet; a total expansion of 48,398 gross square feet. Award-winning Denver architect David Tryba has designed the renovations and expansion to enable patrons to experience the facility as its founders and architect originally intended while meeting future needs and conveniences. The total cost of the project is \$28.4 million. New features will include a permanent collections wing and a traveling exhibition wing, events spaces, an expanded museum shop, theatre restorations, a dedicated rehearsal studio, and a new education wing featuring five studios.

About the Fine Arts Center

Founded in 1936, the Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. It is a place to learn about, appreciate and practice the arts. The Fine Arts Center is an accredited member of the American Association of Museums (one of the first 16 so accredited) and the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To learn more, visit www.csfineartscenter.org.

About the Economic Development Corporation

The mission of the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, a private not-for-profit corporation, is to sustain quality of life through a healthy economy. It does so by providing economic development services that result in the current and future retention and attraction of primary jobs which provide for economic diversity, replacement of lost jobs and create job opportunities for those entering the workforce for the first time. To learn more visit, www.coloradosprings.org

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