



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fine Arts Center develops “Passport to the Arts” program designed to enhance fourth grade Colorado history curriculum and spark a lifelong connection to the arts

Colorado Springs (Sept. 26, 2017) — In an effort to maximize learning opportunities and foster a lifelong love and appreciation for the arts with area youth, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is proud to announce the *Passport to the Arts* program for fourth grade students and their families. This is one of many new offerings to come out of the implementation of the FAC/CC Strategic Plan titled “Excellence, Access, and Collaboration.”

With many underfunded school districts scaling back arts education and national cultural programs like the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) threatened for elimination, the FAC is dedicated to fostering experimentation, growth, and a sense of shared community by ensuring that the arts are a part of the life experience for children in our community.

Beginning October 1, 2017, parents will be able to register their fourth grade student for the *Passport to the Arts* program online at <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac/passport> to receive:

- A FREE one-year family membership to the Fine Arts Center (for the fourth grader, two adults, and all other children under 18 in the household)
- (1) FREE children’s ticket to the FAC’s fall family theatre production *Bunnica* (Oct. 13 – Nov. 12, 2017)
- (1) FREE children’s ticket to the FAC’s spring family theatre production *Androcles and the Lion* (Mar. 2 – Apr. 1, 2018)
- 50 percent off select Bemis School of Art classes for the fourth grade student
- Access to activities in the museum specifically built for fourth graders and their families

A study by NEA Arts titled “Engaged and Empowered, The Importance of Arts Education” states that “... students with access to in-school arts instruction performed better academically, participated more actively in extracurricular activities, and were more likely to pursue higher education. In other words, arts education doesn’t just teach skills to future practitioners of the arts. It teaches children the creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.” Read the full report here: www.arts.gov/research/Arts-At-Risk-Youth.pdf

“We are excited to offer this educational program that helps bridge the gap and build upon what fourth graders are learning about Colorado and the Southwest in the classroom, connecting it to the Fine Arts Center’s impressive permanent collection of Native American and Hispanic art and artifacts,” said FAC Director of Museum Education Kris Stanec. “Taking the experience from the classroom into the galleries will deepen their understanding and appreciation of our unique place. This program will allow students to connect with the history of Colorado in a new and exciting way.”

View full program details including terms and conditions and frequently asked questions online at <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac/passport>

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. 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. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became 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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