



For Immediate Release

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## **COLORADO COLLEGE AND FINE ARTS CENTER RECEIVE \$3.5 MILLION IN FOUNDATION GRANTS**

***Gifts follow recent announcement of historic alliance; will support  
community-wide arts and educational initiatives***

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Oct. 3 2016 – Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center have received grants from the John E. and Margaret L. Lane Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation to support arts in the community and new educational initiatives. The gifts, which total \$3.5 million, come from local as well as national philanthropic foundations, and follow on the heels of the recent announcement about the historic alliance between CC and the FAC.

“These incredible investments in the Fine Arts Center and Colorado College are a resounding endorsement of our new partnership and our bright future together,” said Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler. “The support from these three foundations, as well as the enthusiasm we’ve heard from the community in the listening sessions, is creating great momentum as we develop a new vision that supports the missions of both the FAC and the college. We are imagining ways that the alliance will create new learning opportunities and enrich arts programming for the entire region. These gifts will help make this exciting future possible.”

The \$2 million grant from the John E. and Margaret L. Lane Foundation is committed to a permanent endowment held by Colorado College for the exclusive support of the Fine Arts Center. This newly established endowment will provide funding in perpetuity for the FAC’s diverse, ongoing mission to inspire community vitality through performing arts, visual arts and arts education. The addition of these endowed funds enhances the ability of the Fine Arts Center to build on its decades-long tradition of producing art exhibitions in its museum, theatre and performing arts experiences on its stages, and classes and workshops in the Bemis School of Art.

“We believe the mission of the Fine Arts Center is vital to the city of Colorado Springs,” said Phil Lane, trustee of the Lane Foundation. “We hope the Lane Foundation’s support will inspire others in our community to redouble their investment in this vital institution, now stewarded by Colorado College.”

Tony Rosendo, who is executive director of the Lane Foundation and a Colorado College trustee, said, “Leveraging new partnerships that now exist as a result of the alliance will benefit both the Fine Arts Center and the college — and ultimately the Colorado Springs community and CC students. These grants represent the beginning of truly exciting possibilities for the arts in our region and for our region from a national perspective.”

The potential of the recent alliance also has aligned with the priorities of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a leading international foundation making grants in higher education, humanities and the arts, which awarded a \$1.2 million grant to forge deeper academic connections between Colorado College and the interdisciplinary arts. The grant will allow Colorado College to expand existing teaching strategies and introduce a more diverse set of individuals on campus and within the community to the arts, with particular focus on programs related to the American Southwest.

“The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is pleased to support Colorado College in this important initiative,” said Cristle Collins Judd, senior program officer of the Mellon Foundation. “The college’s historic dedication to innovative teaching and its commitment to diversity and inclusion now promise to integrate the arts and material culture within the liberal arts curriculum at Colorado College in ways that will benefit both students and, more broadly, the Colorado Springs community.”

A major gift to the Fine Arts Center from the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation also supports educational initiatives by providing a scholarship fund for youth who show interest, initiative and talent in visual arts and who don’t have the financial resources to undertake serious arts education. The \$330,000 gift was made to the Fine Arts Center Foundation, which continues alongside the alliance with the college. The Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation has funded arts education and aspiring visual artists for many years, and this year, their board made the decision to close the foundation and disperse its assets to like-minded arts programs. This carries on the legacy of their founder, Marie Walsh Sharpe, and is being made in honor of the foundation’s late executive director, Joyce Robinson, who had deep ties to the Fine Arts Center and served as the FAC’s director of education for many years.

“We are pleased to continue an important tradition of supporting youth in our community who aspire to achieve success in the visual arts through the Fine Arts Center’s excellent programming,” said Steve Mulliken, board president of the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation. “Marie and Joyce would be happy to know that financial barriers will not keep young people in our community from receiving quality visual arts education, thanks to this scholarship fund at the FAC Foundation.”

“These new commitments provide validation of the synergy that is possible between these important institutions,” said David Dahlin, CEO of the Fine Arts Center. “We expect that this is only the beginning of exciting new developments as we begin planning for our combined future.”

### **About Colorado College**

Colorado College is a nationally prominent, four-year liberal arts college that was founded in Colorado Springs in 1874. The college operates on the innovative Block Plan, in which its approximately 2,000 undergraduate students study one course at a time in intensive 3½-week segments. The college also offers a master of arts in teaching degree. For more information, visit [www.coloradocollege.edu](http://www.coloradocollege.edu).

### **About the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center**

In 1919 the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA) was established in the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose. After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into an entire arts district under one roof, thus leading to what is now known as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC). The Penrose family donated the land for the building, Alice Bemis Taylor donated her Southwestern art collection and library, and Elizabeth Sage Hare served as the FAC’s first President of the Board of Trustees. The FAC, built in 1936, is a privately funded, nonprofit art museum, professional theatre company and arts education center. Built on the foundation of the prestigious BAA, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado’s arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Alliance of Museums, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and traveling exhibitions, in performing arts as a TCG member theatre company, and in arts education through the FAC’s Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural treasure in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. For more information, visit [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org).