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## **FINE ARTS CENTER MUSEUM STAFF BOLSTERED WITH CC ART AND CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE**

### ***Combined expertise broadens programming capabilities***

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado – Sept. 2, 2016 – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center gained new resources Sept. 1 as Colorado College extended existing art and curatorial expertise to the FAC museum.

The additions follow the Aug. 25 announcement that CC and the FAC finalized an agreement to join forces. CC assumed management responsibilities for the FAC on Sept. 1. A four-year strategic planning process will start with a focus on the museum, with that vision being implemented beginning in July 2017.

Rebecca Tucker, Colorado College associate professor of art, was named museum director, overseeing all operations of the museum including curatorial and educational programs. A professor of art at CC since 2003, Tucker's teaching focus is on art, Southwest studies, and museum studies programs. She has been awarded fellowships at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, and was a scholar-in-residence at The Hague's Royal Cabinet of Paintings Het Mauritshuis. Tucker has co-written two books, "Discovering Leonardo" and "Discovering the Great Masters," and has another in progress. In addition, she has published numerous articles on collecting, Dutch art and Rembrandt's work; curated a show of Spanish Colonial art; and presented at art conferences in Amsterdam and across the United States. Tucker holds Ph.D. and master's degrees from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts and a bachelor's degree in history of art from Bryn Mawr College.

Jessica Hunter-Larsen, who has served as curator of Interdisciplinary Experimental Arts programming, including the IDEA Space at CC since 2006, was named director of academic engagement/IDEA curator. In this role, Hunter-Larsen will work with the FAC curatorial team to develop innovative approaches to curating, and to build educational connections between the museum, the community and the campus. Hunter-Larsen previously was curator and then executive director of the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls, Montana. She is an instructor of art history and museum studies at CC, and has curated two dozen exhibitions at the IDEA Space. She has presented public lectures and workshops nationally. Hunter-Larsen was awarded the "Curatorial Excellence" and "Excellence in the Arts" awards from the Pikes Peak Arts Council. She holds a master's degree in art history from the University of Colorado-Boulder and a bachelor's degree in modern art from Colorado College.

Briget Heidmous, assistant curator at CC, retains the same title but now also works with the FAC museum. She will continue to manage the IDEA Space and Coburn Gallery exhibitions and programming at CC during the 2016-2017 academic year before moving to the FAC. At CC she assists the IDEA curator with collection management, exhibition design and educational outreach initiatives. Heidmous holds a bachelor's degree in studio art from Hastings College, where she specialized in oil and encaustic painting and glass blowing. She has shown her artwork at Hastings College, Manitou Art Center and The Machine Shop, where she completed an artist residency in 2014.

Additionally, CC and the FAC hope to add a curator of the Southwest art and ethnographic collection to the museum staff in coming months.

Joy Armstrong, most recently acting museum director and chief curator at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, was named curator of modern and contemporary art. She was awarded the Pikes Peak Arts Council Curatorial Excellence and Creative, Intriguing, Astonishing PPAC awards. Previously Armstrong was assistant director of galleries for the Kent State University School of Art, and director of the Eells Gallery in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, as well as senior exhibition technician at the Akron Art Museum. She has curated or co-curated approximately 45 exhibitions, including working in some capacity on the more than 60 titled shows and untitled permanent collection offerings presented at the FAC since March of 2010. She holds a master's degree in art history from Kent State University, where she specialized in contemporary art and body art, and a bachelor's degree in studio art and communications from the University of Denver.

Michael Howell, FAC registrar; Jeremiah Houck, FAC preparator; and Lauren Tyson, FAC special projects/admin, continue in their current roles.

“One of the important goals of our alliance with Colorado College is to be able to expand our museum staffing,” said David Dahlin, president and CEO of the Fine Arts Center. “By adding these CC employees to our existing museum team, we are beginning the integration process and gaining the capacity to dream big.”

“With this dynamic team, we will build on our strengths,” said CC President Jill Tiefenthaler. “We are excited to immediately start our collaboration by combining our expertise and talents, and to start envisioning what our partnership can be.”

The community is invited to provide input on plans for the FAC at upcoming listening sessions:

- Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m., Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Music Room, 30 W. Dale St.
- Wednesday, Sept. 14, 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m., Colorado College's Packard Performance Hall, 5 W. Cache La Poudre St.
- Monday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Music Room, 30 W. Dale St.

More information is at [www.coloradocollege.edu/csfac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/csfac).

### **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 FAC, built in 1936, is a privately-funded, non-profit 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 travelling 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)