

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

Nurturing a Community of Artists

Harnessing the power of the arts to bring people together, the museum will be a place of inclusion, exchange, collaboration, and inspiration for people across our community and our region.

— Museum Subcommittee Report

The alliance positions us to bring creative individuals — local artists, high school students, FAC staff members, CC faculty, staff, and students — together in a vibrant arts community that benefits the FAC, the college, and Colorado Springs. Our city was once celebrated as an arts colony where renowned artists gathered to develop and share their work. Now we aim to nurture a broader, more intense community of artists that also contributes to the excellent, innovative arts learning and expertise we offer our students. In addition to immersive academic experiences, broad-based engagement is part of every CC education, and the alliance only intensifies our capacity to offer the one-of-a-kind, experience-based learning our students expect. Other aims are to create future leaders for the local, regional, national, and global worlds of arts and to offer exciting development opportunities to professionals. In this thriving arts environment, teaching and learning are iterative endeavors, encouraging reflection, critique, and innovation. Ultimately, our vision will attract an expanding number of artists and technicians, increasing artistic quality and enriching our identity as a pipeline of future arts educators, artists, and leaders in the arts worldwide.

To accomplish these ideas, we could:

- **Create innovative professional programs to help teachers and mentors explore and understand the latest ideas in arts teaching and interdisciplinary learning.** These opportunities should be open to the community, FAC staff, and CC faculty and staff as they collaborate to study learning, creativity, and new methods of arts education, continuously improving offerings for all constituents.
- **Develop and support intense internship experiences** that offer new educational growth paths for students who connect the curriculum to performance events, for example, or get first-hand learning in the performing arts.
- **Offer master classes to artists in the region, the community, and across the campus.** An artist-in-residence program could enrich this effort by exposing master class students to renowned practitioners in the art world.
- **Develop special events and exhibits to display and share the work of local and student artists.** These occasions could quickly become exciting events to enliven the artistic community we aim to nurture and support.
- **Build on our current docent program in the museum by supporting dynamic innovation in this critical service area.** Our current design that joins CC students with experienced community docents is an important step toward creating a knowledgeable, multi-generational community that loves and supports the arts.
- **Increase field trips to the FAC for K-12 students.** Our aim is for the arts to be part of the life experience of children in our community.
- **Commit to increased interaction and professional development opportunities for FAC staff and teaching faculty;** encouraging curricular innovations such as a museum studies program that might generate new knowledge about the collection, regional cultures, and museum pedagogies. These discoveries could be disseminated through various media, with gains embedded into public education initiatives, K-12 activities, docent programs, and exhibition interpretation materials. Through sustained practices like these, the FAC could become as central to a CC student's educational experience as the library. ■