As a national model for an arts center that joins with a college, the FAC will develop and support an innovative program of arts education that will become highly regarded nationally. We will build on current programs like the Summer Music Festival and the Youth Repertory Theatre as we imagine fresh, new ways to create excellent arts education offerings, with special emphasis on programs for youth. Professional development for teachers will be part of this effort. Recognizing that first-hand experience is vital to our educational offerings, the FAC will become even more available to young people in our region. To develop this program, we could:

- Build on the nationally known Colorado College Summer Music Festival and the community-engaged Youth Repertory Theatre to create an unparalleled program of arts education and experience for youth. Informed by the arts and education departments at CC, this program could draw on local and guest talent and expertise. Our creativity, commitment, and resources to achieve this goal are active and strong.

- Offer innovative professional development for teachers, who could use our programs to meet their continuing education requirements.

- Assess the needs of our constituents routinely — including the youth and adults we serve — to strengthen our efforts.

- Use creative pedagogies to contribute to the arc of arts education in the K-12 system in Colorado Springs with community-based and experiential learning. For example, collaboration with CC’s Department of Education could result in offerings like an art class for struggling readers, helping children learn how visual literacy relates to reading. CC graduate students might tutor these students as part of their practicum hours.

Across all programs, the FAC and the college will encourage and sustain vibrant connections. Our efforts will extend across departments and programs within the college; the entities that make up the FAC; the college and the FAC; and the broader Colorado Springs community. One advantage of this alliance is the opportunity to build on our combined expertise. We look forward to thinking together about the full range of collaboration and coordination we can draw on to develop and accomplish this goal together. Developing shared physical space will contribute to this aim. As connections increase, the FAC will encourage the mindset that taking risks to try new things is a positive part of the creative process. The following ideas could:

- Encourage the FAC and relevant academic departments to partner to create multi-disciplinary arts experiences that explore a central theme from multiple perspectives.

- Strengthen and expand existing collaborations with other regional organizations to develop and support visionary projects that are impossible for single organizations to achieve. Such offerings should have a significant impact on our community.

- Create innovative structures, support mechanisms, policies, and practices to guide the sharing of various venues and facilities for the collaborative programs we develop. In these spaces, we will promote collaborative alignment rather than silo-like ownership.

- Promote the connections and shared expertise we need by bringing staff together to serve both the FAC and the college. Our efforts in the museum are succeeding, producing a stronger program overall, and we expect similar benefits as integration of the FAC performing arts and Bemis proceed.

Imagine a place where collaboration is encouraged in spaces that provide a multi-faceted experience for artists of all ages and skill levels to explore a broad approach to learning in the arts.

— Bemis Subcommittee Report

The alliance of the FAC and CC will provide resources and opportunities to develop, implement and research new and adventurous approaches to teaching and learning in the arts.