RECOMMENDATION NO. 5
Developing an Arts Corridor

The entire campus should be a living laboratory and exhibit space for critical themes and aspirations, as well as an invitation for collaboration, a sanctuary for reflection, and a place of excitement.

— The Colorado College Plan: Building on the Block

Taking advantage of the proximity of our major arts facilities — including the FAC, Cornerstone Arts Center, Packard Hall, and CC’s arts education spaces — we will develop an Arts Corridor for our entire community. As it evolves, we will encourage local galleries, studios, and other arts and creative entities to locate nearby and become integral members of the community the Arts Corridor promotes. The corridor should be a dynamic, collaborative space — a lively hub for the arts, education, and culture that eases movement across venues and benefits all. Collaboration and coordination are critical to our aim to support some of the finest arts facilities in one place.

The following ideas could contribute to this effort:

• Include an arts incubator space for Benis in the Arts Corridor to provide intense opportunities for local, regional, and national artists and creative interns for students and local youth. Investing in innovation through the Arts Corridor would reinforce and expand the array of innovation efforts the college supports.

• Use this concept to shape the alliance into more than the sum of its parts. For example, the Arts Corridor might promote musical theatre productions, international dance presentations, and other events that draw diverse audiences from the region. Originality and support for active creative processes are values to prize. Big Idea grants and Venture Grant projects on campus might bring fresh ideas.

• Develop one unified narrative to intensify the presence and advantages of the Arts Corridor. More than marketing, this narrative should explain and invite people to visit the corridor and locate arts-related entities and events there.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6
Underscoring our Sense of Place

The FAC will become a national model of distinction for an arts center that joins with a college to serve the campus, the community, the region, and the world.

Like the college, the FAC’s sense of place is one of its most distinctive features. This alliance will encourage and intensify this — including its physical location and the many related opportunities it will enjoy, its distinctive Southwest and Spanish Colonial traditions and its future as a national, and global interaction they can support, and the regional theatre, classes, and exhibits through which it will especially engage our local community. It also positions us to ask what it means to study the liberal arts and celebrate the arts in the West, making the most of our unique opportunity to be national leaders in both. We will design these efforts to link the FAC to both its distinguished traditions and its future as a national model for an arts center connected to a vibrant, progressive college and an active, curious community.

Through these lenses, the FAC will affirm its place among academic arts institutions and the wider fine arts arena. Our strategies could include these ideas:

• Expand our work with local communities to explore the cultures, histories, and development of our region through modes of artistic expression, including those in our collections. Such intellectual endeavors call on methodologies and approaches to knowledge that are at the core of the liberal arts.

• Unify the Arts Corridor through landscape and hardscape design.

• Work as partners with members of local communities to use the Taylor Collection to explore the continuity of cultural expression and production in our region. We would work with our local partners to decide how cultural objects are viewed, handled, displayed, understood, and preserved and to determine how to sustain the program over time.

• Use technology to identify and reach into our larger communities in the arts world. For example, photography and digitization can open our collections to broader audiences and raise our regional and national profile. We should secure support for this important effort to engage with those who share the heritage of our collections and live throughout the world.