

Listening Session 3 Highlights

Date and time: September 26, 2016, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Venue: Music Room, Fine Arts Center

Attendees: 73

1. Unique Programs at the FAC

The FAC has an abundance of programs and facilities that aren't offered elsewhere in the same capacity within Colorado Springs such as the Youth Rep Program, the Military Family Artistic Healing (not offered anywhere in the US), Children's theater, Bemis School of Art classes etc. The Southwest collections could easily be the best in the country.

2. Outreach and Getting the Word out

There are members of the Colorado Springs community who are simply unaware of the FAC including those as close as the Old North End. There is importance in ensuring that we touch these people and make them familiar with the place so that they too may share in the beauty of the FAC

3. The Potential Benefits of this Merger

The CC-FAC merger provides an opportunity for the untapped community to learn about the FAC. The popularity of CC within the community means great this for the FAC by association. With CC's support there will be an opportunity for the FAC museum to finally have a Southwest curator who is a part of the Southwestern community along with more paid interns and general staff to lighten the load.

4. Accessibility and Affordability

The FAC should be made more accessible to the community in a variety of ways. For instance, the Bemis School of Art should be wheelchair accessible for older members in the community and people with disabilities. School tours should be free for students in public schools who cannot afford the opportunity. There is a lot of diversity on this community and not nearly enough in the FAC. There is the need for more space for more classes in Bemis.

5. Anxiety about the Merger

CC in the community has a reputation for being "insular and disconnected from the community" and there is fear that after the merger, the FAC might fall into that trap. It is important that throughout the merger, the mission of the FAC is preserved. For all the amazing programs, the hope is that they may continue to grow and exist even after the merger.

6. General Fondness and Appreciation of the FAC

The FAC has always given a sense of belonging to everyone who has interacted with it in anyway. From people who have taken classes there as children to the unique work being done by the theater group, the FAC has always felt like home. There has been great progress over the years with the FAC under its current administration (especially in the Theater Dept.) and there is great potential for more. The passion people have for the programs being offered and their fondness for the FAC is worth noting.

=====

Number of Comments: 36