

Listening Session 1 Highlights

Date and time: 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM on September 8, 2016

Venue: Music Room, Fine Arts Center

Attendees: 55

1. The importance of the Bemis Art School for “at risk” children in the community

Bemis Art School gives “at risk” students a chance to express themselves artistically, which can make a big difference in their lives. Typically, “at risk” students tend not to have access to such a space but the Bemis Art school makes them feel comfortable and welcome. While the success of such programs is immense, the lack of funds can undermine such a program.

2. Better wages for artists

It is important for artists to earn a living wage as an appreciation for their work and talent. That is not to say that the artists are not being paid, but they are deserving of more for the work they do. There is also the issue of overextended staff who definitely need more support and better wages in order to create a first class Fine Arts Center.

3. Creating an Inclusive environment and accessibility

There is a need to break down the barriers of access and to address the lack of diversity at the CSFAC at CC. The community needs to identify the space as a resource for all things art. Outreach is key for people who typically do not have access (e.g bringing the art to Senior Citizens so they know where to get it if they want it or having it open on Sundays allows access for working people). There are opportunities to market the CSFAC at CC locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.

4. The Importance of Arts in Higher Education

The CSFAC at CC has potential to develop an intellectual tourism aside from the standard tourism that brings people to Colorado Springs. Explore ways to integrate CC culture into the FAC Center as well as actively relating the Arts to majors pursued by students e.g Political Science. Foster greater interaction between the artists at the FAC and students at CC for everyone’s benefit. It would also be interesting to see research on the Arts and the effect it has on scholarly work.

5. Building a healthy relationship between The C-Springs Community & CC

The alliance should strive to be the model of higher education and community working collaboratively. Recognize the community’s fear of a CC-centric shift on the part of the FAC and work towards a “both-and” to make it work. Despite the circumstances of the alliance, the FAC and CC should act as equals, on the same level, moving forward. The alliance is a great opportunity to break down the distance between Colorado Springs and CC, which is typical of colleges in towns.

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Number of Comments: 45