

THEMATIC SUMMARY OF COMMENT CARDS and WEB INPUT

What do you love about the FAC?

The FAC is very unique in that it boasts three departments: The Museum, the Bemis School of Art and the Theater each of which provide **unique programs** across not only Colorado but also nationally. It draws in community members across all ages and backgrounds. The distinction between the programs also encourages people with different interests to still feel at home at the FAC. Programs such as the Bemis “Military Family Artistic Healing”, the only one of its kind in Colorado, are why the FAC is so special to the community.

Along with the programs, **is the FAC building** itself, from the Art Deco building to the Coffee bar and restaurant. The FAC is an intimate space within a small community that continues to keep downtown Colorado Springs alive. It has created an opportunity for different generations within the Colorado Springs Community to learn about the Arts. The rich culture of the Arts in Colorado gives for outstanding Southwest collections and exhibits for the community. It is for these reasons that the FAC is of very special significance to the community as a whole.

What would you like to see change?

Despite the general fondness the community has for the FAC, there is a significant lack of **access** in a variety of ways including physical access for the elderly and those with disability as well as socio-economical access for those from less fortunate backgrounds. As a result, there are local communities in the Colorado Springs area who simply do not have the knowledge nor the opportunity to engage in the programs offered at the FAC. Moving forward, it is paramount to engage these communities actively so that they too can be exposed to the Arts. One common suggestion is to make the FAC more affordable by granting free admission to underprivileged schools in an effort to inspire young patrons of the Arts.

With increased access comes the need for **expanded space** to accommodate all members of the community. Some suggestions include more space for art exhibitions, additional classroom space for Bemis courses as well as expanding the performing arts programs offered. However, apart from physical space there is a call for an expansion of the content offered or exhibited to appeal to a wide range of demographics. For example, having international exhibits, increasing the number of displays by diverse local artists and installing interactive public art are a few of the ways to diversify the crowd that already frequents the FAC.

Moreover, there are **facilities** in the FAC that are in need of improving. Along with the theme of access and increased diversity, there is the need to create an inviting lobby that would inspire everyone who walks in so that people can then feel at home at the FAC. Better parking spaces and more imaginative food options are also other ways to upgrade the FAC to a first class arts center. The better the facilities, the better the reputation of the FAC and resultantly the better to attract community members to the FAC as Arts as was intended by the founders.

What do we need to consider?

There is a lot to be considered throughout the process of this merger in order to ensure its success and one way to do so is to **actively involve the community** in the process. That is besides picking the brains of community members who already engage with the FAC, it is important to involve those in the community who are not familiar with the FAC so that they too can be a part of the merger. There is also a need to

continue to be open and transparent about the strategic planning process of the merger as well as to preserve the mission of the FAC.

In addition, the merger provides a unique opportunity to **bridge the gap between CC and the community**. There is great potential for collaboration between CC students and the community through the FAC, ranging from students working with local artists and actors, to students taking and teaching classes at the Bemis School of Art. CC's involvement with the FAC will help break the private school stigma about CC as well as increase the reputation of the FAC. Moreover, there is a lot that the community can offer a lot to the CC students, for example apprenticeship, which would be useful for their careers beyond college.

Diversity is a recurring theme throughout the merger. Besides simply increasing access to the FAC, there has to be substantial **outreach** to get the word out to the local communities who need to be engaged. Geographically speaking there are regions within the Colorado Springs community that are simply not aware of the FAC and what it has to offer. These are the people who must be reached out to. Satellite programs like those done by the Bemis School of Art for underprivileged students are a good model for sharing the Arts with communities who are otherwise not aware. Overall, the FAC should become a more inclusive space for all members of the community across a range of demographics.

Newspaper Headlines in 2020

CSFAC at CC Great National Success

CS Art Legacy Revitalized

FAC Expands Community Involvement and National Fine Arts Status Without Private School Stigma.

Art as A Social Change: Hispanic Institute Launch

CSFACE at CC Gives School of the Museum of Fine Arts a Run for Their Money.

CSFAC at CC Opens Doors and Brilliant Work Brings the Art to The People.

PPCC, UCCS and CC Connect Through Art.

A New Chapter for Colorado Springs. Fine Arts Center Being Anchored Firmly in The CC Campus.

Alliance Brings Cutting-Edge Art to Colorado Springs

Expansion Plan Announced for CSFAC Due to Increasing Attendance and Capacity.

It's A Necessary Destination Because It's So Outstanding

Theatre Rectified with State of the Art Technology

FAC Debt Is Paid Off

Dan White Will Be Artist-In-Residence

No Need to Drive to Denver to Take a Trip to NYC. You Can Get It All at CSFAC.

CC Reaches Its Carbon Neutrality Goals Even with The Addition of the Fine Arts Center.

Heralded as A National Model for Inclusion, Education, Expression and Creativity.

Combined Resources Create Stronger Community Presence.

CSFAC Presents HAMILTON!

Colorado Springs FAC and Colorado College Engage (Veterans, Homeless, Youth, Inmates) In The Community to Create Visual and Performance Art.

Visitor Attendance Numbers Have Grown Over the Years for The Last 10 Years.

Hurrah. There Are No Longer Acres of White Walls in The FAC.

The Louvre Loans FAC Its Impressionism of White Walls in The FAC.