

Transcript of CC Safe Return to Campus: Online Town Hall on the Arts

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Ryan Bañagale: We're good to go. Thank you for joining us today for the Town Hall on the arts. I'm Ryan, a professor of music at Colorado College and I'm also the college's director ever performing arts. My office amplifies the role of the arts in the academic mission of the college. Supporting the collaborative and creative impulses of our campus and community including programming and endeavors of the CC academic departments of the co-curricular student groups and Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College and we have interdisciplinary connections between the arts and building bridges between the arts and other academic and program areas of the college. So for example when the pandemic began the Office of performing arts responded by running a multi-week series called peaks and valleys. They provided a virtual space for our students, staff, alumni and faculty to share their creativity from isolation. Over the summer the social justice movement gained new momentum we ran a justice in action month providing daily 10-minute modules that highlighted the ways that the arts can be essential in our ongoing quest to be an anti-racist society. Links to both of these ventures can be found on the performing arts CC webpage and I'll speak more about that in a minute. Today I'm pleased to facilitate this Town Hall on the arts at CC. The health and safety of the community is important but arts play a critical role in the moments we find ourselves currently. Our goal is to share ways we respond to the moments and talk about opportunities emerging and show how the arts become stronger in the face of uncertainty. Now hopefully we'll inspire unimagined opportunities as we strive to be of, by and for all in our creative endeavors.

I'll have time at the end to brainstorm new ideas if we run out of Q & A questions. Submit those to the Q&A session. I'm joined today by let me share this with you – I'm joined today by a really wonderful assemblage of colleges who will provide an overview of their respective areas. Some are going to share co-curricular updates concerning student groups and I would like to point out at the start all of our student groups are expected to follow the same protocols that are established by the academic divisions and programs. Each area of the arts has its own special considerations with regards to the health and safety of its participants and each area has spent the summer researching and applying best practices to our official here at Colorado College.

Ryan B.:

To keep things rolling I've asked the panelists to speak for a few minutes. It should leave us with 20 minutes of Q&A at the end of the hour and do our best to address as many questions as possible. We won't get to all of them. I would like to invite you to visit the performing arts at CC webpage. This contains a CC arts resource page which will be continually updating as we move into the academic year. On that page you'll find links to individual departments and programs as well as a more detailed information about the academic and co-curricular offerings and protocols and post an updated FAQ to reiterate some of the information shared today as well as new questions as they arise. To find that page type performing arts into the CC search bar. We have also made a tiny CC link. Go to <http://tiny.cc/ccarts> and you can get to the research page in the navigation bar. Without further ado it is my pleasure to introduce our first panelist and that is the director of the Colorado springs fine art center at Colorado College. Idris Goodwin.

Idris Goodwin:

How are you? I'm starting my timer. My friends, we've decided to start with the platypus which is the Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. I'm going to segment this talk because there is a lot to cover and I want to stay in time. So a little bit of back story and in doing this back story I'll talk a little bit about the city of Colorado Springs specifically. Colorado College has around for close to 150 years in the city of Colorado Springs and right close to it located directly on the same grounds practically is the Fine Arts Center which has been around for 100 years. It was a space founded to be a cultural center, to provide performing arts, visual arts and arts education. And so there is a museum, Fine Arts Center Museum, there is a theater company, and there is what is called the art school. And for almost all those 100 years the Fine Arts Center operated, Colorado College operated, sometimes it was wonderful overlap and a few years ago they decided to become one, right? And so now we're known as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. Our intent is to be a bridge between the city of Colorado Springs and really the region really beyond El Paso county or the front range region they call it. And the campus itself, right? So we really serve two communities and we're really trying to really feed the region and provide for the region in a myriad of ways. And close that gap that has existed sometimes between the city and the campus.

So really quickly I'll talk very quickly about our objectives for the community and then what that means for Colorado College students more specifically and spend a bit more time focusing on that. Then of course some things just overlap. When we became – when the alliance happened in 2017, we said that we wanted to be a model of distinction for an arts center that joins with a college to serve the campus, the community, the region and the world, right? Big lofty goals. We produced a beautiful glossy strategic plan, and then in March everything changed.

Idris Goodwin: And so since then we've been spending a lot of time figuring out what does it mean that we are more or less a model to be an in-person experience, right? Much like college as well, right? And so we've been pivoting in all types of different ways while trying to maintain and hold onto our core values, right? To maintain the mission, which is the arts as a means to stimulate community vitality and also inspire the individual spirit, right? Help the individual, feed the individual and also stimulate community but also provide educational opportunities to help people to learn and grow and discover themselves. We're facing a lot right now obviously. The global pandemic and the heightened racial and social conflicts. It's what we're living in has forced us to re-evaluate what is the arts' role and responsibility in that? We really see our campus, our student population in particular as our partners in that. Our thought partners in helping to define what is our role, but also looking back how have artists in the past dealt with similar issues that we deal with now?

And so really that's what we want this space to be. I think it's transferable whether you're a college student, whether a faculty member, staff member, or someone not affiliated with the college whatsoever, right? So I want to share a few of our sort of main priorities for this time that we're currently in, right? The first one is anti-racism and we are working on creating actively an anti-racism through the arts initiative because we believe that if racism has been, you know, learned and passed down across centuries, it is going to take a lot of time to learn what needs to be anti-racist. It doesn't happen overnight. Learning or unlearning anything there are many ways and many approaches to do that directly and indirectly. We think the arts provide ample opportunities for that work to be done on a consistent basis through representation, who are the artists, who are the voices that we are putting on our walls and galleries and that we're putting in the digital space now? But, you know, who are we bringing into the space?

Also what kind of conversations can we stimulate and facilitate in spaces that mainly for the arts. Who are the artists among us trying to find our own voice and provide them with skills and opportunities to figure out what it is they're trying to say for the benefit of us all. Our second priority for this year is a continued commitment to digital content and hybrid efforts. The rules of the game have changed. While those of us have gotten good at preservation, we need to be actively exploring I won't say innovation because it rhymes with preservation but we need to be exploring new ways to do business. I've gone way over time and audience retention and growth.

I think that's self-explanatory and access and accessibility. How can we show that this space is safe and welcoming to everyone and including all of you? I look forward to seeing you in your masks and digital face in the future. Thank you.

Ryan B.: Thank you very much.

Wonderful projects the Fine Arts Center took on this summer is a series of projects called the 3 by 3 Projects which invited artists of our local community and region to create something brand-new. Encourage you to check out the Fine Arts Center webpage and the 3 by 3 Projects moving into the fall. Next we're joined by Susan Grace from the music department. Sue, the floor is yours.

Susan Grace: The music department is delighted to welcome all new and returning students. Online registration for private lessons is open and available on the music department website. Here is a screen shot of what you will find. Lessons for music majors and minors are paid through our scholarship funds and financial aid is available to all others who qualify. Most of our performance faculty have opted for the flex mode of teaching. If you are off campus at any time lessons will be online. If you are on campus you and the teacher may discuss face the face lessons depending on your and the teacher's comfort level. If you're not registered at the college block I but taking at least three blocks in the semester, blocks 3, 4 and J you may still sign up for lessons at the beginning of the semester. We have developed safety protocols for each the instrument and ensemble and it can be found on the website. There are practice facilities and you will be required to register for practice time. More instructions will be available once you have signed up for lessons.

We have a variety of ensemble offerings from the traditional band, orchestra and chamber chorus to bluegrass and gamlon. You'll find information. Chamber chorus will provide you with singer's masks to be worn in rehearsals. Even though the ensembles will look different this semester our performance faculty is dedicated the making your experience as rewarding as possible whether online or in person. The directors will be forming smaller groups within the ensemble so this can allow for proper social distancing, small chamber ensembles and different combination of instruments can be satisfying and also provide a great way to collaborate with other arts groups across campus and also include digital music in these collaborations. What a perfect time for composers to come forward.

We're facing challenges we never expected but the silver lining is that it's also opening new worlds of possibilities and more reasons to reach out to our friends in all the arts to talk, listen, imagine and create together. Please know we want your experience within the music department to be satisfying and uplifting and we look forward to seeing you very soon. Thank you.

Ryan B.: Thank you very much, Sue. If there are questions music and protocols it can be found on the music department's home page and links on the resource page that I mentioned before. Next it is my pleasure to introduce my colleague from down the hall in the offices of packer hall Kate Leonard from the art department. Hi, Kate.

Kate Leonard: Hi. Thanks so much. I want to thank Ryan for the invitation to speak about the art department's programs, time is short so I provided a link to our department webpage that will have extensive information on our academic official and co-curricular ideas for the year and we have an email we created for any questions you have about the CC art department programs that we can also list in the chat. In general we're responding to the challenges we know lie ahead by creating new opportunities for students across our curriculum. The art history program is humming with exciting courses ranging from ancient mosaics to contemporary art and new courses in architecture and design. Some courses take a global perspective. Others focus on underrepresented voices and issues in art. A specialist in architecture and design is joining the department for the year, Kate Huntley. We look forward that and to expand our curriculum. In studio a number of new programs and official and you'll find those on the website. We welcome a new multidisciplinary artist working in after fro futurism whose teaching is informed by critical race theory. They're new faculty and visiting artists contributing to this year's program. Again I'll point you to our website to find out more.

The art department believes communities and institutions are measured by their commitment to art, artists, and programs that raise the voices of underserved communities through art. How will we be measured in this regard in the coming year? This question frames our departmental approach to shaping curriculum and developing new programs. We know change, instability and ambiguity. Because of this, we're uniquely positioned in the arts to lead in this turbulent time. I also want to recognize the narrative of resilience in the arts is a double edged sword. When budgets are tight this is especially true in our public schools, are the arts a desirable am entity when times are good or disposable when budgets need to be cut? Our local school districts reckon with these kind of questions? What role will we play in the story of the arts in our community this coming year?

The art department's expanded programs are dependent on deepening the connections with existing CC arts leadership outside our department. It will be through the museum, student life that the arts can engage with the challenges of COVID-19, systemic racism and the upcoming election. The work ahead requires us to recognize the arts community at CC is multi-layered and inclusive.

Kate L.: There are lots of people on campus who made tremendous contribution to the arts who aren't here today but who are poised to expand their work and contributions in a time when we in our community need them most. Amplification of the voices, as Ryan has said, is an important value in the arts and at CC. Consistent with that value, I mention the work of community education by Tara Thomas, and others, the commitment to public art by the acting president and wellness director and the important work of Polly Nordstrom and others. The programs that we'll discuss today rely on our partnership with these leaders along with our faculty colleagues across the arts and the college. Some of them are here today and others include Rebecca Tucker, Kris Stanec and Naomi Wood and Heidi Lewis all of whom we look forward to hearing from as this conversation in the arts evolves and develops and we discuss the ways art and their potential not only to turn a lens on our current situation but to envision and realize that our future is for all. Thank you.

Ryan B.: Thank you so much, Kate. Our next speaker is coming to us not live but from recorded space, Ryan Platt, the chair of the theater and dance department to share a message about the theater offering this fall. Let me share this video with you. Here is professor Ryan Platt.

Ryan Platt: Hi, my name is Ryan Platt chairman of the Department of Theater and Dance at Colorado. We're excited you are interested in the arts while you're here. I want to tell you about what's happening in theater in the fall in an outside the classroom and before that I just want to make clear that we teach theater in the context of the liberal arts so if you have a background in theater that's wonderful but it's not required. Many of our – many of our strongest students first discover theater at college. So all are welcome with experience and not. So we're doing two productions in the fall. Professor Monica Sanchez is continuing her reading series, a play reading series. For 20-21, she and Melissa Manuel have compiled short plays and all people from throughout the Springs community are invited to select, direct and online evening as part of an evening of performances. Acting and director roles for multiple levels of experience and more info at the top of block 1. Our newest faculty member professor Lisa Marie Rollins, an American theater up and coming theater artist in the states is directing in blocks 3 and 4 evening of microplays from Susan Lori Parks. 365 plays / 365 days and multiple roles for student actors and directors. BIPOC students are especially invited to enroll. Acting roles are open to those interested in creative play. Professor's intention to create a collaborative directing team. You might think about her – first year student her block 2 course on black women and theatrical expression in the United States. If you're also looking for a block 3 or 4 class, we've got a course on Samuel Beckett.

Ryan P.: Lighting design course that's a hybrid and flex course, in person or online on lighting design in block 3, block 4 a great course on new American play writes dealing with race. It's taught by Professor Sanchez and extended format on modern theater sink your teeth into the classics. If you are interested in tech work Paul Martin will be offering both hybrid and remote versions of his ever-popular course on stage craft. A way of getting involved in behind the scenes work and when we might be behind the scenes. Reach out to Paul Martin directly, pmartin@coloradocollege.edu and things you can do on top of your other classes. Great place to start. Welcome to CC. All are welcome here regardless of experience.

Ryan B.: Great, thank you so much, Ryan. And now we are going to hear live from another member of the theater and dance department my colleague.

Pallavi Sriram: Welcome to all whether you are in the Springs on campus or wherever you are in the world. It's wonderful to be here today. I'm the assistant professor of Dance Studies in the Department of Theater and Dance and here to tell you a little bit about what's happening in dance, which is really very exciting. Very quickly our dance program is sort of centered around a few things, practice, which takes the form of studio classes, practice courses which I'll say a little bit about. Secondly creative process, so block courses which really allow you to explore your creative voice and the process of dance making, whether or not you have any experience coming into college with dance making. It really is a new space where you can explore and find a new kind of creative space. All of this is framed by what we believe is important is an engagement with critical histories and politics. Both in terms of the U.S. and a global perspective. I believe that's particularly important now where we think about how dance is actually not just located but central to the big questions that are being asked whether it's around the pandemic, whether it's around the deep reckonings with social justice issues and how we're situated within those things.

In terms of dance what's happening and what has changed? There might be a question of, you know, how do we dance online? How do we dance outside of the studio? Well actually people have been figuring this out for a long time. Dance has been happening in non-studio spaces and creative ways for a long time. We're grappling with that now at CC. What that means practically, we are opening up all of our adjunct courses. They are studio practice courses that meet two to three times a week in the afternoon take them in in addition to block courses. So we have really excited courses with teachers in hip-hop, contemporary dance, samba, ballet and more. Being in a studio means something different.

Pallavi S.:

Each of these courses has different modalities depending on the course who is teaching it and we're taking into account all the protocols of being in space together if that's part of the experience. A lot of them are taking dance outside the studio as I mentioned earlier or taking dance digitally, right? So the full offerings are listed. You can find all the information on the Department of theater and dance website under courses and dance technique adjunct courses.

But one of the things that's important to note is that it is not just about whether or not we can dance, but dance in the national stage right now is kind of on fire both with people figuring out how to share work, having deep conversations about what dance can do in the world and just taking on new creative ideas, new ways of making. And we're really thinking about that in terms of the courses and interdisciplinary as some others have talked about and will talk about is really important. And so some of the things that I want to sort of turn your attention to there are some very exciting classes coming up in the fall, whether it's choreography, introducing you to dance making. Moving writing bringing together explorations in movement and creative writing, and encountering global dance which is really about engaging with global artists and scholars and thinking about the politics where we are in the world now in and through dance. And there are great opportunities to work with artists coming up. Later on in the year please look out for those. An interdisciplinary artist rooted in Japanese avant guard. She will be here in the spring and excited to have a visiting artist native contemporary choreography and her collaborator who will be working with students and developing a work performance installation kind of work which you don't have to be a trained dancer. You can be trained or new to the stage and you are welcome and it is going to be an exploratory process.

The last thing I will say because we are short on time is that a lot of what's happening new right now is student led. You guys are the ones coming up with new ideas and that is so exciting. I want to just turn attention to one thing. Dance workshop is a student-led organization. It is one of the biggest events on campus student-led organizations on campus generally. This year they're finding creative ways forward. How to take dance into different spaces and deal with the fact we're in different places and working digitally. What does it mean to make dance in the world today. If you want more information about that you can go to the dance workshop Colorado College webpage – Facebook page and look out for more information through their Facebook page. For all course offerings there are many opportunities. Find the information under courses and some of the information is also centered in the CC arts webpage. So I'm looking forward to seeing you all whether you are new or have been for a while and seeing all the new things that can come out of the energy that's happening in this moment.

Ryan B.: Thank you so much. There is a question in the Q&A here I don't know if you want to address it now or point them to the website. How are we staying safe inside during studio classes?

Pallavi S.: That's a great question. We have set protocol and following protocol based on the CDC recommendations. The El Paso County recommendations and Dance USA, the national dance organization which has protocols for how do we dance safely. We have particular protocols for our studio spaces. Pallavi S.: If we're in the studio we will be socially distanced and we have a cap on studio spaces and we're also working with campus facilities to make sure that these spaces are card accessed, right, so we know who is going in and who is coming out. And we are prioritizing the students who need to do deep work in the studios but we want to make it a safe space for everyone who is taking classes. Yes, we're thinking deeply. If you want more information go to the department website and we have the protocols listed.

Ryan B.: Thank you very much. And I'll say the same thing is true for the music courses and the classes we're offering. Different protocols are in place that we'll be following and continue to update these as the situation around the pandemic shifts and changes moving forward into fall. Next I would like to introduce Dylan Nelson from the Film and Media Program. Dylan.

Dylan Nelson: Hi, everybody. It's great to be here. Thank you so much for coming and being interested in the arts at CC. Film and Media Studies is an academic program that has been around since about 2012. The course work in the program integrates critical studies and creative practice. We believe that both critical study of film and the practice of making films are the twin pillars upon which our discipline rests and we ideally want all of our students to graduate with equal facility in both. We think making films makes you a better scholar and studying films makes you a better practitioner. In addition to course work from our amazing faculty, we have a number of co-curricular opportunities in the program. All of which are continuing in various ways this year and we're also developing some new opportunities for students to maintain an engaged community. First is our visiting series in film and culture which brings presentations with renowned filmmakers and scholars to the campus community and includes seminars on specialized aspect of film craft.

Last year we had an amazing filmmakers come and show their documentary film minding the gap and take us through the process of making it in very specific ways. We also create a television show. It is called in short and we are in our – entering our fifth season of this show on rocky mountain PBS that showcases the creativity of film students across the rocky mountain region and is entirely curated, assembled and delivered by CC students. You don't have to be a film major in order to participate in this – in the creation of this show and we're going to be creating our fifth season this year.

Dylan N.:

We also have a grants program that provides grants and alumni mentorships to student documentary filmmakers from any major that has taken our students both off campus to explore and exploring within. I'll talk a little bit more about exploration in a minute. We also have a partnership with the rocky mountain women's film festival. The longest running women's film festival in North America and will be taking place virtually and is accessible for free to everyone on the Colorado College campus.

We are particularly excited this year because we have some really wonderful faculty joining us. We recently had – were joined by a professor of global cinema and this year we are – have another fiction filmmaker who hails from Cal Arts in Los Angeles joining our faculty on the tenure track and we have as a one-year visitors an alum, poet, writer and documentary filmmaker. She is our one-year visitors but she has been a beloved block visitor for many years. Her documentary medicines which is about cyber harassment specifically of women online will be screening as the first event in our virtual series. That is going to happen in week 2 of block 1 and you'll have more details on that. That series is going to continue throughout the year but it will be done virtually.

We are – also really mindful of the challenges of creating in particular studio work in film and media studies but during the transition of last year we were also pleasantly surprised by how well our – and how adventurously our students were able to make the jump to remote learning. Most of our classes this year will be given in either a flex or hybrid form meaning that you can either be on campus in some courses you'll have to be on campus so you can access the specialized gear that we have. We have protocols that have been developed to insure that that will be able to be accessible to students in a safe way.

But we also are excited about some of the flex opportunities that students can have to create work wherever they are a sort of unexpected silver lining from last year came when we had a shared basic film making screening and realized that I'm seeing instead of seeing Colorado College campus in every single film and seeing mostly films that are cast or have students being cast in them, we're seeing people of all ages, different backgrounds, different locations and I think that kind of flexibility and diversity of experience really fits our moment. Our grants program is called the documentary exploration grants and we're often thinking about what does it mean to explore, right? The practice of creating cinema isn't limited to creating new images. There are brilliant films that our students make and that other filmmakers have made that are research based and used in footage in creative ways. We did a remake challenge in which students and alumni submitted remakes of scenes from their favorite films and it was something that provided a lot of levity in a very difficult and challenging time for us.

Dylan N.: And we encourage all of our students and faculty and alumni really to think about the ways that we can expand our practice to new areas and to do things a little bit differently in a positive way. For example, this year we have – we will be creating a cinema club where people are watching films together and provide opportunities for students to discuss them and to look at films that are not just Netflix and Hollywood-type films that that are going to really introduce non-western LGBTQ and international cinemas to our audiences in an accessible way.

Ryan B.: Thank you very much, really appreciate it. We're also looking at some promising connections now between the Fine Arts Center and film as well and thinking about ways we can use outdoor spaces for social distance viewing of some of these wonderful projects and films that Dylan has been speaking about. Thank you. Next we'll hear from Nate Marshall from the English department.

Nate Marshall: What's up? All right. Here we go. Cool. So let's see. The English department, hi, everyone, I'm Nate Marshall. Assistant Professor in the English department. So the English department hosts a visiting writer series that's made possible by an endowment and we bring established and emerging writers and poets to campus. Diversity of stories and voices and style. Our visitors give a reading in the evening, have a Q&A and offer students and the larger community a chance to experience their work and their voice and their presence and get a little bit of an insight into how it is that they do it. When possible we also have visitors with the classes, hold craft talks and work through our literary publication adjunct course to talk about the world of publishing and their life as a writer. Some of our past visitors include folks like Lynn long shoulder, Roxanne Gay, and many more. So for the fall we're actually really excited. We won't be asking writers to travel this fall obviously. But we are lucky in that we have a plethora of folks on campus who have new and recent books and things that they are working on. We really want to use the writer series as an opportunity to – as a sort of point of engagement. Though we won't in the hallways saying hi to each other. Dropping in person office hours we can share our work and ideas outside of the classroom in this way with students and with the community directly.

So our just to give you a sense of some of the leaders. The readers that we have coming up in block I we have Idris Goodwin, our newly minted director of the Fine Arts Center who has a recent book of poetry out. We have professor Michael Sawyer who has the book black minded. , myself, my new book of poems and throughout the rest of the semester we will also feature the rest of our writing faculty including visiting Assistant Professor and our chair and Tanya Pope.

Nate M.: We're excited about this and hope it offers a good way for students and the broader community who the writers and thinkers are on campus and how we can engage with each other further. Thank you.

Ryan B.: Thank you very much, Nate, appreciate it. Our final panelist that will be sharing with us today is Jane Hillberry who is with the Colorado College creativity and innovation. Hi, Jane.

Jill Hilberry: Thanks, Ryan. Thank you all for tuning in for this and for your interest in the arts. I was the first faculty member in our program creativity and innovation and I'm very happy to say that this year we have professor Felicia Chavez joining our program. The scholar in residence. She is a brilliant teacher. I have had the pleasure of watching her teach and she is author of the book called "the antiracist writing workshop."

I wanted to mention here in particular and I work also with Director of Creativity and Innovation Dez Menendez and Associate Director Jessica Hunter Larson. So our approach to creativity and innovation is different maybe than what you would see in innovation programs at other universities and colleges. We place a lot more emphasis on creativity rather than just innovation. We're not so interested in turning out entrepreneurs, although we do have lots of entrepreneurs come out of Colorado College but we're really interested in tapping into students' innate creativity and helping students develop skills in creative thinking and creative problem solving that they can apply in whatever they do, wherever they end up in terms of their careers. Wherever they see a need for change personally, socially, culturally.

We would like students to come out of CC feeling confident that they know how to approach an issue creatively and how to generate solutions, how to create or activate a community around an issue and actually bring about change. So we have a fairly broad view of creativity. We work with faculty and students in all disciplines and all departments across the college. We do offer some block courses that specifically focus on creativity and creative process and collaborate with faculty in courses in other departments and we offer a whole range of co-curricular programs as well.

The -- we have three main areas of focus. Again, this is maybe a little surprising for a program that is called Creativity and Innovation. Mindfulness, risk and resilience and creative problem solving. It is interesting if you think about it, I feel like it is safe to say that those are all areas that are needed even more now in the time of a pandemic. We need mindfulness, we need capacities for risk and resilience and we definitely need capacities for creative problem solving.

Jane H.:

You know, one thing about disruption, we're in a time of disruption, both in terms of the pandemic and in terms of challenges to the way things in terms of social justice. And disruption actually is a great opportunity for change because when our habitual ways of doing things are disrupted, then we – there is no option to do things the way we have been doing them. We have to do things a different way. And I think that in times like this if we can stay connected to ourselves and to each other and to our vision of what we would love to see happen, there is great opportunity to remake things.

I want to mention just one example of a program that we're introducing now at this moment. We're initiating a program of student seed innovation grants. These grants are offered to students as a way for them to bring their creativity to bear on real world problems. And this could be done if you are not returning to the college in the fall, this could be done in your own community, it could be done in Colorado Springs. If you are going to be on campus so there is flexibility there. We are formally launching the grants this fall but we actually did a small pilot this summer. Just to give you a flavor of this, we had one student named Alexa Preston mentored by economics professor Dan Johnson and has been very involved in creativity and innovation and she applied for a grant, a student seed innovation grant to develop drink save, which is UV solar powered sanitation system for disposable cups that could be used by coffee shops in New Zealand which is where she is from. At this moment with the virus, a lot of people are actually moving back towards using disposable items, which we had hoped we had been moving away from single use before the pandemic. So this is a very creative way to think about how can we still keep sustainability in mind as we also deal with safety issues in the pandemic?

So Alexa has set out to find a solution to this problem. Students can apply for up to \$6,000 in funding for a project that they're doing by themselves or \$8,000 if they're pairing or working as a team. We have lots of other programs going on all the time. We bring in wonderful innovators in residence and we just would encourage students to connect with us and learn about what we can – what we can offer and how we can support your creativity. You can find out more about us at the CC arts home page on the CC website. Thank you.

Ryan B.:

Thank you so much. One of the wonderful things that and realities of Colorado College is all of us get the opportunity to work across the college and across the arts, across creativity innovation. Amazing projects that are taking us directions that might not necessarily seem like the arts, talking about the project that Jane was just explaining by Alexa. We've got a little time here at the end of our session today. Most of the questions that have come in we've been addressing and answering in the midst.

Ryan B.: Those of you on the call want to ask additional questions please put those in the Q&A for us. As we were talking about ideas and new inspirations and things you might do as Jane was saying navigate the new directions that we've been asked to move in, I don't want to necessarily put Kate Leonard on the spot too much but if you might be hop on and tell us about the drawn together project you are working on.

Kate L.: Sure, you bet. Drawn Together is going to be a collaboration with many of the panelists here in our academic programs and it – I should also a little bit of background, I teach drawing and printmaking. I teach drawing. As folks have sort of discussed today the challenges of the studio work, I think it is imperative we find ways to emphasize the importance of making and the interaction with physical objects this year. As such I am teaching an extended format class called drawn together. The premise is that can we be drawn together through projects but this one is a sketch book class. So students and staff and faculty, community members will be invited to our campus to participate in it and I will be teaching a drawing class where we will bring our sketch books just a simple pencil and eraser to different locations on campus. Students or participants will decide where we are going to install ourselves.

One of the student leaders I've talked to had an idea about issuing along with the sketch book a small plastic or one of those disks that you sort of throw around a music room in elementary school. Each one of us would have that. Students would decide on the spacing for social distancing. Let's say we have 25 student/start, participants. A student designs the space of the social distancing, a spiral. We occupy the quad and we're drawing and I'm giving prompts that particular day and we draw in the sketch books and do this each week in person recognizing the necessity of engaging. I do understand we have a responsibility to engage digitally and find new ways but as a maker I and others here in the community are committed to finding ways to make, to move, to sing, to do what we do, and also to manifest what social distancing looks like. So let's say we have this spiral. I have talked to some if I'm on one part of the quad with my students. She is with the dance students. Sue has practicing musician on another area. So we make manifest the – and in a certainly normalize contribute to the notions of social distancing on our campus and the project will be recorded by drone as we sort of record the project over time and after we meet each week those sketch books sort of the premise with sign-up is in those sketch books if you are participating by drawing, writing, journaling. However you engage with the sketch book will be collected at the end of the year as a time capsule of our experience and be kept in Special Collections. In the future people can look at what did these people do, these drawn together participants, here is what they made over the course of the weeks of our year together. Is that helpful, Ryan?

Ryan B.:

That's great, thank you. It's just one example of many ideas that a lot of us have been talking about together and separately in different groups and I'm inspired at the start of this year by the conversations that I've been having that we've all been having as faculty, staff, students and community members about ways to do what we love to do, it's to make, create, and to enjoy and have the arts there as a way for us to interpret and support everything that we're moving through right now. I think we all know what our go-tos are in times when we need comfort or we need to take our minds in a different direction. We also have our obligation to continue to support the work that is going on by our students and community here. I think we have a lot of students not only just this year but moving into the future and really inspired by a lot of the different directions and conversations that we're having right now.

So before we close out I would like to say thank you very much for everybody for joining today. Thank you to all of the panelists on this session. We delivered a lot of information from a lot of different areas. So do please feel free to reach out to any of us directly. You can email performing_arts@coloradocollege.edu with any questions you have about offerings, safety protocols. Ideas you have to get involved. We're also really looking to everyone to bring us ideas and think about how we can make works together and bring additional life into the arts here at Colorado College. I also want to thank very much Erica Hardcastle at working for us behind the scenes with the Zoom webinar and all of the other people on the back side of this conversation. Thank you for being with us as well and again, thank you to the audience for being here and we will see you virtually or from a distance sometime soon. Thank you so much for joining us today and have a wonderful rest of the week. Bye.

