

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
30 West Dale Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719)634-5581

NEWS

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Contacts:

Charlie Snyder
Director of Public Relations
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
719.477.4316
csnyder@csfineartscenter.org

Laurie Dunklee
Public Relations Specialist
State Historical Fund
303.866.2049
laurie.dunklee@chs.state.co.us

STATE HISTORICAL FUND AWARDS \$271,467 TO HELP RESTORE HISTORIC COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER BUILDING

***Unique combination of architectural styles makes it an important landmark to be
“preserved and enjoyed for generations to come”***

Colorado Springs, Colo. – The State Historical Fund has awarded a \$271,467 grant to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center to restore its historic 1936 John Gaw Meem-designed building as part of the \$28.4 million Renaissance Campaign.

This grant will fund restoration of the cast concrete exterior and preservation of the signature Art Deco aluminum doors and terrazzo floors. In the lobby, music room and garden gallery, restoration will include work on the plaster walls, historic light fixtures, custom metalwork and windows. The Fine Arts Center building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“This gift allows us to commit to meaningful historic preservation,” said Dr. Michael De Marsche, President and CEO, “The community of Colorado Springs loves this building; it’s a gem to be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come.”

When award-winning Southwest architect John Gaw Meem designed the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936, he combined elements of Pueblo Revival, Art Deco and International style architecture to create a distinctive space to display and enjoy art.

For seventy years the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center has been described as “a vast temple of culture.” Its founders possessed a unique vision, which placed under one roof spaces dedicated to theatre performances, art instruction and exhibitions.

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center will unveil its 48,000-square-foot expansion, as well as already completed preservation work, during the *Extremely Grand Opening*, Aug. 2-5. The two-story expansion, conceived by award-winning architect David Owen Tryba, adds programming space for the Fine Art Center’s museum, theatre and school of art.

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The expansion, together with the restored historic building, will enable patrons to experience the facility as its founders and architect intended, while meeting future needs and providing modern conveniences.

“The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is significant to our state’s architectural legacy,” said Mark Wolfe, director of the State Historical Fund and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. “That’s why the Colorado Historical Society’s board supported the proposal to provide a State Historical Fund grant for this project.

“Large additions are often made to historic buildings without considering the impact on the historic building itself, and fundraising efforts often focus on the addition, leaving the historic building to deteriorate,” Wolfe continued. “The leadership at the Fine Arts Center and the community of Colorado Springs were visionary enough to know that the historic building requires and deserves as much attention as the new addition—and the State Historical Fund is happy to help them to achieve this goal.”

The Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education center.

The State Historical Fund, a program of the Colorado Historical Society, awards grants to public and non-profit organizations to preserve Colorado’s architectural and archaeological treasures for public benefit. Program funds are provided by tax revenues from limited-stakes gaming. SHF grants have helped preserve thousands of historic schools, town halls, agricultural sites and other important structures in all 64 Colorado counties. Since 1993, the SHF has awarded more than \$192 million to nearly 3,100 projects.

For more information on the Fine Arts Center and the Renaissance Campaign, please contact the Capital Campaign Director, Jessica Turnwald, at 719.477.4318.

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