



Fine Arts Center
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dream City 2020 exhibit opens Dec. 5 FAC MODERN hosts collaborative project

COLORADO SPRINGS (Nov. 24, 2008) – *Dream City 2020: Through the Eyes of the Artist – Past, Present and Future*, will open at the FAC MODERN, 121 S. Tejon St., Friday, Dec. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m., as part of the community-wide Dream City 2020 visioning process. The opening will be held in conjunction with the First Friday Art Walk, and include appetizers and a cash bar at Nosh restaurant.

Spearheaded by the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR), the Pikes Peak Library District, Leadership Pikes Peak and the *Gazette*, Dream City is designed to inspire all citizens to come together to chart a vision for the Pikes Peak region. The initiative aims to inspire, educate and mobilize the community to create a better place to live, work and play.

The exhibit presents a dream city through the eyes of past, present and future artists. To represent the past, a selection of Harry L. Standley's historic photographs, from the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum collection, will be on view. These photographs capture the nostalgia of Colorado Springs' past with views of Tejon Street and other familiar places.

The present and visions for the future are represented by various artists with very different perspectives. All their works were inspired by one particular photograph by Standley as a point of departure, and the finished works give the viewer a sense of pride and hope for the city. Visitors will also have a chance to share their own 2020 vision for the city. The exhibit will run through Jan. 10 and admission is free. For more information, visit www.dreamcity2020.com.

About the artists

Laura BenAmots holds degrees in painting and printmaking from Tyler School of Art and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She is an author, Pikes Peak Community College faculty member and gallery director. Her recent exhibit at the Smokebrush was mentioned as one of the year's best in the *Gazette's* 'BEST OF' issue. Her public art projects include murals for El Paso County Headstart and the PPCC Child Development Center, and pulpit art for Temple Beit Torah.

Lorenzo White is an emerging artist originally from Chicago. He likens his paintings on canvas to stream-of-consciousness writing.

Sean Harper is a Pikes Peak Community College student who is hoping for a career in poster design and promotional graphics.

Maryruth Eaves Herrera, also a PPCC student, is a mother of four and clinical psychologist. She broke her back in a traumatic accident in 2007, is wheelchair-bound and learning to walk again.

George Black enjoys color and contrast in painting, and aspires to become a studio artist after completing his art degrees.

Jay B. Miller works in a variety of mediums including painting, drawing, and papermaking, and is experimenting with clay and sculpture. Jay has numerous educational credits in business, education and the arts, including a BA in Art History and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art. Jay is also an art teacher and critic, and is actively involved with several arts non-profits.

About the exhibit's collaborators

Opened in April of 2006, the **FAC MODERN** expanded the Fine Arts Center's reach into the heart of downtown Colorado Springs. The FAC MODERN was called the 'best thing to happen to Southern Colorado business' by the readers of the *Colorado Springs Business Journal* and the 'Best Art Museum' by the readers of *The Gazette* last year.

COPPeR (Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region) is thrilled to be part of the mini-cultural district in the Plaza of the Rockies. Housed in the space formerly occupied by the FAC MODERN gift shop, COPPeR serves as a point of entry to the gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. COPPeR serves as the lead organization for centralizing and coordinating information about cultural services in El Paso and Teller counties. COPPeR ensure that the arts - all the arts - are rightfully positioned and understood as vital to economic development, civic life and a sustainable future. COPPeR's mission is connecting residents and visitors with arts and culture to enrich the Pikes Peak region. COPPeR's vision? A community united by creativity. Learn more at www.coppercolo.org.

FutureSelf provides young people ages 12 to 19 with the opportunity to attend creativity-based workshops dedicated to nurturing self-expression, responsibility and mutual respect in participants. Immersion in the creative arts connects participants with themselves and others, providing direct experience of challenge, self-efficacy, confidence, fun, safety, vulnerability and belonging. Regardless of their ability to pay, disenfranchised, under-served, low-income and/or adjudicated youth in the Pikes Peak region participate in arts-based workshops and on-going programs providing:

- design and creation of original artwork in various media;
- poetry, dance, drama, exhibition/ performance opportunities;
- mentoring;
- positive interaction with adults and peers in a safe environment;
- and public and private recognition of new competencies and achievements.

Pikes Peak Community College opened as El Paso Community College in 1968. Now in its fortieth year of operation, PPCC is a two-year college offering associate's degrees and certifications in career and technical fields. With more than 125 programs of study, PPCC has a proud tradition of helping people get a fresh start - toward completion of a degree, toward a better job, toward a better and more enriching life. Statistics have proven that PPCC students who transfer to local four-year colleges perform better than students who start at the four-year college. Small classes offer an unparalleled experience for undergraduate students.