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Arts Center Receives Highest National Recognition

Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

(Pueblo, Colo.-March 17, 2020) The Sangre de Cristo Arts Center has been re-accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM). This level of confidence is given by the nation's top trade association for museums and cultural centers. What this means for Southern Colorado is that the Arts Center has proven its ability to properly care for and exhibit any type of art-related exhibition. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,087 are currently accredited.

To earn accreditation, a museum submits a self-study questionnaire and key operational documents for evaluation then undergoes a site visit by a two-person team of peer reviewers which produces a report for the Accreditation Commission. The Commission uses these materials and its collective expertise to determine whether to grant accreditation. Through this rigorous assessment, the Arts Center has demonstrated that it meets standards and best practices, and is an educational entity that is an appropriate steward of the collections and resources held in the public trust. The accreditation is good for 10 years.

Recognized as the field's gold standard for museum excellence for nearly 50 years, AAM accreditation signifies a museum's quality and credibility to the entire museum community, to governments and outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. The accreditation program helps to ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, reinforce the educational and public service roles of museums and promote good governance practices and ethical behavior.

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

Photos attached.

About the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center:

The cultural hub of Southern Colorado, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center gives visitors the tools to think and act creatively through a three building complex including seven galleries offering the best in historic and contemporary art by artists of local, regional and national renown. The Arts Center offers the Buell Children's Museum, recognized as the second-best for art by Child magazine, a 500-seat theater featuring a variety of performing arts programs, both local and national, and two gift shops. Over 100 fine arts, dance, and leisure classes are available quarterly providing unique offerings to everyone from children to adults of all skill levels. Admission to the Arts Center is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children, seniors 65+, and military. For more information, please call 719-295-7200; stop by the Arts Center located at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., just off of I-25, exit 98B, or visit online at www.sdc-arts.org.

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