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Arts Center Announces \$1,000,000 Capital Campaign Gift

(Pueblo, Colo.- May 20, 2021) - The Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center is pleased to announce a \$1,000,000 grant from the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation. The five-year commitment, starting in 2021, provides the Arts Center with its largest gift to date for the capital campaign.

In 2022 the Arts Center will celebrate 50 years of arts integration in southern Colorado. The Arts Center has begun a capital campaign to plan for the next 50 years of this iconic Pueblo institution. Plans include the construction of an atrium to connect the campus as well as enhanced programming designed to strengthen its mission to provide "artistic learning opportunities for everyone".

"The Rawlings Foundation is pleased to support the exciting plans for the expansion and growth of the Arts Center," says Jane Rawlings, Rawlings Foundation President. "We remain consistently inspired by the leadership and guidance of Jim Richerson, CEO of the Arts Center. His dedication to the Arts, and to Pueblo, will provide the Arts Center with a firm foundation to build on."

Founded in 1972 by Pat Kelly and Kathy Farley, in cooperation with Pueblo County, the Arts Center was designed by John Hurtig and the architectural firm Hurtig, Gardner and Froelich. The unique architecture of the campus is inspired by the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde. John Hurtig's daughter, Amy Hurtig-Smith, is the lead architect for the planned expansion and renovation. Plans include the application of Historic Landmark status, as well as, key updates to include addressing accessibility issues, a glass atrium to provide space for additional programming and expanded parking.

"The Arts Center is deeply grateful for the long-standing relationship with the Rawlings Foundation", states Jim Richerson, CEO of the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, "Over the years, funding from the Rawlings Foundation has enabled the Arts Center to expand programming and develop innovative exhibits. Their investment in the capital campaign continues the enduring legacy of the Rawlings family with the Arts Center."

The Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation was created in 1988 to find ways to give help in the communities in Southern Colorado whose citizens had become loyal subscribers to The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper, helping to make it the number one newspaper in the area.

Rawlings' grandfather, Frank S. Hoag Sr. purchased the Pueblo Star Journal newspaper in 1918, and in the 1930's bought their competitor, The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper, creating the Star Journal Publishing Corporation. Frank S. Hoag Jr. was deeply involved in matters of growth in the area and helped with generous donations. When Bob Rawlings became publisher, he wanted to promote philanthropy and encourage others to do so also. He created this Foundation over 30 years ago to ensure that his family legacy would help for generations to come.

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.

