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Announcing the Collaborative Community Planning Process

Innovative project will help communities around Colorado integrate arts into long term community planning

Denver—(February 15, 2008) Colorado Citizens for Culture (CCC), an affiliate of Arts for Colorado, the state-wide arts advocacy organization, announces the **Collaborative Community Planning Process**, an innovative project designed to help communities across Colorado integrate arts and culture into long-term community planning. Nominations are now being sought from communities around the state to participate in this year-long program. Nomination materials are now available on the CCC website at www.artsforcolorado.org or by emailing the program coordinator at melindalaz@earthlink.net.

The National Performing Arts Convention (NPAC) to be held in Denver (June 10-14, 2008) will be the launching point for this unique program. Teams of local leaders from eight selected Colorado communities will attend the NPAC and will then engage in a year-long process to produce a cultural vision for each of their communities by 2028. This effort will assure that local cultural and artistic resources are thoughtfully woven into community planning, and used to enhance each community's long-term quality of life, education, tourism, and economic development.

A key NPAC plenary session will be "ArtsTown 2028," a community cultural plan looking 20 years into the future, led by the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs. The "ArtsTown 2028" model can be productively applied to other Colorado communities and will be used as the model plan for this program.

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Throughout the coming year, teams will meet monthly to make progress on their plan. Members of the Colorado Council on the Arts' "Peer Assistance Network," a team of experienced Colorado arts managers who are trained in facilitation skills, will also assist the community teams during this year. Finally, at the completion of their work, the teams will present their plans to local leaders to build energy and enthusiasm to develop public policy to bring the plan to reality.

The CCPP is designed to stimulate a strong sense that the arts can be a factor in enhanced community vitality and economic potential; expand the skills of collaborative thinking and planning. It will also enhance awareness of the value of inclusive and broad-based planning and develop new community leadership. Communities interested in applying for this program should read all the guidelines carefully. Nominations are due **Monday, March 24, 2008**.

The CCPP program has been generously sponsored by Premier Program Sponsor **Pinnacol Assurance**. Additional financial support has been provided by the Colorado Council on the Arts and the Boettcher Foundation.

About Colorado Citizens for Culture

Colorado Citizens for Culture (CCC) is the non-profit 501(c)3 charitable arm of Arts for Colorado, the state-wide arts advocacy organization. CCC works to raise public awareness of the vital role the arts play in education excellence, economic health and quality of life for all Coloradans.

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The Collaborative Community Planning Program is generously sponsored by Premier Program sponsor Pinnacol Assurance.

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We gratefully acknowledge additional financial support from the Colorado Council on the Arts and the Boettcher Foundation.

