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Mesa Arts Center announces The Collective 2019

24 participants selected for the creative leadership program

December 17, 2018 (Mesa, AZ) – Creative Catalysts, an initiative of Mesa Arts Center, today announced the inaugural cohort for The Collective, a 12-week certificate program that builds leadership skills through creative thinking and practices. Participants represent a variety of different industries and professions and were selected through a competitive application and interview process.

The arts-based program gives participants opportunities to grow their leadership prowess through practicing collaboration, embracing and learning from failure, applying innovative thinking and improving mindfulness.

Objectives of the program include; providing participants with leadership opportunities experienced through a creative lens; offering personal growth opportunities; creating a network of peers to include collaborators and leaders from diverse sectors; and equipping participants with an enhanced skill set and tools to design, implement and sustain effective community development.

Selected participants of The Collective 2019 include:

Jessie Balli, Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona

Zara Bish, Town of Gilbert, Arizona

Jacob Bush, LifeTouch

Stephanie Coombs, TSYS

Kimberly Crowther Miller, Eastmark at DMB Community Life, Inc.

Keiona Eady, Pearson

Zane Ewton, Arizona Public Service (APS)

Brett Farkas, PetSmart

Caden Gillespie, Arizona State University

Azucena Gutierrez, Anderson Family Dentistry

Tiesha Harrison, Valley Leadership

Katie'B Jarvis, Childsplay Theatre

Arianna Jones, Arizona's Children Association

Monique Jones, Banner Health

Mawa Keita, Wells Fargo

Jenna Maley, Self-employed

Deanna Reid, Self-employed

Ruth Sager, Mesa Community College

Molly Schenck, Mesa Community College, Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, Mountainside Fitness
Elaissia Sears, Archway Arete Classical Academy
Ryan Sereduk, Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation
Justine Sponder, University of Phoenix
Tyler Stalica, CORE Construction
Sowan Thai, Self-employed

“What sets a leader apart from the rest? One of the most sought-after and scarce attributes of great leaders is the ability to think creatively and work collaboratively to find the best solution to a problem—and to embrace experimentation as an essential part of organizational learning,” said Cindy Ornstein, Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center and Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Mesa. “The Collective will use creative practice to enable these participants to gain experience that will help them succeed and enable them to contribute to their organizations and communities at a higher level.”

The Collective is sponsored by CORE Construction and Crescent Crown Distributing. The Creative Catalysts initiative is supported by Flinn Foundation.

More information available at www.mesaartscenter.com/thecollective. Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street, Mesa, AZ, 85201.

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.