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**Mesa Arts Center announces The Collective 2020**

24 participants selected for creative leadership training program

**Jan. 30, 2020 (Mesa, AZ)** – Mesa Arts Center’s Creative Catalysts initiative today announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort for The Collective, a 12-week certificate program that builds leadership skills through creative practices. Participants represent a variety of different industries and professions and were selected through a competitive application and interview process.

"If we want to be successful in developing a world-class creative economy here in Arizona, we need to have a world-class creative leadership program," said Pamela Slim, author, *Body of Work*, co-founder of *K'é Main Street Learning Lab*. "We are so lucky to have The Collective fill the specialized role of a program designed for creatives, by creatives."

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.

"My professional network has grown because of The Collective, in meeting people I wouldn't have overlapped with otherwise," said a participant in the 2019 cohort. "I feel more fearless in taking risks in my professional life."

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.

Participants will complete a final project through which they are encouraged to apply the learning to a need in their community, as defined by the participant. The top three projects will be eligible to receive cash support toward making their project a reality.

2020 program facilitators include Tiara Cash, Dennis Gable, Amanda Garbade, Sogol Homayoun, Dorian Lenz, Krissy Lenz, Pamela Slim, April Tinhorn, Ita Udo-Ema, and co-facilitators Jennifer Gastelum (Community Engagement Specialist, Mesa Arts Center) and Tomas Stanton (poet, teaching artist and Community Engagement Manager, Mesa Arts Center).

**Selected participants of The Collective 2020 include:**

**David Armistead**

Mesa Arts Center

**Iris Avila**

Mesa Fire and Medical Department

<b>Ric Castillo</b>	Self-employed
<b>Christi Currier</b>	Stay-at-home mom/Self-employed
<b>James Grubb</b>	Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix
<b>Cheyenne Hepworth</b>	Roosevelt School
<b>Samantha Hiller</b>	U.S. Department of Defense
<b>Alicia Holmes</b>	Mesa United Way
<b>Ebone Johnson</b>	Your Art Party
<b>Torie Klocko</b>	Thunderbird School of Global Management
<b>Karen Kormendy</b>	Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix
<b>Brynn Locke</b>	Currently unemployed
<b>Stephanie Madden</b>	DMB Community Life
<b>Mariel Marino</b>	Harmony Project Phoenix
<b>Shay Masterson</b>	Benedictine University Mesa
<b>Wendy Miller</b>	Alhambra Elementary School District
<b>Rebecca Murphy Keith</b>	Self-employed
<b>Ivy Nnakabonge</b>	Scottsdale Interior Design Group
<b>Marlena Robbins</b>	Cultural Coalition, Inc.
<b>Keith Stanton</b>	Thoma-Holec Design
<b>Muthana Toman</b>	Mountain Park Health Center
<b>Drew Trojanowski</b>	Arizona State University
<b>Leon Webber</b>	Retired Therapist
<b>Jess Wozniak</b>	Mesa Community College

“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 uses 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 Wells Fargo. The Creative Catalysts initiative is supported by Flinn Foundation.

More information available at [www.mesaartscenter.com/thecollective](http://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](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).