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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 2nd 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

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