



**Media Contact:**

Casey Blake

480-644-6620

[casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com)

**Mesa Arts Center to begin accepting applications for The Collective, a certificate program in creative leadership, Oct. 1, 2019**

Deadline to apply: Nov. 1, 2019

**September 25, 2019** (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center’s Creative Catalysts initiative will accept applications to The Collective, a certificate program in creative leadership, October 1 through November 1, 2019. The Collective is a 12-week experiential program that builds leadership skills through creative thinking and practices. In the interactive, hands-on program, up to 24 participants will grow their leadership prowess through practicing collaboration, embracing and learning from failure, applying innovative thinking and improving mindfulness.

In its first year, 23 creative leaders from a variety of industries completed The Collective. “Our goal is to highlight the importance of creativity across industries,” said Jennifer Gastelum, program manager for The Collective and Creative Catalysts. “It is important to have conversations about the impact that creativity can have on the business sector – how creative employees can bring new solutions and perspectives to challenges and find new opportunities for growth within a company.”

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.

“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’è Main Street Learning Lab*. “We are so lucky to have The Collective fill the specialized role of a program designed for creatives, by creatives. Graduates of the program will spark innovation and prosperity in our community.”

“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 Creative Catalysts initiative is supported by Flinn Foundation. The Collective is also supported by CORE Construction, Crescent Crown Distributing and Wells Fargo.

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](http://mesaartscenter.com).