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Mesa announces the launch of Learning ReimaginED— One-Stop Portal for Educator Resources from Mesa Arts & Culture and Partners

November 19, 2020 (Mesa, AZ) — The City of Mesa Arts and Culture Department is excited to announce **Learning ReimaginED**, a virtual portal to the educational community providing one-stop, easy-to-use access to learning resources in **STEAM** education (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics). With the on-going health crisis and many school field trips on hold, Mesa Arts Center, Arizona Museum of Natural History and i.d.e.a. Museum, and partners Mesa Historical Museum and Southwest Shakespeare Company, wanted to ensure their programming and resources are accessible to educators and home-schooling parents.

“We are thrilled that these five institutions have come together to support Arizona students during these challenging times,” said Cindy Ornstein, Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Mesa and Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center. “The programs offered should be able to help enliven classrooms, engage students’ critical thinking and creativity, and help motivate students to stay engaged with learning. The lion’s share of these resources are offered free of charge.”

The portal will open students to a variety of worlds and discoveries, spanning all ages and a wide array of subjects. Young explorers will **take flight with their imaginations**, discern how the **scientific method helps us separate fact from fiction**, **journey back in time to the pioneer days** of Arizona, and gain a new appreciation for the **power of story and the joy of self-expression**. Students will **discover the power of image and metaphor** through works of art and the works of Shakespeare, experience the **joy of great music**, and learn about the **ancient civilizations of our region**, and the **dinosaurs that roamed this state over sixty million years ago**.

The learning resources can be used in any learning environment, from traditional classrooms to kitchen tables, with in-person or online learning. Offerings from Mesa’s Department of Arts and Culture are divided by target age groups, and a **Community Partners** page features programs from Mesa Historical Museum and Southwest Shakespeare Company.

Mesa Arts Center will host several virtual and in-person programs including Project Lit, a program that uses poetry, spoken word and hip hop to promote literacy and activate social and emotional learning. Also, the Classical Music Inside Out program will feature Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey, performing and engaging students virtually in 45-minute

virtual “informances.” Finally, the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum will host virtual gallery tours and discussions on topics ranging from *Tradition and Innovation* to *Behind the Scenes*, a look at what it takes to curate a museum art exhibition.

Arizona Museum of Natural History’s programs will target students in grades 3 – 5. The educator resources cover a variety of topics including *Dinosaur Teeth*, *Fossil Detectives*, *Science of Sauropods* and *Paleo Art and Diets*. All educator resources align with (specific grade level) Arizona state science standards.

i.d.e.a. Museum’s programs will target students from pre-school through grade 6. The first program, called *Art of the Story Virtual Guided Tour*, is aligned with Arizona Academic Standards and features a virtual guided tour complete with hands-on activities including one art-making activity. The second program, *Artful Tales Experience* is aligned with Arizona Early Learning Standards and includes a link to video of a themed book, age-appropriate artwork viewing and discussion, one art-making activity and an interactive video and presentation by i.d.e.a. Museum’s Gallery Educators.

In addition to the programming by the City of Mesa Arts & Culture Department, **Southwest Shakespeare Company** will offer virtual performances of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* with study guides for each show, and opportunities for live interactive workshops. Finally, the **Mesa Historical Museum** will host virtual field trips to their *Women in Aviation* and *Mesa & Arizona Pioneer History* exhibitions, accompanied by additional learning resources for each exhibition.

For more information about Learning ReimaginED visit mesaartscenter.com/learningreimagined.

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ABOUT CITY OF MESA ARTS & CULTURE

Mesa’s Department of Arts and Culture includes the Arizona Museum of Natural History, i.d.e.a. Museum and Mesa Arts Center, all located in downtown Mesa, Arizona. The mission of the department is to strengthen, for all, the creative, social, and economic fabric of our community and region through inspiring, relevant, engaging and transformational cultural experiences and cross-sector collaborations.

ABOUT ARIZONA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Arizona Museum of Natural History has Dinosaurs that roar and so much more. Take a stroll through time from the birth of Earth through the age of the dinosaurs, visit a village of the Ancient Sonoran Desert People and try your hand at gold panning. For more information on admission and hours visit AzMNH.org and follow us on social media.

ABOUT I.D.E.A. MUSEUM

At the i.d.e.a. Museum, guests can enjoy imaginative and creative experiences in ArtVille and the HUB Gallery that support early learning, nurture creative thinking, and engage families in quality time together. They also are encouraged to journey into the *Art of the Story* exhibition, where visitors can enjoy art and activities that embrace the storyteller within us all.

ABOUT SOUTHWEST SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Southwest Shakespeare Company opens doors by exploring the intricacies of language through the vibrant and passionate performance of works of classical theatre. We exist to elevate, entertain, educate, and inspire the general public and educational communities of Arizona and the Southwest.

ABOUT MESA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Mesa Historical Museum seeks to inspire and educate the diverse people and communities of Mesa, Arizona and its surroundings by connecting them with their past so they may better understand their future. Housed in a century-old school building, the Mesa Historical Museum tells its stories through colorful exhibits, images and artifacts dedicated to the history of Mesa. We offer year round educational programs using our one room schoolhouse, heritage collection and archives along with live arts and crafts demonstrations of basket weaving, pottery making and quilting