



for the arts
and humanities

Celebrating its 38th season, the award-winning Arvada Center is one of the nation's largest multidisciplinary arts centers, supported in part by over 2,500 individual and corporate donors, foundations, the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District and the City of Arvada.

At a Glance

- Hosts 350,000 visitors annually
- Encompasses 144,000 square feet of theater, gallery, classroom and banquet space
- Ranked the eighth largest Denver area cultural attraction (Denver Business Journal 2013)
- Operates on an annual budget of \$11,000,000 and is one of the leading employers of creative people in the state of Colorado
- Produces six theatrical shows each season along with children's theater, concerts and dance
- Three dedicated gallery spaces along with a new outdoor sculpture venue host 12+ exhibitions annually that are free and open to the public seven days a week
- Presents Summer at the Center, an impressive line-up of national touring acts and local cultural events in its 1,600-seat outdoor amphitheater
- Offers over 750 classes and camps each year in the performing and visual arts
- 70,000 students participate annually in the Center's school-centered programs
- Home to nationally recognized accessibility program and *Squiggles*, a 343-foot long "sea-saurus," that anchors the Center's wheelchair accessible interactive sculpture park that serves an estimated 100,000 children annually
- Utilizes 265 volunteers who contribute nearly 23,000 hours annually
- Parking is free and plentiful

Background

Dedicated on July 4, 1976, through a unique collaboration between citizens and government, the Arvada Center welcomed 12,000 patrons its first year. It now ranks as the eighth largest cultural attraction in metro Denver. With more than half its 350,000 annual visitors coming from outside Arvada and surrounding Jefferson County, the Center's influence now extends far beyond its name. Its diversity of multidisciplinary arts programming is dedicated to enriching, inspiring and educating all ages.

Performing Arts

- Features two theatrical performance venues — 526-seat Main Stage and 226-seat Black Box theaters.
- The Arvada Center's award-winning theater is produced entirely in-house, stars talent from Broadway to Hollywood and features actors, designers, choreographers and crew who are the tops in their fields from throughout Colorado.
- Home to one of the most nominated and awarded theaters in the region, the Arvada Center recently received the coveted top honor, *Outstanding Season for a Theatre Company*, from the Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Awards.

Learn more about the Arvada Center on the reverse side

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- The Center is well known for its inspiring and critically acclaimed children's theater productions based on popular books and familiar stories. Recent productions include *Seussical*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, *How I Became a Pirate*, *Lyle the Crocodile* and *Charlottes Web*.
- Summer at the Center features an impressive line-up of national touring artists such as Robert Cray Band, The Manhattan Transfer, The Mavericks and Los Lonely Boys along with local Scientific & Cultural Facilities District organizations like the Colorado Symphony and Wonderbound, making the Arvada Center's 1,600-seat outdoor amphitheater one of the region's premier summer destinations for concerts.

Galleries at the Center

- Three art galleries with 10,000 square feet of exhibition space and a new 17-acre outdoor sculpture venue offer an exciting cultural and contemporary look at a dozen or more changing exhibitions annually.
- Reviews and awards have made Galleries at the Center a driving force in the local and regional art world allowing operations to expand through collaborations with organizations such as the Museum of Outdoor Arts, Clyfford Still Museum, Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art and the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center along with individual collectors and private gallery owners.
- Besides exhibiting the work of professional artists, the Center supports aspiring artists through annual community and school exhibitions. The Arvada Center has displayed the artwork of Jefferson County high school students each spring for a remarkable 38 years.
- Center galleries provide a popular forum for the sale of fine art and handcrafts through its Annual Fine Art Market, Holiday Craft Fair and seasonal ceramic sales.
- The Center houses a history museum featuring artifacts from the collection of the Arvada Historical Society. The exhibits bring local and regional history to life by showcasing the heritage and development of Arvada and the Old West.
- On permanent display throughout the Center and outdoors on the grounds, are dozens of sculptures. Perhaps the most recognizable is Vito Acconci's *Dirt Wall*, which begins at the entrance plaza and winds through both floors of the Center in the shape of a treble clef.

Education

- The Arvada Center serves more than 7,000 children, adults and seniors through its multidisciplinary classes, workshops and camps in the performing and visual arts.
- Educational facilities include ten multipurpose studio classrooms (over 8,300 square feet), two dedicated dance studios, a dark room and a ceramics studio and kiln yard.
- The Center's ceramics program is recognized nationally for its high-quality classes and professional-level training in handbuilding, sculpture, throwing, Raku and Salt. The program's reputation is responsible for securing the interest of renowned visiting artists and an ongoing exhibition relationship with the National Council on Education for the Ceramics Arts.
- In 2013, the Center's school-centered programs, Arts Day, children's theater and outreach, provided more than 70,000 hands-on experiences with the arts.
- The Center's academy programs in dance and drama offer aspiring young artists year-round professional training and performance opportunities.
- Also home, for over 18 years, to the Front Range Youth Symphony Orchestras that offer talented young musicians the opportunity to augment their music education and learn performance skills.

Accessibility

- The Arvada Center is committed to ensuring that the arts are accessible to all by providing a wide range of accessibility services, including shadow-interpreted and audio-described theater performances, American Sign Language-interpreted classes and tours, assistive listening devices, large print programs and other special assistance upon request. Nearly 4,000 children and adults with disabilities from across the Front Range benefit from these services every year.
- Most notable of the Center's accessibility services is its non-traditional, interactive sculpture park, featuring *Squiggles*, a 343-foot long concrete "sea-saurus." Designed for creative play for children of all abilities, this distinctive wheelchair accessible area provides safe, lateral play for as many as 100 children at one time, and features colorful sculptures, animal heads and carvings that offer a tactile experience for visually-impaired children.