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Press Release - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette receives Colorado Creates Grant

Lafayette, Colo – January 2013 – The Lafayette Cultural Resources Department is pleased to announce that the Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission and Public Art Committee have been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Colorado Creative Industries to expand the Art on the Street program in the coming year. The grant will support the Art on the Street program, engaging visual artists and poets to create new works presented in free public venues.

Colorado Creates, CCI's largest grant program, provides critical financial support that helps nonprofit cultural organizations and communities produce and present arts and cultural activities, bring jobs to their communities and enhance the quality of life. 133 grants were awarded in 2012-13, totaling \$1,048,500 in 29 counties across the state. Colorado Creates awards are given annually on a competitive basis. Proposals are reviewed by panels based on three review criteria: Artistic excellence and merit of proposed activities; Community involvement and benefit from proposed activities; and Implementation capacity, such as effective planning, management, and budgeting of the organization and the project. Colorado Creative Industries is a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade

The grant funding will allow for extensive enhancements to expand the program and broaden the reach. Art on the Street will be expanded to include more technology. Each selected sculpture will receive a QR code and phone number so viewers can access additional information about the artwork and the artist. Through the City's website, people will be able to access videos of interviews with the sculptors, background information on each artwork, artists' statements, a teacher's curriculum packet and other activities. Now in its fifth year, the Art on the Street (AOTS) program has been integral in establishing Lafayette's Creative~Diverse~Eclectic identity. The AOTS sculptures are highlighted as part of five Art Night Out events, in the Lafayette Recreation Department's heART Walk, and as part of an education outreach program. They create a unique attraction and centerpiece for Old Town.

Following the installation of the sculptures, area poets and visual artists will be invited to participate in a juried art show, "See and Respond!" where artists create a piece inspired by one of the sculptures. The "See and Respond!" art show and "Meet the Artists Reception", featuring the Art on the Street Sculptures and the works they inspired, will be held in Old Town Lafayette during the summer of 2013. There will be cash prizes awarded in multiple categories and the winner of the Art on the Street, Jean Mellblom People's Choice Award will be announced.

More information on the "See and Respond!" art show will be available in the spring. This program is not limited to local artists; finalists will be accepted from a nationwide pool of artists. More information can be found at www.cityoflafayette.com/CFA

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