



A Museum of  
Contemporary Art

## **An Opportunity for New Leadership**

The Museum of Friends (MoF), located at 600 Main St., Walsenburg, CO, is a contemporary art museum dedicated to fostering a vibrant, socially engaged community through art, education, and inclusivity. As MoF enters a pivotal transition, its founding directors seek a visionary successor, whether a university, socially engaged museum, philanthropic organization, or private sector social impact investor, interested in merging with or acquiring the museum. This transition presents a unique opportunity for an organization committed to expanding its reach while upholding MoF's mission of fostering education, creativity, and community engagement. With a strong foundation in social responsibility and inclusivity, MoF offers a powerful platform to inspire, educate, and build meaningful connections through the arts.

### **Our Mission**

MoF's mission is to honor the artists who have generously contributed to its collection, forming the foundation of the museum. We encourage open inquiry into cultural education through exhibitions, public programs, and a public art reference library, alongside our permanent collection. MoF is deeply committed to inclusivity and social responsibility, providing a platform for leadership and social change, particularly for underserved and underrepresented communities in Huerfano County. By engaging with local communities, MoF ensures its programming aligns with the cultural and social needs of the region, fostering creativity and promoting strong connections between the museum, artists, and the broader community.

### **Who We Are**

Founded in 2005, MoF became a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2007, dedicated to promoting cultural enrichment and education through socially engaged art. Serving predominantly Hispano and BIPOC communities, our initiatives foster inclusion, education, and community building. Our programs, like the Friday Art Lab (STEAM) and the Planter Boxes for the Common Good/Walsenburg project, engage youth and residents in conversations about art, identity, and social change. Workforce development initiatives, such as job training with local nonprofits like the Las Animas/Huerfano County Developmentally Disabled Workshop and SER National, exemplify our commitment to community-driven development and education for all.

### **Where We Are**

Located in the rural community of Walsenburg, the seat of Huerfano County (population 7,500), MoF is a cultural hub for the region. Our facilities include gallery spaces, an art resource library, a digital art archive, and 5,000 square feet of undeveloped space, which presents opportunities for future expansion. This space has the potential to generate earned revenue through mixed-use developments such as artists' studios, office spaces, educational classrooms, and even a restaurant. MoF plays a pivotal role in the community's efforts to reimagine downtown Walsenburg, contributing to the area's cultural and economic vitality.

### **What We Offer**

MoF provides diverse programming designed to foster creativity, engagement, and social impact:

- **Changing Art Exhibitions and Satellite Exhibits:** Featuring works by local and international artists, our exhibitions create dialogue on issues of social justice, culture, and community, embodying MoF's vision of art as a catalyst for positive change.
- **Permanent Collections:** Our collections include counterculture works, indigenous art, and contemporary global pieces, all showcased in spaces like The Foundation and The Reach. These works reflect the cultural diversity and historical significance of Southern Colorado, fostering deep connections to place and memory.
- **Educational and Public Programming:** From K-12 school tours to STEAM initiatives and panel discussions like Artist Talk on Art, MoF's programs create spaces for inquiry and connection, emphasizing accessibility and inclusivity. These programs are informed by community conversations and collaboration with local schools and civic organizations, building long-term relationships and fostering collective leadership.
- **Community Events:** Our events, ranging from exhibit openings to collaborative art projects, celebrate the cultural heritage of Walsenburg while strengthening community ties. These gatherings create accessible spaces for cultural exchange, bringing people together to reflect on their shared history and future.
- **Artists in Residence Program (AiR) and Public Art Program:** Since 2012, AiR has hosted international artists, fostering creative exchange and deepening connections between artists and the local community. Our public art programs bring artists and residents together, creating opportunities for shared expression and social change.
- **State Historical Building:** MoF is housed in the historic Roof and Dick Building, a significant landmark undergoing ongoing rehabilitation since 2016. This preservation work, supported by History Colorado's State Historical Fund, serves as a model for community-driven restoration and has inspired similar efforts in downtown Walsenburg.
- **Digital Art Archive:** Our digital archive project preserves culturally significant collections, ensuring their accessibility for future generations. This initiative aligns with History Colorado's TAP (Traveling Archivists Program) and emphasizes MoF's role in the cultural memory of the region.

## Invitation to Engage

Taking on this leadership role presents a unique opportunity to preserve and expand a vital cultural institution while contributing to the broader economic and educational landscape of a rural, under-resourced community. Leading MoF offers the chance to drive community-responsive economic development within an enterprise zone, enhance educational and professional opportunities, and broaden the lexicon of Art History to include underrepresented artists and movements in Southern Colorado.

This role aligns with values of inclusivity, collective leadership, and social impact. MoF's dedication to social justice, workforce development, and cultural preservation makes it a vital resource for fostering education, engaging artists and residents, and creating positive social change. We invite interested parties to explore this opportunity to guide MoF into its next chapter.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.museumoffriends.org](http://www.museumoffriends.org). To discuss this opportunity further, please contact us at 719-738-2858 or 917-969-6028.