About the University Center for the Arts

The state-of-the-art University Center for the Arts (UCA) is an exquisite venue for music, theatre, dance and art at Colorado State University.

The 225,500 square-foot facility originally served as Fort Collins High School from 1925 to 1995. Colorado State University invested over 45 million dollars into the renovation of the beloved and historic building.

The UCA features five state-of-the-art performance venues: the Griffin Concert Hall, the University Theatre and Studio Theatre in the Bohemian Theatre Complex, the University Dance Theatre, and the Organ Recital Hall.

Along with the performance venues, the UCA houses 11 classroom and seminar rooms; composition, computer, and piano labs; the largest instrumental rehearsal hall in the state; ensemble and performance libraries; two large acting labs; costume, electrics/sound, paint, and scenic shops; two dance studios; 36 soundproof rehearsal rooms; and teaching studios, offices and support spaces. It is also home to the research facilities of the Center for Biomedical Research in Music – one of the world's leading centers in brain research in music perception and neurorehabilitation. A Computer-Aided Design (CAD) lab, design studio, lighting lab and audio/video lab give students the opportunity to learn the most technologically advanced production skills.

The facility also features two museums - the University Art Museum and the Avenir Museum - as well as office and seminar spaces for art history and art education.

Parking is available on surrounding streets, after 4 p.m. behind the building, or in the parking lot on the west side of College Avenue which can be reached by entrances on Pitkin or Lake Streets. A short stroll through the College Avenue underpass brings you through the Annual Trial Gardens to the UCA.

Griffin Concert Hall: The 550 seat concert hall includes some of the most advanced acoustical design features in the region, including articulated walls, ceiling clouds and raked seating, designed to provide the highest quality sound. Named in honor of Edna Rizley Griffin, a longtime advocate and benefactor of the performing arts in Fort Collins, Griffin hosts university ensemble concerts, Ralph Opera Center productions, University Art Museum lectures, local arts organizations, and nationally and internationally acclaimed performers who find the space extraordinary. At the time of its opening in 2005, Griffin was ranked by the Denver Post as one of the five best venues in Colorado for classical music.

University Theatre: The 300 seat theatre is a three-quarter wrap around thrust theatre similar to the famous Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis; the design creates the intimacy between actor and audience with its arrangement of stadium seating. Equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and audio-visual systems, CSU Theatre produces as many as four productions in this space each year with each production involving upwards of 60 students and 250 contact hours with faculty and staff. The University Theatre is a part of the original gymnasium retrofit with funding provided by the Bohemian Foundation.

University Dance Theatre: built specifically for dance performance, the 190 seat theatre is the only such venue in Northern Colorado, and one of only a few in the state. The fully sprung dance floors are ideal for ballet and modern dance, reducing injury risk and enhancing dancers' performances. The space also boasts state-of-the-art lighting and audio systems. The motorized lower seating which, when fully retracted, provides increased dancing space for classes, master classes, workshops and guest artist residencies.

About the UCA continued

Organ Recital Hall: The 275 seat hall is the home of the Casavant Frères Organ which was designed and voiced specifically for CSU by Lawrence I. Phelps, in consultation with former CSU organ professor Robert Cavarra, and built by Casavant. Installed in 1968 in the previous music building on the Oval, it is one of the first modern mechanical-action (tracker) organs built at an American university and is considered a landmark instrument in the "Organ Revival" movement. Boasting 2,079 pipes, the organ was constructed in a style emulating 17th and 18th century German organ building principles. The legacy of the organ has earned Colorado State an international reputation as the keeper of one of the finest organs built in the 20th century. In addition to organ performance, the hall hosts chamber music recitals presented by faculty, students and guest artists.

Studio Theatre: The flexible, experimental space hosts two to three CSU Theatre productions annually. The intimate space is a blank slate for faculty and student producers to express their creative vision, from scenic design to seating lay out. Depending on the configuration, the studio seats up to 100 patrons within 25 feet of the action.

University Art Museum: The University Art Museum was founded in the spring of 2009 and is the primary showcase for the visual arts on the Colorado State University campus. The museum presents 8-9 exhibitions each year focused on the art of diverse time periods, places and peoples. The museum is augmented by teaching facilities, state-of-the-art collection storage facilities and exhibition preparation spaces. Equipped with museum-standard climate control systems, lighting and security, the space is designed to safely exhibit and store works of art at ideal temperature and humidity levels. The museum's permanent collection is comprised of approximately 3000 objects with significant holdings in modern and contemporary works on paper, Honoré-Victorin Daumier 19th century prints, 19th and 20th century Japanese prints and African art and textiles. The museum is dedicated to using both the facility and collections as a laboratory for learning. In 2011 the museum announced expansion plans after receiving a major gift of European art.

Avenir Museum of Design and Merchandising: The museum is the permanent showcase of CSU's renowned historic costume collection from the Department of Design and Merchandising. The collection consists of regional, national and international costumes, textiles, and interior artifacts representing of material culture including: domestic artifacts (19th and 20th century western costume, textiles, and interior artifacts), and global artifacts (international artifacts with emphasis and depth in India, China, Japan, Central Asia, and Latin America). Unique among the collections are designer garments from Mr. Blackwell, Calvin Klein, Arnold Scaasi, and Carolina Herrera, an extensive lace collection, and 400 kimono. The artifacts are treated according to museum standards of care and handling. A temperature and humidity controlled storage facility behind the UCA houses the 12,000 artifacts that are actively used by faculty and students and available to outside scholars.

For information about the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance and the Department of Art events and degree programs, please visit uca.colostate.edu.com.

The University Center for the Arts is supported by the Friends of the UCA donor program, which connects you with students and faculty who inspire, teach, and heal at Colorado State University. To learn more or to become a Friends of the UCA member, visit our website at uca.colostate.edu for details or contact Carrie Care at (970) 491-5891.

UNIVERSITY CENTER for the ARTS

Welcome to the University Center for the Arts 1400 Remington Street, Fort Collins, Colorado



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