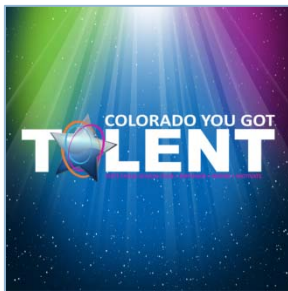




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11/4/2013



Press Release

Date: November 4, 2013

Re: **IMAGINE COLORADO performing arts community center coming to Colorado Springs**

Colorado You Got Talent is expanding its community service to Colorado Springs sometime next year. Currently CYGT is working hard to raise \$800,000 to build a State of the Art Community Center and the IMAGINE COLORADO PROGRAM. For more information, go to coloradotalent.org/#/imagine/

IMAGINE COLORADO is a community service with a mission to empower, inspire and motivate Colorado youth and young adults in the arts. This project will provide mentoring programs for middle and high school youth. The program will form partnerships with local school districts and the juvenile court system. IMAGINE COLORADO's goal is to foster a commitment to young people that will promote social bonding, strong interpersonal skills, and reassert a sense of hope for the future. Colorado You Got Talent believe that providing tools to develop skills in the performing arts while building strong personal relationships, individuals will develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to follow through on path to becoming a productive community member with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

IMAGINE COLORADO is a program that is in direct response to the growing number of young people that are either falling through the cracks at school or are already entangled with the court system. The goal of the program is to identify those individuals and offer a positive, goal oriented and creative support system to avoid the pitfalls that can disrupt their lives. The emphasis is slightly different at each opportunity but the goal remains the same; empower, inspire, motivate and ultimately engage the young person by providing tools and opportunities in the arts, making positive changes in his/her life imaginable.

Although this facility will be open to all Colorado residents, IMAGINE COLORADO will concentration primarily on Middle and High School age youth and young adults. It is projected that within three years, more than 70% of the participants will be within this age category. This age group is particularly problematic and often unrecognized in community organization or assumed lost, we believe that this is actually a perfect time for this type of opportunity and mentoring.

IMAGINE COLORADO mentoring programs will connect a participant with a mentor for one year. During that time the two will participate in weekly planned activities in music, dance, photography, film or other performing arts to strengthen the relationship between the two and improve the young person's confidence and hopefulness.

Over time, IMAGINE COLORADO will create a powerful learning environment that will be an invaluable resource to young people, aspiring mentors and the community at large.

In 2012, CYGT surveyed more than 400 statewide youth were asked the question, if you could do anything you wanted without limitation to money, what would it be? More than 80% of those who responded said they wished they had the opportunity to be involved in one performing art or another. The desire is there. IMAGINE COLORADO wants to make that desire possible. If a youth has opportunity to excel in something they are passionate about; other areas of their life will be directly impacted.



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

IMAGINE COLORADO has three mentoring programs:

IMAGINE COLORADO is the central program of IMAGINE COLORADO. At-risk middle school students and their mentors participate in a structured program of support. At-risk middle school students and their mentors participate in an energizing retreat, followed by a seven month structured program that includes monthly team-building and group activities. The program ends with a graduation but the mentor and youth remain together for the following five months.

U-Turn: U-Turn focuses on students who are habitually in trouble or suspended from middle and high schools. The goal of the program is to reawaken the youth's commitment to learning and being successful in the classroom through various performing arts programs. By empowering young people to finish school, mentors are improving the student's success in the work world as adults.

Motivation: Motivation engages youth involved in the juvenile court system. The mentoring relationship is utilized to establish a program of change in the young person's life. The mentor encourages goal-setting, self-discipline, and skill development that improves the young person's sense of hopefulness. Mentors and youth work one-on-one for a year and are also offered opportunities to participate in monthly group activities and projects.

IMAGINE COLORADO NEED YOUR HELP

The initial development of this project needs you, including mentors, volunteers and financial assistance to complete this project. For more information, go to coloradotalent.org/#/imagine/ or contact producers@coloradotalent.org.