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Press Release **-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arts in Education Grant Opportunity for Local Teachers

Lafayette, Colo., October 2013 –Teachers of Lafayette schools may apply for a grant to support arts-related projects with local students. The Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC) is proud to offer Arts in Education Grants to local schools and teachers for the 8th year in a row.

The LCAC awards money, not exceeding \$500 per grant, to fund projects in Lafayette schools. These projects may include performance or group art activities with an educational focus or participatory learning opportunities. Teachers may submit an online grant application at the City of Lafayette website; www.cityoflafayette.com/aiegrant. Grant applications are due November 1. All projects receiving grant money need to be complete by May 24, 2014.

According to Susan Booker, Cultural Resources Coordinator with the City of Lafayette, \$20,000 has been awarded to 8 schools in the past 4 years. More than \$25,000 has been granted over the lifetime of this grant program. It has provided programming to thousands of students who would have missed out on an amazing array of arts opportunities. Teachers applying for the grant are able to partner with LCAC to do much larger projects than they otherwise would be able to attempt.

Projects funded include a wide array of disciplines including painting, photography, music, drama, historical enactments, dance, murals, sculpture, poetry, and writing. Susan Booker notes, "The goal is to provide culturally rich opportunities for students in all grades. Through the Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission and Public Art Committee, the City of Lafayette is happy to enrich the lives of our children and their families."

In the past the LCAC Arts in Education Grants helped to fund projects such as literacy based field trip to see a play at the Arvada Center, a year long photography club, two school assemblies focused on music education, and a theater production. LCAC believes by fostering creative expression in young people they not only help plant a seed for lifelong appreciation of the arts, but enhance overall academic performance.

Past grants have directly supported hundreds of students in the Lafayette community, many of them from minority and under represented communities. LCAC hopes grants bring cultural arts to all the student bodies as well as the parents, while helping to foster pride, self-esteem, appreciation for the arts, and often awareness of larger social issues.

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