



THE
ART
CENTER

WESTERN COLORADO
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

EXHIBITS

ART CLASSES

WORKSHOPS

PERMANENT COLLECTION

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

September 1, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Christo and Jeanne-Claude have spent a lifetime creating unique works of art that bring attention to the world around us whether it is the urban landscape or the natural beauty of flowing rivers and green rolling hills. Jeanne Claude stated that they produce these large works because, "we want to create works of art of joy and beauty, which we will build because we believe it will be beautiful. The only way to see it is to build it." *Over the River* project is a temporary work with the goal of highlighting the beauty of the Arkansas River by way of the selected 5.9 miles of translucent panels suspended over the rushing waters below.

The Western Colorado Center for the Arts wishes to offer its support to the artist's vision of this project with the understanding that this project will not only spotlight the beauty of the canyon and river and increase the revenue for the surrounding areas through a variety of tourism, but that Christo will provide the care and attention needed to the environment throughout the process of installation, display and removal of the work.

In past projects, Christo and Jeanne-Claude have taken great lengths to ensure that their vision honors the landscape, the people, and the process. The Western Colorado Center for the Arts can attest to the artists' careful planning and commitment to helping the environment and the community surrounding the selected location during the process and completion of the *Valley Curtain* in Rifle, Colorado. Several of our staff participated in the project itself, or Christo's visit to Grand Junction while promoting and presenting the project to the public. While discussing the *Over the River* project, memories of the past Rifle Gap project were shared and fondly remembered.

While meeting Christo just recently, staff was able to personally experience his gentleness and passion for what he does. He goes the extra mile to ensure that all concerns and ideas are brought forth and listened to. For example the public comment meetings in response to the EIS document. That love and attention to detail is carried through into the projects that are created. While The Art Center is positive that careful measures will be taken with this project we are hopeful that the full goal and vision of Christo, Jeanne-Claude and their team will benefit Colorado greatly on many levels.

Sincerely,

Cheryl McNab

Executive Director

The Western Colorado Center for the Arts

1803 North 7th Street
Grand Junction
CO 81501
tel 970-243-7337
fax 970-243-2482
www.gjartcenter.org