

March 7, 2008



**Statement from the Colorado Council on the Arts
Re: *Over The River* by Christo and Jeanne-Claude**

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Over The River is a two-week temporary work of art on the Arkansas River between Salida and Canon City in Colorado, proposed by internationally acclaimed artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Christo and Jeanne-Claude have created extraordinary, large-scale works of art that draw visitors from across the globe, such as *The Gates*, Central Park, New York City and *Wrapped Reichstag*, Berlin.

Based on the artists' reputation and track record, the Colorado Council on the Arts believes that *Over The River* has the potential to enhance Colorado's growing prominence in the art world and that there is an opportunity to realize substantial economic benefits for the state and for local communities over the course of the exhibit's installation, exhibition and removal.

The Council understands that all benefits of *Over The River* will occur without public subsidy or taxpayer support for the project and that the artists do not accept viewing fees, sponsorships or outside investments. The Council also understands that the artists have a commitment to producing awe-inspiring art that leaves no permanent sign of its existence, and that they will undertake every effort to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on the local communities.

Based upon assurances that the artists have requested an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for *Over The River* and will implement mitigation measures to address any temporary impact, the Council strongly supports the *Over The River* project, with the hope that *Over The River* can become a reality that benefits all Coloradans.

Sincerely,

Members of the Colorado Council on the Arts:

Chris Castilian, Chair, Denver
Gwen Benevento, Highlands Ranch
Vanessa Blacknall-Jamison, Aurora
Gaynell Colaric, Grand Junction
Gloria Gutierrez, Pueblo
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Neil Peck, Denver
Sylvia Peterson, Greeley
Joshua Rael, Denver
Janice Sinden, Denver
Robert Slosky, Denver

1625 Broadway
Suite 2700
Denver, CO 80202
t 303.892.3802
f 303.892.3848
www.coloarts.org