

Creating Futures

University of Colorado *at Colorado Springs*



Heller Center for Arts & Humanities

Preserving Yesterday's Cultural Legacy, Inspiring Tomorrow's Creative Work





Building upon the decades-long foundation of cultural excellence in Colorado Springs...

We are creating a new center for arts and humanities at UCCS.

The Heller Center will be:

- **A cultural hub** that sparks connections between students, faculty, and ideas
- **A community oasis** that draws visiting scholars and artists from around the world, to share their work and perspectives with Southern Colorado's citizens
- **A new kind of space for UCCS** that celebrates originality, expression, dialogue, and contemplation
- **A catalyst for future campus development**, enabling the University of Colorado's fastest-growing campus to better serve the region's students and citizens
- **A peaceful environment** in a fast-growing city, with one of the most inspiring vistas in America
- **A celebration of a vibrant chapter of Colorado Springs history**, preserving a legacy of cultural and natural appreciation
- **A tribute to Dorothy and Larry Heller**, who made the Heller Center's site their home for decades, and whose generosity and spirit will endure for generations to come

Your support for the Heller Center for the Arts & Humanities can bring this ambitious project to fruition.

"Artistic endeavor can be a tremendous catalyst for examining environmental and social challenges. Students, faculty, and community members are proud of Colorado Springs's substantial cultural legacies and are eager to continue to produce innovative, socially relevant work. The Heller Center will provide a refuge for creativity, and is a wonderful addition to our campus."

Perrin Cunningham,
Director, Heller Center for Arts & Humanities
Curator, Heller Collection



Buildings True to Origins

The Heller Center for Arts & Humanities will serve as a new learning space for UCCS and for public programming, providing a focal point for collaboration with community nonprofits and presenters. It will enable the university to expand offerings within and among diverse arts and humanities disciplines.

Sited on 35 acres, the Heller Center's physical core will be the site's distinctive structures, slated for rehabilitation and reconstruction in multiple phases between 2010 and 2015. These buildings will feature seminar classrooms, exhibition and performance spaces, meeting and conference amenities, a guest house for an artist-in-residence, studios, a workshop, and the Heller Collection—providing the intimate experience of a small liberal-arts college and an inviting setting for visitors from throughout the Pikes Peak Region and beyond.

Built of adobe in Pueblo Revival style, Heller Center buildings will reflect the eclectic charm of their original inhabitants, Dorothy and Larry Heller. With guidance from historical preservationists, the original floor plans and materials will be respected and, where possible, fully restored—paying homage to the past while creating a unique canvas for new visions.

A Stellar, Sustainable Setting

In the shadow of Eagle Rock with sweeping Pikes Peak vistas, the physical landscape will be an integral part of the Heller Center vision. Wild natural areas will be designated to create an organic extension of 900 acres of adjacent open space and accommodate wildlife. Trails will traverse the site, with an outdoor lab for environmental studies. The grounds

will incorporate a performance space and natural classrooms, and take advantage of the area's distinctive geological, botanical, and archaeological features.

The Hellers took pride in their greenhouse and terraced gardens, which will be restored. Original secondary features, including a barn, pumphouse, and outdoor ironworks, will be preserved. A Colorado State Historical Fund grant has enabled the development of a master plan for site rehabilitation.

The Heller Center will stimulate all the senses, helping to cultivate the freedom of mind, body, and spirit that allows intellectual and artistic pursuits to flourish.

Toward an Arts Microcampus

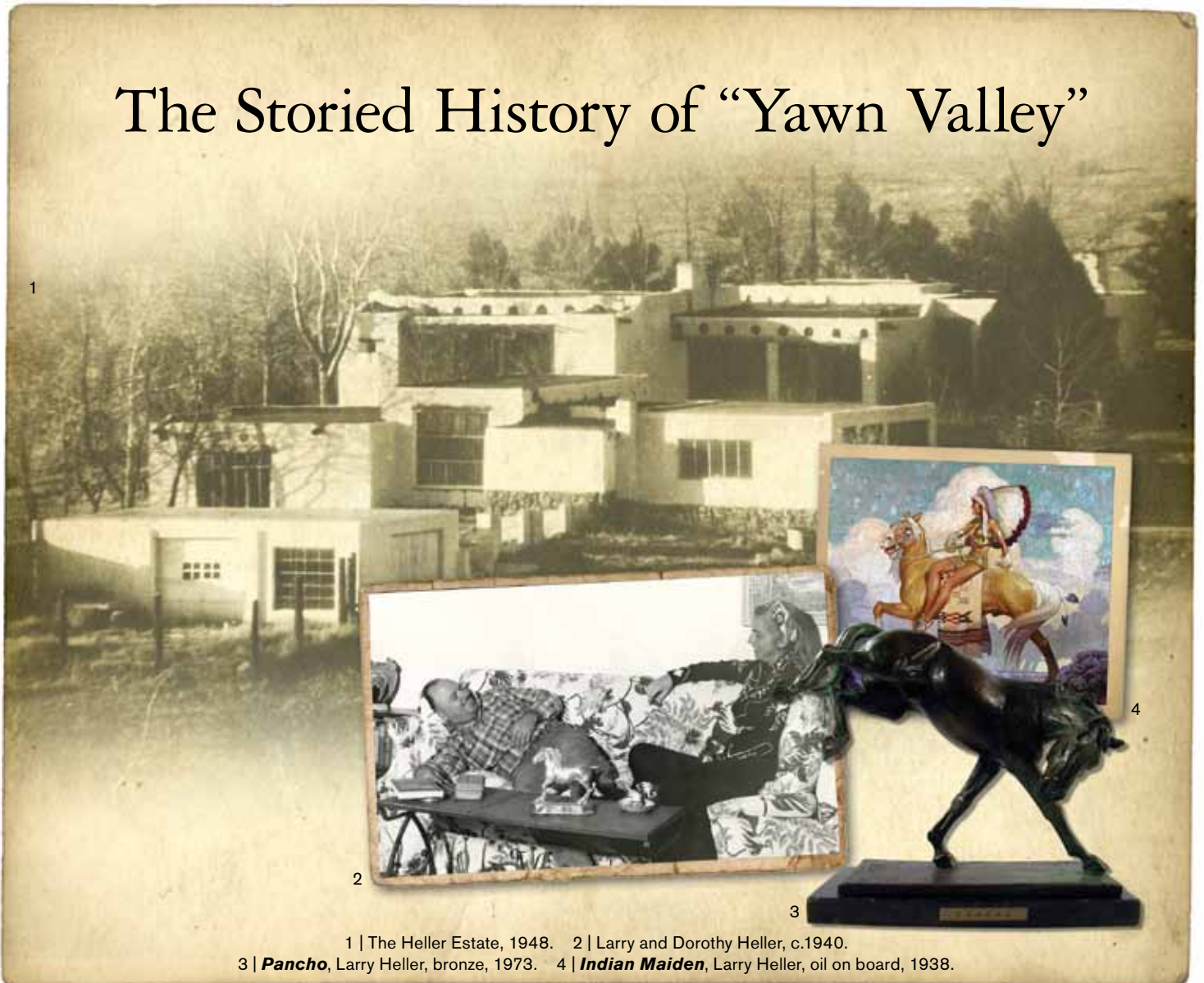
Currently, programs such as theater, music, and the visual arts are scattered around campus. In years to come, the Heller Center will spur a critical mass of arts-focused activity at UCCS in an area of campus slated for future expansion, enabling greater cross-pollination between art forms, and enhancing the profile of the arts at UCCS, both in the Pikes Peak Region, and beyond.



"The Heller Center provides a welcome refuge, and a site for inspiration that enables great things to happen."

Pam Shockley-Zalabak
Chancellor, UCCS

The Storied History of “Yawn Valley”



“The Heller property is a gem. Its closeness, seclusion, and spectacular Pikes Peak views make it a wonderful center for artists and art enthusiasts to work and meet. You are greeted, as you approach the home, by a life-size bronze of Larry’s beloved horse, Pancho. It sets the stage for that fabled era of the 1930s through the ’50s, when art and culture were a central focus for this region. No other site in Colorado Springs can provide this unique capability to the art-loving public, and it will be a very well-utilized addition to the art community.”

Alan Steiner

Heller Center Donor

Former Board Chairman, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

Philadelphia native Larry Heller arrived in Colorado Springs in 1933, fresh from art school and European travels, looking for a place to set up a fun, energetic life. He was enchanted by the dramatic western landscape and burgeoning arts scene, accentuated by the Broadmoor Art Academy that thrived in the early part of the 20th century.

He also quickly became enchanted with a young woman named Dorothy, herself an iconoclast, and the first woman officer in the history of the Colorado Springs Police Department. Within a few years, they married and built an artist enclave in what they called Yawn Valley. Larry Heller built and designed the estate's distinctive buildings. The Main House was supposedly described by Frank Lloyd Wright as "the most interesting house in Colorado Springs."

The Hellers' fictional Yawn Valley Yacht Club had just one requirement of its members—"You can't stand steady employment"—and they reveled in a laid-back lifestyle. But "laid-back" did not equate to lying down. They enjoyed MG car racing, fox hunting, and other pursuits. More enduringly, Larry produced art with zest in media including painting, sculpture, film, and photography. His works matched his love for the Western aesthetic with an appreciation for camp and romance.

To Larry and Dorothy, conversation was itself a worthy art form. They welcomed a community of artists to their home, sparking countless connections and inspiring scores of peers to realize their own ideas and artistic visions.

When Dorothy Heller passed away in 1999, she bequeathed the home, property, and art collections to UCCS, with the hope that the legacy of the place as an intersection of nature, art, and passion would inspire liberating educational experiences, creativity, and natural preservation.

Urban development has encroached around the area, which is adjacent to the North Nevada corridor. Yet the site of the Heller Center remains almost completely untouched, and true to its original intent. Donors can ensure that it will bear the stamp of its benefactors.

"We were very lucky to have known Larry and Dorothy Heller personally for over 60 years. Larry made movies of our daughters ice skating, and painted one into Tales of Hoffman and did a portrait of the other. Dorothy taught our children arts and crafts. The Hellers spent most of many holidays and Christmases in our home.

Dorothy felt the property was the perfect place for artistic creativity, where community members and students could participate in supporting local arts and humanities. Words cannot express our interest in seeing that her wishes are carried out with the greatest respect to the Hellers and their special gift to UCCS. We hope that others join us to support and fund this very worthwhile endeavor."

Bill and Phyllis Riley
Heller Center Donors

Long-time friends and neighbors of the Hellers



1 | Larry and Dorothy Heller, early 1950s. 2 | **Pikes Peak, Purple Mountains**, Larry Heller, oil on canvas, 1934. 3 | **Le Printemps**, Larry Heller, bronze, 1977. 4 | **BluePrints exhibition**, Heller Gallery, 2009.



Integral to UCCS’s Long-Term Vision

The Heller Center will be a showcase and educational incubator for UCCS’s largest college, the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. As Southern Colorado’s largest generator of arts, humanities, and science graduates and research, the college plays an increasingly important role—one the Heller Center will bolster.

The time is right for the Heller Center to reach its full potential, as UCCS activity is unprecedented on several fronts.

The Visual and Performing Arts department is witnessing record interest in a distinctive degree program that integrates art history, film studies, museum and gallery practice, music, theater, and visual arts. The Heller Center will be ripe for such cross-disciplinary creation and collaboration—as it already has with exhibitions such as “The Art of DNA,” bringing together students in biology, information technology, and visual art.

And great progress has been made at UCCS in the realm of sustainability, which the Heller Center, rehabilitated according to environmentally sensitive standards, will embody. Enrollment is up in disciplines such as geography and environmental studies, and the site is a showcase for indigenous grasses, geological formations, archaeological artifacts, and other natural attributes not replicable on a typical college campus.

Sustainability, interdisciplinary connections, individualized learning experiences, and bridges to the community are each strategic goals of UCCS. By helping to rehabilitate the Heller Center, you can ensure that the region’s higher education opportunities continue to grow and flourish.

“The most exciting areas of innovation and creativity take form at the places where traditional disciplines intersect. Throughout the college, we strive to create these intersections to allow our students and faculty to explore, develop, and create across academic departmental boundaries. The programs at the Heller Center are a perfect example of this type of interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Tom Christensen
Dean, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences

You Can Help This Vision Become Reality

The Heller Center's first phase, the Main House, will be completed for the start of the 2010-11 school year, led by architectural firm and historical-restoration specialists **Aller•Lingle•Massey**. Other aspects of the project will be completed over the course of the next five years.

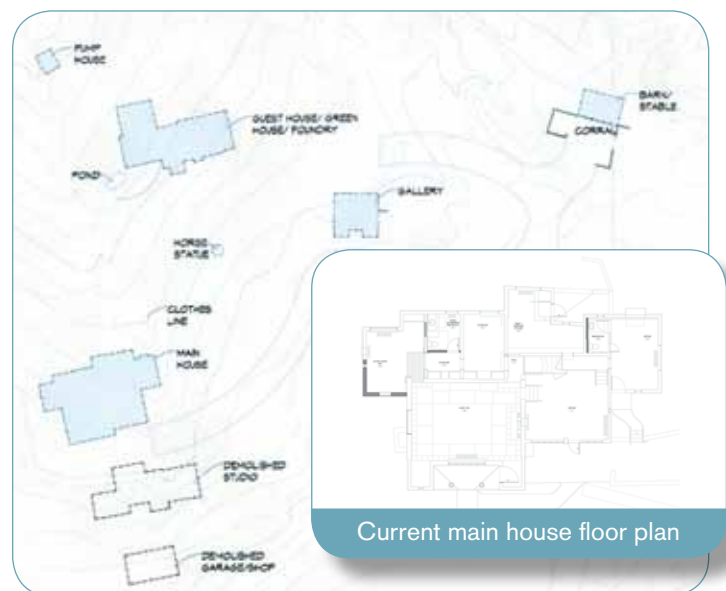
Time is of the essence. These aging, hand-built buildings are deteriorating, as Pueblo revival-style homes are particularly susceptible to freeze/thaw cycles. And with UCCS seeing record enrollment that continues to increase, this is a perfect time to take advantage of underused campus assets. The sooner we act, the more students, faculty, and community members will benefit.

This \$5.5 million project has already received a significant funding commitment from UCCS leadership, which recognizes the Heller Center's ability to support the university's long-term vision. Private donors can help leverage these university funds, and attract additional support from other foundations, corporations, and individuals who see the momentum building behind this center—multiplying the impact of your gift.

There are many ways you can contribute to the Heller Center—by cash, pledge, or with appreciated securities or other assets. Naming opportunities exist, enabling you to leave a personal legacy at the Heller Center and support a particular area of passion. Our development officers can help you match our visions with your own.

"I'm excited by the cross-listing of courses between departments within the Liberal Arts and Sciences. This openness between disciplines and curriculum makes the courses exciting and much more interesting and informative. Having a place like the Heller Center as a location to help bring together that type of learning will truly enhance my education!"

Cyndi DeStefano
UCCS student majoring in communication



Saving Place class, 2008

A Natural Investment in UCCS

Former Colorado Springs schoolteacher **Betty Taylor** was a lifelong advocate for education, and for natural preservation. In honor of her late son—who loved places with ambience, an Old West feel, and a sense of peace—she contributed proceeds from the sale of her 1,500-acre Montana ranch to UCCS, supporting the architectural design process and Phase 1 rehabilitation for the Heller Center site. Taylor's gift not only exemplifies generosity on behalf of Southern Colorado's future, it also shows how a planned estate gift enables you to make a lasting contribution without jeopardizing your daily budget.



To learn about the many ways you can make a gift:

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A Home for the Hellers, A Home for UCCS

An ideal place for learning inspires students to see things anew, provides a glimpse of what has come before, and suggests for them the comforts and charms of home. The Heller Center site has all of these elements.

To reach its full potential as a learning and research destination for the arts and humanities, all we need is your support. Please join us on this worthy endeavor, on behalf of the future of UCCS and the communities we serve.



All gifts should be made payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, specifying the appropriate gift designation.

March 2010