

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF ARTS IN ARTS LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER**

**I. SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends approval for the Colorado State University (CSU) to offer a Master of Arts in Arts Leadership and Administration (MALA). However, the recommendation for approval is contingent upon the Board of Governors approval of the program.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from CSU's proposal:

The proposed degree program will be housed in the College of the Liberal Arts. The MALA will provide students the professional resources they need to become more marketable and will allow students and professionals explore other career opportunities in the arts, including arts administration, jobs in mainstream entertainment, and opportunities in creative industries. This new curriculum will provide leadership and advocacy training that will allow students to be informed of issues in the arts and make a difference in their community. The Institute will return artists back into the community, thereby fulfilling CSU's mission as a land-grant institution, giving back to the community in which it resides.

The proposed program has formed a partnership with the City of Fort Collins, Beet Street, and the Arts Incubator of the Rockies (AIR). This partnership will deliver training from Colorado State University, provide practical, hands-on-experience in the field of the arts, enhance the quality of life in the community, and open vistas to new ideas and collaborations.

**ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

This degree program proposal supports the role and mission of CU Boulder. The statutory mission states:

*There is hereby established a university at Fort Collins to be known as Colorado state university. Colorado state university shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. Consistent with the tradition of land grant universities, Colorado*

*state university has exclusive authority to offer graduate and undergraduate programs in agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and veterinary medicine. The Colorado commission on higher education, in consultation with the board of governors of the Colorado state university system, shall designate those graduate level programs that are the primary responsibility of Colorado state university. Colorado state university has the responsibility to provide on a statewide basis, utilizing when possible and appropriate the faculty and facilities of other educational institutions, those graduate level programs. The commission shall include in its funding recommendations a level of general fund support for these programs C.R.S., §23-31-101.*

### **EVIDENCE OF NEED**

This program is not offered at a public institution located west of the Mississippi. The relationship with AIR provides a unique training program with built-in relationships that may attract out-of-state students. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has seen a change in the state of the arts and students need to be armed with skills that allow them to be competitive.

A primary area of student concern voiced in the Senior Exit Survey and in SNAAP, the Indiana University survey of both undergraduate and graduate students in Art, has been that of preparation for specific careers, some of which they were unaware existed during the time of their study. This program proposes to respond to those concerns, opening avenues for students with a passion for the arts. This program also responds to the growing trend within the business sector to seek out people with creative abilities.

### **DUPLICATION**

The University of Denver offers a MLS Arts and Culture/Arts Development and Program Management. However, DU's degree targets a different audience and the requirements for the degrees differ. Similar degrees are offered at other institutions, primarily on the East Coast and none have partnered with a city organization.

### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129 (6) (b), department staff finds that CSU's proposed Master of Arts in Arts Leadership and Administration is consistent with its statutory role and mission.

The administration at Colorado State University expects the Board of Governors to approve this program at its December 6, 2012 meeting. Upon CCHE approval, Department staff will wait for confirmation of approval from the Board of Governors to add the program to the approved degree table database.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University's proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Arts Leadership and Administration contingent upon approval by the Board of Governors.**

**V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-5-129

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.