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ARTFUL ACCESS SEEKS PARTICIPANTS FOR ACCESSIBILITY PLAY-TEST AT MEOW WOLF'S CONVERGENCE STATION

September, 2021, Denver, Colorado

Artful Access Cultural Accessibility is seeking blind individuals to participate in an accessibility play-test for Meow Wolf's newest *Convergence Station* exhibition in Denver. The play-test will include a two-hour tour, after which refreshments will be provided during a one-hour focus group meeting. Participant feedback will be utilized to ensure that the exhibition is accessible to the Blind Community.

Meow Wolf understands the importance of inclusion, and accessibility is not an afterthought to Meow Wolf's *Convergence Station*. Artful Access is proud to partner with this organization in order to ensure that accessibility is available to all members of the community.

The tour capacity will be limited to 10 (ten) participants. Interested individuals may contact Brenda Mosby by email (listed above) by September 21, 2021. The two-hour play-test will be conducted on September 29, 2021 at 10:30am, followed by a short break with light refreshments and a one-hour focus group session.

Artful Access Cultural Accessibility offers accessibility consulting and services for venues, exhibitions, and other publicly visited arts spaces as well as in theatre, dance, film, tv, events and conferences. Audio Description for the blind and accessibility program development are among the focused services offered.

With over 60 years of combined experience in accessibility, the arts and education, Artful Access provides accessibility expertise based on the team's experience, knowledge of ADA requirements, familiarity with adaptive technology, distinct responses for people with accessibility-specific needs, knowledge of best practices, and quality assurance. The team is led by Beth Rypkema and Brenda Mosby.

Brenda Mosby: At 40 years of age, Brenda Mosby suddenly lost her sight due to a virus that attacked her optic nerves. In time, she was able to return to college, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling. She is also a nationally certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC).

Brenda has used the example of her own life circumstances to show others that it's not what happens to you, but what you do with what happens to you. She created an employment service based on the premise that being disabled does not mean being unemployable.

Mosby is the co-chair of the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, and serves on several boards and councils such as the State of Colorado Rehabilitation Council and the Denver Theatre District board. She is a member of the Mile High Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, and is a former member of the Community Advisory Committee for Meow Wolf.

She is the author of *You Are Capable: Get Past Your Disabilities and Get Hired*, a guidebook for persons with disabilities who would like to explore options for employment.

Beth Rypkema: With over 35 years experience in the arts and education, Beth Rypkema has worn a lot of hats: planning and implementing award-winning arts programs for youth and adults; developing and presenting exhibitions, workshops, classes and artist residency programs; coaching artists; performing and teaching the Wonders of Middle C and Beyond. She is a curator of arts, music and education programs, and is an author, musician and filmmaker.

Rypkema has a firm belief in and commitment to the impact of the arts on individuals, communities and society, especially underserved populations. She has created art scholarship programs for at-risk youth, artist residencies in juvenile corrections, and benefit concerts, events and relief projects for Native American communities and reservations.

Rypkema is a Professional Audio Describer, translating action and visual aspects of live performances for blind and low-sight patrons. She has worked in theater, opera, ballet, rodeo, visual arts, exhibits and events. Beth is part of Artful Access Cultural Accessibility, an accessibility consulting and services team, where she provides audio description and consulting services, research and content creation.

Clients include the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Opera Colorado, Art Students League of Denver, Colorado Free University, Rapid City Arts Council, Dahl Arts Center, Lamphere Studio, Tarnoff Art Center, Music and Arts Center, DoReMi Music, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center, Ridge View Youth Services Center, Colorado Division of Youth Corrections, Feed the Children Int., United States Air Force Reserve, Walking Shield/ TransAm, Miss America Organization, Cornerstone Rescue Mission, SuAnne Big Crow Center.

Before embarking on a full-time arts career, Beth was an elementary school teacher, performing artist and bookkeeper. She has written and self-published five books on the business of art, including *The Beethoven Model*.

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