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**Denver Architectural Foundation, Access Gallery and
University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and
Planning Present the “Art of Architecture”
*Collaborative design challenge with architecture students and artists
with disabilities reimagines Access Gallery***

DENVER — Dec. 19, 2017 — The “Art of Architecture,” an exhibition highlighting designs by [University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning](#) students developed collaboratively with artists with disabilities from [Access Gallery](#), showcases concepts for a fully integrated and inclusive space for Access Gallery. The exhibition opens to the public with a First Friday event on January 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Gallery’s space (909 Santa Fe Dr.).

[Denver Architectural Foundation](#) (DAF) facilitated the project and funded it through a discretionary grant from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District for innovative partnership.

“Part of the Denver Architectural Foundation’s mission is to inspire people to experience the importance of design to our quality of life and envision an exceptional future for Denver,” said Pauline Herrera Serianni, executive director, Denver Architectural Foundation. “Additionally, we are heavily focused on education initiatives, so the partnership among DAF, Access Gallery and CU Denver advances our mission while providing an opportunity to address a real design challenge.”

Sixteen students from the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning kicked off the project by meeting with eight Access Gallery artists, touring their space, and researching the neighborhood and culture.

“Over the past year, we began to think big, asking ourselves: what if we had an opportunity to rethink Access Gallery, to imagine a physical community built around our artists, a place they can create, sell, and actually live?” said Damon McLeese, executive director of Access Gallery. “Part of the magic of Access Gallery is the community we foster by creating a safe and welcoming environment. While our artists come from all over the city, many of them see us as their home away from home.”

The public has several opportunities to view the show at Access Gallery, including First Friday on January 5. On Friday, January 19, the project partners will host a Meet the

Artists Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. when the public may speak with the artists and designers behind the “Art of Architecture.” The winner of the design challenge will be named at the January 19 event. Additionally, the show is open to the public Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through January 20.

“Our architecture students were charged with creating an inspired home for Access Gallery, featuring a studio, gallery, and residences for its artists, while accommodating market opportunities, including residences, retail and underground parking,” said Ranko Ruzic, senior instructor at the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning. “The outcome is a visionary project for both Access Gallery and the Santa Fe neighborhood. Our students have acquired a greater understanding of the design needs for people with disabilities, and the role of architectural design as a means of integration. We are looking forward to continued work with Access Gallery on similar collaborative design projects.”

The Denver Architectural Foundation (DAF) inspires people to explore our dynamic city, experience the importance of design to our quality of life and envision an exceptional future for Denver. For more information about DAF, visit www.denverarchitecture.org.

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