



Breckenridge
Creative Arts
breckcreate.org

Contact: Tamara Nuzzaci Park
President + CEO, BreckCreate
215-880-2607
Tamara@BreckCreate.org

TO BE RELEASED:
October 11, 2022

BRECKENRIDGE CREATIVE ARTS PRESENTS
FALL 2022 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION
WORKSHOPS, FIELD TRIPS AND MORE ON THE ARTS DISTRICT CAMPUS AND BEYOND
MORE INFORMATION AT BRECKCREATE.ORG



October 11, 2022, Breckenridge, Colo.: This fall, BreckCreate brings back its school-based educational programs, offering teachers and schools throughout Summit County the opportunity to engage students and meet its curricular and social emotional learning objectives through art. The organization hopes to expand its impact through three unique experiences: The traveling AirStage Ofrenda, the After School Art Club at Summit Middle School, and an in-school workshop led by Artist-In-Residence Stephanie Mercado at Snowy Peaks Junior and

Senior High School. BreckCreate encourages teachers and school administrators to reach out to the organization to partner on similar projects as well as setup field trips.

“Through these school-based art programs, we hope to show that we are a local resource for inspiring teachers and challenging students right here in Summit County,” says Tamara Nuzzaci Park, president and CEO of BreckCreate. “Our mission is to deliver creative experiences that enrich the quality of life for residents. We see these educational initiatives as a way to engage young minds, to help them to develop mentally and emotionally, and to connect them to the community.”

BreckCreate’s school-based educational programs are 100% underwritten by generous contributions from individuals, philanthropic corporations and private foundations. BreckCreate extends its gratitude to The Summit Foundation for its generous support of the AirStage Ofrenda.

The AirStage Ofrenda: The most far-reaching educational endeavor is the AirStage Ofrenda (shown in the photo above), an immersive installation created by artist Adrian Marban and in partnership with the Mexican Cultural Center (MCC). This mobile altar resides inside BreckCreate’s AirStage, a 1975 Airstream trailer that the organization retrofitted into a mobile stage in 2021.

The AirStage Ofrenda will travel to Frisco Elementary (Oct. 20), Summit Cove Elementary (Oct. 27-28), immigrant-rights organization Mountain Dreamers (Oct. 29), Silverthorne Elementary (Oct. 31), Dillon Valley Elementary (Nov. 2-3) and the Silverthorne Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead, DDLM) celebration (Nov. 4). The AirStage Ofrenda will be on the Arts District Campus for BreckCreate’s DDLM celebration Friday, Oct. 14th through Sunday, Oct. 16th.

“Ofrenda” translates to “offering” in Spanish, and the AirStage Ofrenda reinvents the traditional DDLM altar in an unlikely space, inviting viewers to step into a world honoring the dead, featuring characters and symbols from Mexican folklore. When the AirStage Ofrenda visits schools, students will be invited to honor a deceased loved one. The students will color paper cut-outs of butterflies and attach them to a fabric panel. According to the MCC, also a key partner with BreckCreate’s DDLM festival, “monarch butterflies are a symbol of the holiday. Día de los Muertos coincides (with) the monarch’s migration to Mexico for the winter. It is long believed that these butterflies are the returning spirits of deceased family members.”

DDLM is a lively celebration in Mexican culture that honors loved ones who have passed. The tradition predates Mexican culture, and it has been celebrated throughout Latin America for centuries; it combines the ancient Aztec custom of paying tribute to their ancestors with All Souls’ Day, which the Spanish colonizers imported to the Americas during the 1500s, according to *National Geographic*. In Mexico, this joyful celebration happens each year on November 1 and 2 through the creation of calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls), altares de muertos (altars of the dead) and ofrendas (offerings). A festive and social occasion, DDLM welcomes the return of those who have died and recognizes the cycles of life and death.

“The AirStage Ofrenda provides an unconventional platform for Latinx artists and cultural traditions,” Nuzzaci Park says. “The artist Adrian Marban and the MCC along with the BreckCreate team have created an extraordinary teaching tool that encourages community learning and collaboration.”

BreckCreate invites the community to attend the 8th annual DDLM festival, a three-day commemoration of Day of the Dead featuring hands-on folk-art workshops, face painting, contemporary art exhibitions, and Aztec Grupo Huitzilopochtli dance performances on the Arts District Campus in downtown Breckenridge, plus the mobile ofrenda inside the AirStage. More information and the schedule are available at breckcreate.org.

Teen After School Workshop Series Students at Summit Middle School have the opportunity to join BreckCreate Instructor [Kia Neill](#) for the After School Art Club. A variety of “starter” projects will be offered, and participants may choose the art skills and projects on which they prefer to work. Neill will provide instruction, guidance, and inspiration to assist participants in their creative and artistic practice. Two five-week sessions will be offered. Participants are asked to commit to at least four of the five weeks of any registered session. Session one is currently running. Session two begins on November 10th. Both sessions are currently full.

In-School Workshop with BreckCreate Artist-In-Residence Stephanie Mercado Los Angeles-based artist Stephanie Mercado is BreckCreate’s current artist-in-residence. While in Breckenridge, Mercado will teach a block-printing workshop at Snowy Peaks Junior and Senior High School entitled “Exploring Connection - Self Portrait in Breckenridge Landscape.” In this block printing workshop, participants will carve a self-portrait that is representative of self as human, animal, plant, or object. Each carving will be printed on paper and collaged to create an artwork that represents one’s connection to their surrounding environment. Students will be provided with coloring sheets that contain a variety of elements that can then be used to create a dynamic collage.

“I hope students will feel empowered by the workshop and have a better understanding of what is important to them, or how their identities can be complex, relatable, and ever changing simultaneously,” Mercado says of the workshop. The goal of the workshop is to create “moments of connection through shared experiences and (highlight) the inherent value we have despite our different backgrounds and experiences.”

Mercado is an interdisciplinary artist. Her work is inspired and influenced by lived experiences and her environment. As a painter and printmaker, her work merges traditional printmaking with experimental practices and mixed media. Her recent portraits of essential workers are a result of the pandemic and a desire to highlight the essential contributions of the working class. While in Breckenridge, Stephanie will be interviewing and meeting with local residents and essential workers to develop a series of portraits that depict the Breckenridge community.

Field Trips: BreckCreate offers a variety of programs for students to learn about art, history, and culture. Whether it is a docent-led tour complete with hands-on art project or a self-guided visit to our campus, students are provided an experiential learning opportunity that fosters collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

Through field trips, BreckCreate educators and docents engage students in the experience of viewing art and empower them to make meaningful connections to their curriculum, their world and themselves. Opportunities are available for elementary, middle, high-school, and college students and can be customized to align with grade-level curriculum and across disciplines.

Most recently, Aspen Hill High School organized a three-and-a-half-day field trip to the Arts District Campus for 20 students. This is the third year BreckCreate has welcomed the school. The students learned papercraft, glassblowing, mosaics, printmaking, weaving, cyanotypes, woodworking, and oil painting while in Breckenridge.

To plan a field trip, request a tour or learn about self-guided visits, please contact BreckCreate Arts Education Manager Drea Edwards at drea@breckcreate.org. You can also [click here](#) to download field trip planning information.

###

ABOUT BRECKENRIDGE CREATIVE ARTS: Breckenridge Creative Arts, a.k.a. BreckCreate, aims to build a dynamic, year-round creative community within Breckenridge. The organization's mission is to deliver inspiring creative experiences that enrich the quality of life for residents and quality of place for visitors via live performances, exhibitions, screenings, classes, workshops and other engagement opportunities throughout Breckenridge, Colorado. BreckCreate's core attractions are the Riverwalk Center and a lively Arts District campus of renovated historic structures that now function as studio spaces for classes and workshops as well as affordable rentals by local artists and visiting artist-in-residence participants. The Breckenridge Arts District is a certified district within the Colorado Creative Industries [Creative District](#) program. For more information regarding events and programming, please visit our [website](#).