



# Art Works.

For the  
Heart of  
the Rockies

## **Mission Statement**

*Artworks for the Heart of the Rockies seeks to weave the arts into the fabric of our community by providing resources and programs designed to nurture artistic expression and broaden participation in the arts.*

June 1, 2008

Art Works for the Heart of the Rockies, Salida, Colorado, endorses **“Over The River”** Project for the Arkansas River, State of Colorado, *In Progress*. This is Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s temporary work of art of suspended translucent fabric of 5.9 miles located in eight separate areas along the forty mile stretch of the Arkansas River between Salida and Canon City. We strongly support this project and it is fitting we do so as part of our on-going mission **“to weave the arts into the fabric of our community . . . . and broaden participation in the arts”**.

Most recognized recently for **“The Gates”** in New York City’s Central Park, Christo and Jeanne-Claude are the some of the most famous of living artists. Known internationally, they have created large scale temporary works of art in outdoor settings, both here and abroad. Their environmental works have existed in both urban and rural places already used by people. Their innovative art brings people from all over the world and all walks of life together, evokes much discussion and debate and carries an enormous public responsibility. They and their committed team of professionals demonstrate exacting standards, unsurpassed technical engineering and detailed management in the planning, installation and removal of their projects. Christo and Jeanne-Claude do not accept sponsorship of any kind and pay all costs. Since 1997, members of our Salida community have participated in several scoping meetings, presented by the artists, who are as passionate about the process of their work as they are about involving the communities as a part of their vision.

As writer and naturalist and one of the founders of Art Works, Susan J. Tweit said in her *“Over the River: Transforming Our View of the Everyday”* commentary:

*“Whether or not the project makes it through the permitting process, it has already succeeded in engaging communities up and down the canyon, spurring us to examine our surroundings and talk about what it is here that we cherish.*

*That, to my mind, is the whole point of art: it forces us to pay attention, focusing and transforming our view of the everyday world around us.”*

(Copyright 2006 Susan J. Tweit. Distributed by the Writers on the Range syndicate, a service of High Country News.)

**“Over The River”** will be a once in a lifetime experience of a unique vision of a river landscape, lasting but two weeks yet living in memories and inspiring young and old for years to come.

Sue Mills, Art Works Facilitator  
The Board of Art Works for the Heart of the Rockies