

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Performing Arts Charter School Approved in Aurora**

Denver, CO (November 20, 2019) – During its November 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the [Colorado Charter School Institute](http://www.csi.state.co.us) (CSI) Board of Directors conditionally approved the new charter school application for [Visions Performing Arts College-Prep](#) (VPAC).

VPAC intends to open in Aurora in the fall of 2020 serving children in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and building out to serve grades 6-12. The public charter school will offer a performing arts model to the community—the first of its kind in Aurora—offering dance, theater, and visual arts majors in its first year and expanding to additional majors in future years based on student interest.

“As an Afro-Latina performer, we are creating the school I needed,” shares school founder and lead applicant, Auset Maryam Ali. “The mission is to create a loving, safe, culturally affirming environment for all student performers to thrive in. The arts provide many skills in students to become creative problem solvers and socially aware citizens that become passionate about changing and leading the world.”

As Executive Director of the Colorado Charter School Institute, Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, shares: “The school’s mission and vision align with CSI’s mission of fostering school choices that meet the needs of the community. CSI specifically seeks to foster school options that work to close the opportunity gap. It is clear VPAC is committed to this as well.”

The CSI new school application review process includes a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the written proposal, a capacity interview with the school’s proposed leadership, board, and founding team, a presentation the CSI Board’s Performance Management Committee, and a community meeting. The review team included members of CSI staff with expertise in finance, governance, academics, and operations as well as external reviewers.

“The school has strong community support, and it is clear the team has worked hard to refine and strengthen the proposal and team capacity,” shares Dr. Croy Lewis. Once the school fulfills contract conditions and a contract is executed between the school’s Board of Directors and the CSI Board of Directors, the school team will participate in the Year 0 process with CSI staff—a process developed to monitor and support new schools as they prepare for opening.

For more information on Visions Performing Arts College-Prep and how to enroll, visit their [website](#).

**About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)**

CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 40 schools from Durango to Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction to Colorado Springs and serving over 18,000 PK-12 students. As a charter authorizer, CSI focuses on the outputs—that is, the quantitative evaluation of academic, organizational, and financial school performance—providing schools the flexibility to focus on and make decisions about inputs like instructional strategies, educational programming, internal assessment system, facility selection, and staffing. The focus on outcomes rather than processes allows CSI to be neutral on educational model and maintain a diverse portfolio of school models, which include Classical, Early College, Alternative, and Montessori models. Learn more at [www.csi.state.co.us](http://www.csi.state.co.us) or read our [Media Kit](#), and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).