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**ARIZONA FORWARD SPOTLIGHTS POTENTIAL FOR CANAL ENHANCEMENTS
THROUGH *COLOR CANALSCAPE* IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FOUR PHOENIX SCHOOLS**

Interactive jubilee to feature entertainment, student-themed art projects

PHOENIX (Feb. 10, 2014) – Identifying the need to embrace and transform the Valley’s vast network of canals into place-makers for the community, Arizona Forward will host, *Color Canalscape*, a free family event from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sat., March 1 on the Grand Canal between Central Avenue and 7th Street.

Arizona Forward, in collaboration with the school communities of Brophy College Preparatory, Central High School, St. Francis Xavier and Xavier College Preparatory, will unveil student art-themed projects depicting their vision for canal enhancements themed around shade, water, bridges and connectivity. Students from all four schools will showcase new uses and improvements for canal banks on their campus as part of Arizona Forward’s Canalscape initiative, designed to engage residents in transforming the Valley’s canals into gathering spaces that foster connectivity and recreation.

Aiming to awaken and activate America’s “Canal City” into a cultural oasis, *Color Canalscape*, is presented in partnership with Wells Fargo, Ryan Companies and Sunbelt Holdings. The initiative presents a unique opportunity to boldly shape our built environment by embracing the Valley’s more than 180 miles of canals.

Phoenix has more waterways than Venice and Amsterdam combined, yet the Valley has essentially turned its back on what could be a key community asset. Residents typically experience the canal system as a grid of hidden alleys disconnected from their daily lives.

“*Color Canalscape* aligns with Arizona Forward’s mission to create healthy, sustainable communities that foster connectivity, promote non-motorized transportation and recreational opportunities,” said Diane Brossart, president and CEO of Arizona Forward. “We’ve tapped into the minds of some of the greatest visionaries – the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow – to envision what Canalscape could mean for residents and visitors alike. Our blank canvas is filled with nothing but possibilities!”

The program is open to the public and will kick-off with an energetic presentation by Central High’s color guard and national anthem sung by their choir. Attendees will also enjoy performances by Capoeira Arizona and school dance and musical clubs.

Color Canalscape will enliven and bridge the community with:

ENGAGING dance and musical performances

INNOVATIVE student projects

BEAUTIFUL canal decorations

PLAYFUL picnic/festival attractions

FUN pedi cab rides along the canal

DELICIOUS Short Leash Hotdogs & Mamma Toledo’s Pies

For information about *Color Canalscape* visit: arizonaforward.org or call (602) 240-2408.

Arizona Forward brings business and civic leaders together to facilitate thoughtful public dialogue on sustainability issues and to improve the environmental quality and economic vitality of cities and towns throughout the Grand Canyon State. Its collective influence ensures healthy communities, smart growth and development, efficient transportation, improved air quality, responsible water management, energy alternatives and meaningful education.

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