

Center for the Arts Moves into Construction Phase



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(1) An exterior artist rendering of the 69,000 square-foot Center for the Arts, scheduled to be completed by 2012. A recital hall, (2) along with a rehearsal hall (3) and art studios (4), will be incorporated in the modern facility, which will sit in the middle of the campus.

The new Center for the Arts now being built in the heart of the Pasadena City College campus is going to take the arts to another level. With both the Performing and Communication Arts and Visual Arts and Media Studies divisions sharing the building, this center will be the heart and soul of art for decades to come. Considering that the center is being built in the very middle of the campus, it will be the home of the heart and soul of the college.

The building is comprised of four stories, including one that is subterranean. The basement level of the Center for the Arts will be the home to 24 soundproof student practice rooms, an extensive music library, and a student-friendly learning center.

The main level of the Center for the Arts has division offices for both of the programs, conveniently located near the main building entrances. It contains four studio art labs, two music classrooms, a large lecture hall with 122 fixed seats, a small rehearsal room, and a large rehearsal room with acoustical panels and drapery.

The main level corridor delicately transitions between varying shades of yellow on the southern walls and shades of blue on the northern walls creating visual interest for all those traveling from one end to the other.

Another significant area is a 2,000 square-foot Art Gallery with LED spotlights emphasizing both wall-mounted and free-standing artwork and an exterior display area to showcase student and professional art to those passing by. Also located on the main level of the Center for the Arts building is a state-of-the-art Recital Hall holding 226 permanent seats, complete with a performance stage and service gallery.

Separate from the main building, the Little Theater has its own box office, 94 fixed seats, dressing areas for the performers, catwalk, and technical gallery for the show technicians.

Great attention was paid to creating an environment that is conducive to learning, and conducive to artistic expression. For example, lighting was a major focus. Light wells carry natural light coming in from three large skylights on the roof through to the

third, second, and main floor corridors. Not only is natural lighting proven to increase productivity and create a sense of warmth and comfort, but it also saves on energy by less use of artificial lighting during the day. The subterranean level makes use of natural lighting by a light well located on the southern side of the building, allowing daylight to shine into the student learning center. The windows on the building reflect both the traditional style of the campus, and also literally reflect light onto the ceilings of rooms in order to illuminate the entire classroom, lab, and office spaces with natural light.

Design detailing also shows on the exterior of the building, particularly in the main courtyard area on the northern side of the building. Off of the main floor is the courtyard sponsored by the Pasadena Arts Alliance. It will have space for sculptures, pockets of vegetation and seating areas for socializing, studying and admiring the artwork.

Now that the construction is underway, excitement is growing as the designs are being translated into an actual building. Completion is still expected for the end of 2012.