



Voter-Approved Bond

## Move-In for Center for the Arts Slated for Fall 2013 Semester

With the Center for the Arts less than a year from completion, the building is coming into its full form. Typically, construction work always seems to be very slow at first, due to the tremendous amount of work that is required just to get a new building out of the ground.

After the demolition of the former K and T Buildings, which housed much of the Performing and Communications Arts Division, the underground utility work began. As always happens when working on a campus that has been in existence for 100 years, many unknown conditions existed beneath the surface. Many decades ago, a part of the site for the new building was a residential neighborhood, and any number of previous connections, including sewer manholes and lines, were uncovered. Many were out of the way, but significant others had to be relocated.

Once the new underground utilities were dealt with, foundations had to be constructed. In order to complete that task, the ground had to be compacted and prepared. Because the project began in December 2010, two rainy seasons caused the ground to be unworkable for weeks at a time, slowing the project to a crawl at times. But with better weather came better progress. During the summer and fall of 2011, most of the steel superstructure was erected and concrete floors were poured in the main part of the building.

As more space became available, more workers had places to complete tasks, so the pace of construction picked up. The first level, which is mostly below ground level, has most of its interior walls in place, and construction of walls on the other floors is underway.

Because of the very tight construction site, in the very center of the campus, many scheduling dilemmas had to be overcome. For example, soil had to be stored in massive quantities while the ground-floor walls were being built and waterproofed. Those piles of earth took away large sections of the site that could otherwise have been used for storage of building materials and for actual construction work.

Only in the past few months has the last part of the project been started. The Little Theater has only recently had its floor poured in order to allow the concrete block wall to be put in place. This final piece has allowed visitors to the site to get a sense of the magnitude of the building. With the Recital Hall on the very eastern part of the site, the Little Theater on the northeast corner, the Lecture Hall on the northwest and the main part of the building along the south side, the entire building can be seen.

While many hurdles remain to be overcome, some no doubt very challenging, the college is confident that the contractor will step up and make every effort to continue to complete the project in a high-quality and timely way. For those wanting to check progress for themselves, the best vantage point is the second floor of the V Building, where the exterior corridor allows views along the entire northern side of the site. Everyone is welcome to share in the excitement as the college begins to plan the actual move in prior to the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester.



*Members of the Measure P Citizens' Oversight Committee take a tour of the interior of the Center for the Arts, which is scheduled to be completed by Spring of 2012.*