

\$62M performing arts school OK'd

Called catalyst to revitalizing Over-the-Rhine

By Allen Howard
Enquirer staff writer

The nation's first public kindergarten-to-12th-grade arts school — which supporters say should provide a boost to Over-the-Rhine's revival — got the go-ahead Monday night from the Cincinnati school board.

The \$62 million School for the Creative and Performing Arts, which will replace the existing one at 1310 Sycamore Ave., is the first created by a private-public collaboration.

The new school will hold 1,350 students. It is scheduled to open in the 2009-2010 school year.

State-of-the-art spaces for teaching the arts and academics will be featured in three theaters — a 750-seat full production theater, a 300-

seat recital hall and a 120-seat studio theater, designed for student and community use.

The building also has been designed to fit into the neighborhood's architecture. It will be bordered by Central Parkway, Elm, Race and 12th streets near historic Music Hall.

"This building will serve as a catalyst for revitalization of Over-the-Rhine," said Tom Klinedinst, chairman of the Greater Cincinnati Arts and Education Center, a private group involved in raising half the money for the school.

Klinedinst said the building also will bring positive national attention to Cincinnati Public Schools and the city of Cincinnati.

Board members had no comments after the unanimous vote.

"This beautiful new school will



This artist's rendering shows the planned School for the Creative and Performing Arts. It's slated to open in the 2009-2010 school year.

enhance our ability to support students academically while developing their artistic talents, carrying on the proud legacies of our current schools that focus on the arts." Superintendent Rosa Blackwell said after the meeting.

Jeff Dodge, an architect with Cole & Russell downtown, said \$31 million will come from the private sector. So far, about \$24 million has been raised, he said.

Dodge said the campaign will be taken to a national level, reaching

alumni and celebrities. The Arts and Education Center has established a new Web site: www.thenewscpa.org, to support fundraising.

E-mail ahoward@enquirer.com