



NEWS RELEASE

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Greater Cincinnati Arts & Education Center. . . *Building the New K-12 SCPA*

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CPS APPROVES DESIGN FOR NEW K-12 ARTS SCHOOL

Cincinnati Public Schools' Board gave final approval Monday to the schematic design for the new School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) to be built in Over-the-Rhine as the nation's first K-12 public arts school and the first created by a private/public collaboration.

The approval is a milestone for the unique partnership between Cincinnati Public Schools and The Greater Cincinnati Arts and Education Center (GCAEC), the private group that has pledged to raise \$31 million for the new building — the first such private sector/public schools endeavor of this magnitude in the country. Total cost for the new SCPA is estimated at \$62 million.

Construction of this unique school, designed for educating 1,350 students in academics and the arts from kindergarten through graduation, is scheduled to begin in Spring 2007 and to open in the 2009-2010 school year. The new building will be located between Central Parkway and 12th Street, situated across 12th Street from Washington Park and close to historic Music Hall where it can serve as a catalyst for revitalization in one of Cincinnati's most historic neighborhoods.

"This groundbreaking project will bring positive national attention to Cincinnati Public Schools and to the city of Cincinnati," said Tom Klinedinst, GCAEC's chairman.

CPS' Superintendent Rosa Blackwell praised the new SCPA's design for its strong focus both on educating children and nurturing artistic talent.

"Students who attend this beautiful new school will be prepared to achieve with their minds as well as with their talents, carrying on the proud legacies of our current schools that focus on the arts," Mrs. Blackwell said.

Two Cincinnati Public Schools will be combined inside the new building to build on their successes: Schiel Primary School for Arts Enrichment (now kindergarten through third grade, located in Corryville) and SCPA (now 4th grade through 12th grade, located in Pendleton.)

The schematic design presented to CPS' Board Monday was created with input from the two schools' principals, teachers, parents and students, and others, including neighborhood groups, the Washington Park Planning Committee, the Historic Conservation Board, the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC), major donors, and many other organizations and supporters.

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Inside, the new building features state-of-the-art spaces for teaching the arts and academics. Included are 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. Fully handicapped accessible, the building will be a mix of spaces for arts training (12 practice rooms; studios for dance, drama and visual arts) and traditional classrooms, clustered around extended-learning areas used for tutoring and enrichment activities.

An Avenue of the Arts, which will display students' artwork, will highlight the building's main north-south corridor. Other features included additional art galleries, a gift shop and a state-of-the-art Media Center.

Outside, the building will feature an inviting blend of traditional and contemporary looks and materials. Metal reflective panels on the exterior walls form an "Urban Curve" wrapping the front of the building facing Central Parkway to Elm Street, while brick walls used in other parts link the building to the historic neighborhood surrounding it. Student sculptures lining the Central Parkway side of the school will lead to the front entrance and the community box office. Three architectural firms combined to create the new SCPA: Cole + Russell, a 22-year Cincinnati firm with a national practice; Fanning/Howey of Celina, Ohio, a nationally recognized school-design firm; and Moody-Nolan of Columbus, a nationally recognized design firm.

GCAEC also announced a new website to support fundraising for the new SCPA, www.thenewscpa.org. Donations and pledges can be made through the new site to support building this one-of-a-kind creative and performing arts school.

GCAEC was founded in 1996 led by Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conductor Erich Kunzel with the goal of creating a world-class arts school in the Washington Park/Music Hall neighborhood of Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine. The school, combining the School for Creative and Performing Arts and Schiel Primary School for Arts Enrichment, will be the first public kindergarten through grade twelve arts school in the United States. The project is made possible by a unique public/private partnership of GCAEC, Cincinnati Public Schools and the State of Ohio.

