

Center of Excellence

celebrates synergies,

FROM MUSIC, THEATRE AND FILM TO VISUAL ARTS, CREATIVE WRITING AND DANCE, BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY EMBRACES THE ARTS. Individually, these University programs are strong, having earned national and international recognition. Together, they exemplify an exciting synergy of the arts that benefits students, the University, the region and beyond.

Two recent BGSU Board of Trustees actions have focused the spotlight even more brightly on BGSU's arts collaborations. The arts have become the first of the University's "centers of excellence," approved by the board in response to Ohio's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education. In that plan, the state has asked public universities to identify by December 2009 their centers of excellence.

"Recognition of the arts as a center of excellence builds on decades of achievements in the arts and a tremendous spirit of collaboration at BGSU," says Dr. Katerina Rüedi Ray, director of the BGSU School of Art. "Today, we recognize that we are much stronger together than we are individually."

WOLFE CENTER NURTURES ARTS COMMUNITY AND ACCELERATES CREATIVE ECONOMY

In another action to further enhance the University's stature as a center of excellence in the arts, the trustees authorized construction to proceed on the Wolfe Center for the Arts.

The center will position BGSU not just as a leader in the arts and education, but also as a model for the new entrepreneurial, creative economy.

The facility, to be located on the site of the former Saddlemere Student Services Building, will visually bridge the College of Musical Arts and the Fine Arts Center and will be the new home of the Department of Theatre and Film. It will encompass performance, choral rehearsal, digital arts and design, and instructional spaces.

As more research emerges about the link between economic revitalization and a climate of creativity, it's clear that our communities need a creative and educated population that is technically savvy. With a well-designed physical space and latest technological advances, the Wolfe Center for the Arts will offer enormous potential for interdisciplinary art forms across many majors and departments, including the critical component of integrating art and new technologies.





scope and caliber of arts achievement

“Frederic (Fritz) and Mary Wolfe’s enthusiasm for this project mirrors our shared vision for the importance of the arts in the lives of all citizens in northwest Ohio,” says Dr. Ron Shields, chair of the BGSU Department of Theatre and Film. “The facility will support our ongoing efforts to provide a meaningful arts experience for all BGSU students and to enrich the cultural life of our community.”

BGSU students are beginning to experience the arts in a form that has not been the traditional model, explains Dr. Richard Kennell, dean of the College of Musical Arts. With the creation of the Wolfe Center for the Arts, “students will see these collaborative relationships as part of their career choices,” he explains.

A perfect example can be found in the work of graduate Brian N. Glaze, who

utilized these collaborative relationships for his master of fine arts thesis project. Titled “Ferreus Musike,” the project brought together students and faculty from fine art, music, dance and digital arts in a magnificent performance surrounding the giant musical sculptures he created.

“That spirit of cooperation is what we can grow on,” Kennell says. “That’s the potential of the Wolfe Center.”

Wolfe Center for the Arts Facts



The Wolfe Center for the Arts will include:

- > Approximately 93,000 square feet
- > A 400-seat main theater, 150-seat actors theater
- > Soaring “fly tower” to permit more elaborate productions
- > Choral rehearsal room
- > Teaching spaces, such as scene and costume shops, instructional classrooms
- > Academic offices for theatre and film faculty
- > Digital arts, design and post-production film labs, computer labs and student workstations
- > Glassed-in walkway to visually connect the Moore Musical Arts and Fine Arts centers

- > Design by Snøhetta, a Norwegian architecture firm, whose numerous international projects include the Oslo opera house and cultural center for the king of Saudi Arabia.
- > Wolfe Center for the Arts will be Snøhetta’s first American project to be completed
- > Snøhetta is also working on the memorial museum at Ground Zero of the World Trade Center
- > For additional information about Snøhetta, visit www.snoarc.no
- > Projected groundbreaking in April 2009
- > Projected completion in January 2011
- > Estimated cost of the facility is \$38.5 million
- > Private leadership gift by Frederic and Mary Wolfe, Perrysburg
- > State capital appropriations will also fund part of the project
- > Private funds are still sought to complete project
- > The Collaborative, Toledo, is the local architectural partner on the project
- > Ryan Miller, of BGSU’s design and construction office, is the project manager