



THE WICHITA
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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**Wichita Center for the Arts Announces Plans to
Relocate and Build New Facility**

**\$10.5 Million Land and Lead Gifts from Koch Foundations
Jump Start Capital Campaign**

(Wichita, KS) -- The board of directors of Wichita Center for the Arts has unanimously approved plans to relocate and build a new educational arts center in Wichita. The proposed new Center would be built on 17 acres of undeveloped land at the southwest corner of Rock Road and 13th Street. The Fred and Mary Koch Foundation has pledged a \$2 million lead gift and will provide an additional \$4 million challenge grant toward the project. The land, valued at approximately \$4.5 million, would be donated by the Charles Koch Foundation.

According to Wichita Center for the Arts Executive Director Katy Dorrah, the cost of the project, excluding the land value, would total about \$14 million. "This is an incredible opportunity to take Wichita Center for the Arts to the next level," said Dorrah. "Our board is excited to move forward with a community-wide capital campaign to raise \$8 million. We are optimistic we can achieve that goal and turn our vision for a new Center into reality."

Proposed plans for the new 38,000-square-foot Center were presented to the organization's board of directors in June by Liz Koch and representatives of the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation. Since that time, Dorrah and the Center's board have considered options for the new building and discussed the feasibility of raising the required capital. "We hope to begin raising funds immediately and break ground in the Fall of 2016," said Dorrah.

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According to Liz Koch, "Wichita is our home. Beginning with my mother-in-law, Mary Koch, our family has a 75-year history with the Center. Arts are important to the community and through these gifts from our foundations, we hope to expand offerings and make the arts even more accessible."

A portion of the funds Koch has pledged will be used to create a scholarship fund for deserving students who need financial assistance to pursue their study of art. "The scholarships are an important part of this gift," said Koch. "They provide the opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds, regardless of their resources, to pursue their passion for art and art education."

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About the Wichita Center for the Arts

Originally founded as the Wichita Art Association in 1920, Wichita Center for the Arts is the area's oldest and most comprehensive visual and performing arts organization. For 95 years Wichita Center for the Arts has made art and art education available to the citizens of Wichita and the surrounding communities as a privately funded organization. For more information about Wichita Center for the Arts, visit www.wcfta.com or call 316.364.2787. The gallery at Wichita Center for the Arts is open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

About the Charles Koch Foundation

For more than fifty years, Charles G. Koch has supported research and educational programs focused on improving human well-being, especially for the least fortunate. Founded in 1980, the Charles Koch Foundation's giving supports universities and other non-profit organizations to explore the institutions that foster societal well-being. More information is available at www.charleskochfoundation.org.

About the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation

Established in 1953, the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation focuses on non-profit organizations that enhance the quality of life in Kansas. The Foundation directs its support toward organizations involved with the arts and art education, environmental stewardship, human services, and enabling at-risk youth. Fred and Mary Koch, the donors for whom the foundation is named, shared a passion for education and a love of the outdoors. Mary Koch (1907-1990), a 1929 graduate of Wellesley College, was widely recognized and known for her contributions to the arts. Fred Koch (1900-1967), graduated from MIT in 1922 and co-founded what is now Koch Industries, Inc. in 1940. More information is available at www.fmkfoundation.org.

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