



**Taylor Museum
Bemis School of Art
Performing Arts**
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Fine Arts Center Topping Out

Colorado Springs, CO (January 2, 2007)... This Friday, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center celebrates an important milestone in its \$28.4 million expansion and renovation project – the completion of the steel structure for the new museum addition. Referred to as “topping out,” the placement of the last major steel beam for the building will mark the culmination of the building’s internal construction. To commemorate this historic moment, a topping out ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, January 5 for invited guests and media. Construction workers, FAC Staff and Board, and invited guests will have the opportunity to participate by signing the final beam before it is hoisted into place on the new building.

Topping out a completed project is an honored custom with a long history in the construction industry. The Fine Arts Center will continue the traditional practice of raising an American flag to “top out” the building with the final beam. In recognition of the passing of our 38th President, Gerald R. Ford, the flag will be flown at half mast.

“The topping out of our new museum is an exciting moment for everyone at the Fine Arts Center and marks the beginning of a whole new phase in our construction,” says FAC President and CEO Michael De Marsche. “Once the structure of the building addition is complete, we’ll really start to see the new museum taking shape.”

The entire renovated and expanded Fine Arts Center opens to the public on August 4, 2007 with a grand reopening celebration featuring special guests and events. The new facility

will offer spaces for world-class traveling exhibitions and galleries dedicated to the Fine Arts Center's permanent collections, as well as events spaces, an expanded museum shop, stunning courtyard, and unique tactile gallery. The newly renovated and expanded West Wing of the Fine Arts Center opened in December, featuring the El Pomar Corridor event space, Deco Lounge, the Theatre Lounge Restaurant, Box Office, new restrooms, spacious new Bemis School of Art studios, the extraordinary SaGāJi Theatre and theatre rehearsal space.

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Construction Facts

How Many Steel Beams? 545 +/-

Tons of steel: 325.7 tons

Cubic Yards Concrete: 8,965 cubic yards

Average Number of Workers on the Job each Week: 75

Total Square Feet addition: 43,898 square feet

FAC building will expand from 88,388 to **132,286 gross square feet.**

This expansion will allow us to expand our programming dramatically and provides additional public venues for community events. The magnificent spaces are capable of housing the very best in museum exhibitions traveling in the world today. In addition, there will be large expanses of gallery space reserved exclusively for our superb collections of American, Southwestern, and Native American art.
