

## Virginia Tech breaks ground on the \$89 million Center for the Arts

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BLACKSBURG, VA., June 18, 2010 --  
On Monday, June 21, at 1 p.m., on  
Shultz Lawn, Virginia Tech will break  
ground on the \$89 million Center for the  
Arts at Virginia Tech, the cornerstone  
project of the university's Arts Initiative.

The groundbreaking ceremony will  
include comments by Ruth Waalkes,  
Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech  
executive director; Aurora Martin of  
Arlington, Va., a Virginia Tech  
sophomore double majoring in music in  
the College of Liberal Arts and Human  
Sciences and chemistry in the College  
of Science; Ron Rordam, Blacksburg mayor; Charles W. Steger, Virginia Tech president; and Rick  
Boucher, U.S. Congressman.



*Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech*

Renderings and a model of the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech will be on display at the  
groundbreaking ceremony. Celebrants breaking the ground will include the speakers, as well as Minnis  
Ridenour, Virginia Tech senior fellow for resource development; Mark McNamee, senior vice president  
and provost; Betsy Flanagan, vice president for development and university relations; Jack Davis,  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies dean; and Sue Ott Rowlands, dean of the [College of Liberal  
Arts and Human Sciences](#).

Attendees will be invited to enjoy a self-guided tour of art galleries and other arts venues around  
campus and throughout downtown Blacksburg after the groundbreaking ceremony, and then  
reconvene for the first Viva Virginia event, a masterclass with three-time Grammy winning baritone  
Sherrill Milnes. Milnes will discuss moving on stage, connecting with the audience, and auditioning.

Tickets for the masterclass are \$5 for adults and \$3 for Virginia Tech students and children under 18  
at the door. The masterclass begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Salon of Squires Student Center.

A door prize of two [Viva Virginia](#) tickets to either The Magical Journey of Mozart on Saturday, July 3,  
at 8 p.m., or Opera, Italian Style on Saturday, June 26, at 8 p.m., will be awarded at the  
groundbreaking ceremony.

Scheduled to open in 2013 at the corner of Main Street and Alumni Boulevard in Blacksburg, the  
Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech will house

- A 1,260-seat, state-of-the-art performance hall for music, theatre, and dance performances;
- Visual arts galleries for traditional, digital, and new media exhibitions; and
- Creative technology laboratory spaces for the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts,  
which will provide an applied research environment for faculty, artists, and educators and will  
serve pre-kindergarten through 12th grade (PK-12) education by engaging teachers and other  
school personnel in the development of models and programs through the integration of the arts  
and technology to enhance the development of critical thinking skills and the teaching of math,  
science, social studies, and language arts in PK-12.

The Arts Initiative instigated the Center for the Arts to fulfill the university's commitment to enhance the presences and practice of the arts on the Virginia Tech campus and in the communities the university serves. The Center for the Arts will provide a place where people can come from down the street or across the commonwealth to enjoy traditional and innovative visual art exhibitions, performances in an acoustically superior venue, and opportunities to engage the arts and technology in our children's classrooms.

An Arts Policy Board, an outgrowth of the Arts Initiative, is overseeing the university's strategic plan for the arts. Chaired by Senior Vice President and Provost Mark McNamee, the board provides recommendations and collaborative guidance for policy-level decisions regarding the Center for the Arts, the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts, and the master plan for the arts programs and facilities on campus. The board members are:

- **Truman Capone**, director, School of Visual Arts;
- **Jack Davis**, dean, College of Architecture and Urban Studies;
- **Susan G. Magliaro**, director, School of Education;
- **Mark McNamee**, senior vice president and provost;
- **Patricia Raun**, director, School of Performing Arts and Cinema;
- **Minnis E. Ridenour**, senior fellow for resource development;
- **Sue Ott Rowlands**, dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences;
- **M. Dwight Shelton Jr.**, vice president for finance and chief financial officer;
- **Edward F. D. Spencer**, vice president for student affairs;
- **Julie Walters Steele**, director of University Unions; and
- **Ruth Waalkes** (ex officio), executive director, Center for the Arts.

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- [Virginia Tech News story: "Center for the Arts architects receive Europe's most prestigious architecture award"](#)
- [Virginia Tech News story: "Design plans for university's Center for the Arts set; construction to begin later this year"](#)
- ["Designs featuring Virginia Tech's Center for the Arts"](#)
- [Spotlight on Innovation: "Creative technologies in the arts"](#)

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