



Expansion Update

Welcome

In an era when both information and disinformation travel in “the blink of an E-mail,” communication is more critical than ever. This newsletter is devoted to keeping you informed about what’s happening with The Mint Museums’ expansion plans.

Over the past few months, members, donors, community leaders and Museum staff members have told us they need timely updates about key expansion developments. The Mint Museums’ expansion planning process is dynamic, with many different stakeholders involved. I’m eager to make sure you know what we know, as soon as we know it.

You can expect to receive your issue of “Expansion Update” regularly when there’s news to share. As always, thank you for your support of and interest in The Mint Museums. An exciting future lies at our doorstep, and with your help, we can make the most of it!

Executive Director,
The Mint Museums

Mint Museum of Art
2730 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

Mint Museum of Craft + Design
220 N. Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

General Museum Information
704/337-2000

Museum Contact
Phil Kline
Executive Director
704/337-2027

Board Contact
Patricia Rodgers
Board Chair
704/537-6044

A Dynamic Process in a Changing City

The Mint Museums have a long history of making the most of opportunities. The Mint Museum of Art opened to the public in 1936 as North Carolina’s first art museum in a former branch of the U.S. Mint saved from demolition. The Mint Museum of Craft + Design is currently housed in a building that reinvented itself from livery stable to department store before becoming a wonderful place for celebrating America’s rich craft traditions. The Trustees of The Mint Museums have evaluated various expansion plans for over 10 years and are excited at the opportunities now being developed to address the Museums’ needs.

- Our current plans for expansion are designed to celebrate our past and embrace the future. The Mint Museum of Art on Randolph Road will remain at the current location and continue to present rich artistic traditions in one of Charlotte’s most beautiful neighborhoods.
- The Mint Museum of Craft + Design is planning to move to a new facility on South Tryon Street. This venture will serve to showcase craft’s unique offerings by exposing the collection to more viewers than currently see it today. Bank of America has demonstrated their support for the Mint’s expansion by agreeing to buy the existing Craft + Design building to create capital funding for the new facility.
- The approximately +/- 145,000 square foot new facility for The Mint Museums will be a vibrant part of a Wachovia-sponsored development that will include a 1,200-seat theater, the Bechtler Art Museum, the Afro-American Cultural Center, Wake Forest Graduate School, an office tower and retail/residential components.
- Being on the same campus will allow the Museums to maintain their own unique identities while enjoying operating efficiencies, enhanced visitor experiences, extra amenities such as a sculpture garden and café, and collaboration opportunities with the adjacent cultural arts community.
- What will the Mint’s new South Tryon facility look like? We recently moved closer to knowing as we secured presence on South Tryon for a grand entrance and finalized the Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for architectural design services. Our goal is to select a local architectural firm to work with a national-level design firm on The Mint Museums’ portion of the cultural arts development. This design team will be charged to give Craft + Design a distinctive presence in terms of an entrance, signage, gallery, storage and exhibition space.
- As you can see from the accompanying Timeline of Developments, a center city cultural arts project of this magnitude has many moving parts and constituencies including government bodies, corporate entities and Arts & Science Council organizations. Coordinating the dynamics of a changing situation and creating workable solutions takes time, patience and a great deal of energy. But, as history as shown, the best outcomes can be achieved when people collaborate for the benefit of all.

Stay tuned...

Timeline of Developments

NOVEMBER 2003—Cultural Facilities Plan for center city is announced by the Arts & Science Council (ASC).

JUNE 2004—Mayor’s Task Force on Cultural Facilities is formed to evaluate public support requested by cultural organizations.

JANUARY 2005—Mayor’s Task Force presents its findings and recommendations.

JULY 25, 2005—City Council passes 11-step strategy for the Plan. City agrees to seek approval of a county-wide rental car tax increase from the N.C. Legislature to finance up to \$80.7M in capital needs for the Cultural Facilities Plan. Other funding sources are identified, including pursuing state funding with the Arts & Science Council. Wachovia discusses details of its project plan. Mayor vetoes strategy.

AUGUST 22, 2005—City Council overrides Mayor’s veto. City Manager Pam Syfert and Economic Development Committee led by John Lassiter begin working with the county, towns, hospitality industry, Wachovia, the private sector and ASC and its affiliates to further refine the proposal for the involved organizations: Afro-American Cultural Center; Discovery Place; Bechtler Art Museum; 1,200-seat theater; and The Mint Museums.

OCTOBER 11, 2005—RFQs for design services for the Mint portion of the development go out to national architects and local firms.

OCTOBER 18, 2005—The Arts & Science Council and its Cultural Facilities Plan partners announce a major increase in financial support from Bank of America, Duke Energy and Wachovia towards the proposed private sector fundraising campaign to generate earnings to cover costs of facility operations.

OCTOBER 19, 2005—The Mint Museums present plans to the Economic Development Committee of the City Council.

OCTOBER 31, 2005—Twelve responses to the RFQ are received from national/local design teams.

NOVEMBER 7, 2005—Five design firms are selected as finalists to be interviewed by The Mint Museums.

NOVEMBER 11, 2005—Meeting held in conjunction with project partners Wachovia/Childress Klein/TVS Architects and the five finalist design teams to provide background on the overall Wachovia project.

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2005 – Interviews held with five design teams.

NOVEMBER 21, 2005 – Two design teams selected as finalists.

NOVEMBER 28, 2005 – City Council approves three motions:

- Approved Conceptual Affiliate Building Programs & Operating Pro Forma Financials
- Adopted Cultural Facilities Plan financial framework
- Authorized development of Memorandum of Understanding with Wachovia and County

DECEMBER 6, 2005 – Site visits made to projects completed by two design team finalists.

What Happens Next?

- Selection of design team
- Continued work with project partners on design and programing
- The Mint Museums host town hall meetings for community input
- City Council approval of memorandums of understanding for cultural projects