



Press Release

April 8, 2003 ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Media contact: Susan Bandes, Kresge Art Museum, (517) 353-9836
Julie Thomson, Kresge Art Museum, (517) 353-9834
Kristan Tetens, University Relations, (517) 355-5633

KRESGE ART MUSEUM UNVEILS EXPANSION PLANS TO COMMUNITY

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Kresge Art Museum would gain 32,000 square feet of new space—including more room for exhibitions, educational programming and visitor amenities—under an expansion plan unveiled today by museum officials.

Architectural renderings of the expansion were shared with the mid-Michigan community late this afternoon at a reception at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center.

“Although the museum’s permanent collection, traveling exhibitions, exhibition-related programming and educational programming have grown immensely in the last three decades, the museum has not increased in size since the 1967 addition of the North Gallery,” says Susan Bandes, the museum’s director.

“We are currently unable to display more than 10 percent of our collection at any given time, and we lack the space necessary to adequately accommodate our growing number of visitors and programs for university and K-12 students.”

The expansion concepts were prepared by Hammel, Green & Abrahamson of Minneapolis, Minn., and Duce Simmons Associates of Troy, Mich.

The expansion, which will be funded entirely by private donors and foundations, will increase the size of the museum from 10,000 square feet to 42,000 square feet.

The north wing and entrance to the museum on Auditorium Road will feature a glass-walled lobby. The first floor will also include a gallery of works from the permanent collection, a Works on Paper gallery, the discovery gallery, the museum store, an education room, collection storage, an outdoor terrace and visitor amenities. An interior ramp will extend from near the entrance along the north side of the museum to the second floor galleries.

The south wing will include a lobby with a view of the river, additional permanent collection galleries, a special exhibition gallery, two terraces and a roof sculpture garden.

The expansion will be undertaken in two stages, and it is anticipated that construction will be completed by 2009, the museum's 50th anniversary.

The total cost of the project, which will be funded entirely by private gifts and grants, is currently estimated at \$11-12 million.

Bandes and museum staff members are working with the museum's Friends organization to raise money for the expansion.

In 1999, the Friends of Kresge Art Museum formed the Better Art Museum, Because Art Matters (BAM) Committee with the goal of ensuring that the vision of an expanded art museum becomes a reality.

"As members of the community we felt we could share our knowledge and understanding of the collection and museum with the community and actively help the museum try to raise money to expand," says David Greenbaum, BAM chairperson.

To learn more about the museum's expansion project and how to contribute, visit www.BAMatMSU.org or call Susan Bandes at (517) 353-9836

Kresge Art Museum provides education and aesthetic enjoyment for diverse audiences. Through collections and exhibitions of art, it offers opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural interpretations of current and historical thought. By researching, presenting and preserving art from various times and cultures, the museum serves the Michigan State University community, the general public of mid-Michigan, and beyond.

For additional information about Kresge Art Museum, please visit www.msu.edu/unit/kamuseum or call (517) 355-7631.

#

NOTE TO MEDIA: Images of the expansion concepts for publication purposes will be available at the unveiling event or by e-mail after April 8. For more information, contact Julie Thomson, Kresge Art Museum, at (517) 353-9834.