

Big dreams, small steps: A facility 17 years in the making.

1990-1992

- Arts Council of Spartanburg forms a Blue Ribbon Task Force and hires the Wolfe Organization of Cambridge, MA to do a “cultural inventory” of Spartanburg County. Among its tasks is to discern the need and feasibility of new cultural facilities.

1993

- The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg is founded. Everett Powers hired as President and COO, W. Marshall Chapman serves as first Chairman. Arts Partnership begins by identifying 25 initiatives, one of which is the need to develop new facilities to house local organizations.

1998

- Long range strategic plans and space feasibility studies by national design and museum management firms recommend new and expanded facilities to house Spartanburg Art Museum, the Regional History Museum, the Spartanburg Little Theatre and Ballet Spartanburg.

1999

- McMillan Smith and Partners Architects commissioned to create conceptual design of a renovation and expansion of current Art Center facility on South Spring Street

2000

- **February:** A fundraising feasibility study completed by an Atlanta-based consulting group indicates \$18 million is the maximum amount that could be raised for such a project in Spartanburg.

- **May:** A group of Spartanburg families, community benefactors and TAP representatives meet to discuss possible leaders for a capital campaign.

- **September 28:** Four Spartanburg families propose “The Challenge” to The Arts Partnership. The four families will donate \$16.5 million if TAP can design and build a world-class cultural facility that represents a visionary statement for Spartanburg; complete a thorough site selection with strong consideration of placing the facility in the center of the city; and select an architect with proven ability to deliver a plan for a world-class facility. The Challenge also established that \$6 million of the Challenge gift would be set aside at the Spartanburg County Foundation for an endowment.

- **November:** TAP’s Board of Trustees accepts the challenge and appoints Jennifer Evins chair of the organization’s Planning Committee charged with meeting “The Challenge,” building a world-class facility and establishing an operating plan for the new cultural facilities.

- Sheridan Group, Alexandria, VA is contracted to organize fundraising efforts for Capital Campaign to meet “The Challenge.”

2001

- Architectural Selection Committee appointed, charged with selecting an architect. The architect selected from a nationwide search was Graham Gund Architects, Cambridge, MA. Graham Gund Architects was commissioned to assist in site selection along with program development and the creation of a conceptual design to be used in fundraising efforts.

- Jennifer Evins agrees to chair the capital campaign, along with her husband Alex and co-chairs Kurt and Nelly Zimmerli and Tom and Tracy Hannah.

1. The capital campaign begins at a time when major capital campaigns by three downtown churches and Converse College, with a cumulative goal of \$152 million, are also underway.

2. The silent phase of the fundraising effort begins with informational meetings held with small groups of potential donors. At the same time, all board members of TAP and all its partner organizations are asked to give to the capital campaign for 100% participation.

- Strategies for Public Funding were established to work with Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation to secure state funding.

- **April:** Then-City Manager Roy Lane leads effort to select a site for the facility. Numerous sites, including the current Art Center site on South Spring Street, were evaluated, with strong consideration for a site in the center of the city.

- ConsultEcon Inc. of Cambridge, MA, contracted to develop Market and Economic Impact Study and Operating Plan for new facilities

2002

- **January:** Conceptual plan is unveiled to the public showing a 112,000-square-foot facility designed by Graham Gund Architects and located behind Barnet Park on 3.5-acre parcel of the Renaissance Project. Project estimated to cost \$36 million.

- The public fundraising campaign “IMAGINE” kicks into high gear.

- “Imagination Factor” school campaign garners support of more than 17,000 school children giving loose change to the Capital Campaign.

- **December 27:** With about \$12.5 million pledged and just four days before the challenge campaign deadline, the fundraising effort receives a \$2 million pledge from Roger Milliken and Gerrish Milliken.

- **December 31:** Jimmy Gibbs pledges to make up any shortfall on the last day of the campaign. That amount comes to \$800,000, and the challenge campaign succeeds.

2003

- Capital Campaign audit is finalized by Ernst and Young LLP meeting CASE Management Reporting Standards and approved by the four families. Tom Hannah is appointed Finance Chairman.

- **January:** Though the challenge deadline has passed and the goal has been reached, fundraising continues. BMW Manufacturing Corp. pledges \$1 million, and the City of Spartanburg contributes \$2 million, bringing the total to \$18.5 million. Added to the challenge gift from the four families, the total comes to \$35 million.

- Spartanburg businessman George Dean Johnson Jr. agrees to chair the cultural center’s Building Committee. Houston, Texas-based Linbeck Construction is chosen as project manager and David M. Schwarz of Washington, D.C., is chosen as architect.

- Operations Planning Committee appointed with Rob Chapman as chairman charged with developing a business plan with operating policies and procedures for the new facility.

2004

- **December:** In a deal brokered by the City of Spartanburg, the site is moved to a 5-acre parcel on the corner of Saint John and Converse streets. City donates site to The Arts Partnership.

2005

- **January-October:** Design phase

- **October 18:** The David Schwarz design of the Chapman Cultural Center is unveiled to the public. Evins announces \$6.5 million needed in additional funding to complete project.

- **October 19:** Ground is broken and facility is named “Chapman Cultural Center.”

- **October 21:** Creating Common Ground ceremony – citizens invited to bring soil from their homes and businesses to help fill the site of the new Chapman Cultural Center.

- Foster Chapman appointed by TAP Board of Trustee as Owners Representative for The Arts Partnership during construction

2006

- **June:** Everett Powers retires as President and COO of The Arts Partnership

- **August:** Joe Lesesne hired as interim President. National search for new President and COO begins.

- **July:** \$1 million secured from State budget and education lottery income

- \$3 million secured in additional private pledges

- Donors pledge additional \$750,000 to add colonnades and upgrade plaza design

2007

- City agrees to invest \$500,000 in streetscape surrounding the Chapman Cultural Center

- **June:** Perry Mixer hired as new President and COO of The Arts Partnership

- **July:** \$3 million secured in State funding from budget

- \$1 million secured in additional private pledges

- **October 3:** Grand Opening of the Chapman Cultural Center