

Grant puts finishing touches on foyer of Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre

For immediate release: April 24, 2009 – An \$85,000 grant from the Community & Facility Enhancement Program will complete the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre's foyer.

The grant was presented today to Community Learning Campus officials by Richard Marz, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. It will be directed towards elements of the foyer that had been deferred due to budget constraints.

"I am very pleased this funding was available for this project," said Marz. "This is yet another way that lottery programs are able to help out with different projects and facilities that are meaningful and useful to Albertans in their communities."

The grant supports a major architectural feature in the foyer – the staircase which opens increased access to the upper levels of the TransCanada Theatre. The staircase was included in the original facility designs, but was eliminated because of budget considerations.

"We built the landing on the upper level in the hope that we would be able to complete the staircase one day and it looks like that day has arrived," said Tom Christensen, Principal of Olds High School.

"An important part of the staircase design is the transfer of a beautiful stained glass window from the current Olds High School into the Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre. That window has lit the main stairwell of the high school since it was created by the class of 1967. It was designed and paid for by the students to commemorate Canada's Centennial. It depicts 100 years of progress in our community, and I can't think of a better symbol of progress than these CLC facilities."

The Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre opens opportunities for Olds High School students, Olds College students and the strong arts community of Olds and area. The facility, which opened in late February, includes a 390 seat theatre, band room, cosmetology classroom, art room and stained glass design room. The foyer can function as a reception area and a visual art gallery.

"The Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre brings to Olds College a true theatre facility and opportunities we never had before," said Dr. Terry Males, Chair, School of Business at Olds College.

"We have plans in place to bring in speakers and lecturers from diverse backgrounds that will enrich the educational experiences of our students and the whole community of learners associated with the Community Learning Campus. Cultural events, such as musical and theatre groups, now have a wonderful venue. This spring our Fashion Apparel students held their annual fashion show in the theatre to much acclaim. The new facility is a great resource for us and I suspect we are just beginning to discover the many opportunities it holds."

Olds College will offer its Costume Cutting and Construction program in the fall, and Chinook's Edge will launch a Stage Make-Up course. Having access to a performance hall is an important part of that performing arts education.

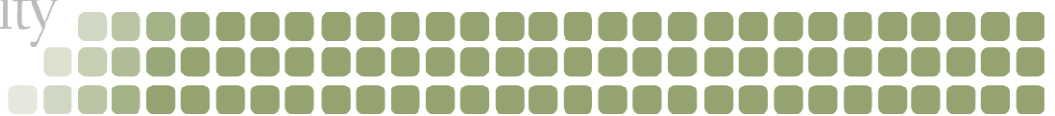
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