



FOCUS

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\$3.5 million granted for arts center at BSU

Construction of a long-awaited performing arts center in Boise took a giant step closer to reality this summer after the Harry W. Morrison Family Foundation committed \$3.5 million to help build the center on the Boise State campus.

The large auditorium, which will seat approximately 2,000 people, will be built in conjunction with an Arts and Humanities Building that BSU officials have had on the drawing board for over a year.

The combined facility will be named the Harry W. Morrison Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, in commemoration of the world famous Boise builder and arts patron.

It will be built on the site of the present music auditorium.

"I admire the courage and determination of Mrs. Velma Morrison, who has worked so long and diligently in the face of numerous disappointments to establish an appropriate memorial for her late husband," BSU President John Keiser said.

"I know the citizens of Boise will be grateful that she kept her gift in the city, and that it will help make the university the strong cultural and intellectual arm of the community that it should be."

The Morrison Center will be built with a combination of private and public funds. The Foundation donation, another \$326,000 from Fundsy, Inc., and an additional \$1.5 million to be raised later will pay for the auditorium.

The Arts and Humanities Building, however, will be an academic structure financed from about \$5 million in state funds. It will house the departments of music, theatre arts, and communication.

That portion of the Center must pass several important tests, including a high ranking from the Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council, favorable ranking in the Governor's budget, passage in the legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, passage by the whole legislature, and approval by the Governor.

The total of funds available for all state building projects next year is about \$5.8 million. Rather than ask for almost all of that at once, Keiser said BSU will request \$2.5 million in each of the next

two sessions.

There are two good signs that the money could be approved.

First, the project is at the top of the

State Board of Education's list for new buildings. Second, even before the auditorium gift entered the picture the legislature appropriated \$250,000 so

BSU could begin planning the Arts and Humanities Building.

Keiser said there will be some savings possible because the two buildings are being built together, but there is no intent to substitute private funding for state monies, and vice versa.

Keiser added that ground won't be broken until both sections are funded.

The \$250,000 appropriation made last year will be used to hire an architectural firm. Letters requesting bids on the project were mailed in mid-September. The firm is expected to be chosen and at work by December, with preliminary drawings available next spring.

Once built, the combined classroom-auditorium building will end the long drive for a performing arts center in Boise. Two previous efforts to build the Center with Morrison Foundation money and bond revenues were defeated in 1975 and 1976.

"The gift will meet the original intention of the Foundation and create a vibrant and living memorial to Harry Morrison," Foundation representative Ralph Comstock said at announcement ceremonies in June.



THE STUDENTS are coming . . . the students are coming. Classroom changes bring busy sidewalk scenes like this one as enrollment at BSU looks up this fall.

Association boosts arts

An organization to promote cultural programs at Boise State and in the surrounding community has been established this fall.

Modeled after the Bronco Athletic Association, the aim of the new University Community Arts Association is to "promote excellence in the arts," said BSU President John Keiser.

The association has 39 charter members.

UCAA president Ralph Comstock, a Boise bank executive, said the Association's first major project will be the "development of the necessary details to bring about the construction of the Morrison Center for the Fine and Performing Arts at Boise State."

But the Morrison Center isn't the only project the group will undertake. In the future, it will organize scholarship drives, ticket promotions, internships, and fund-raising. The Association will also advise on events scheduling and help coordinate joint university-city programs in the arts.

"The purpose and scope of this Association will be developed and broadened to bring about all sorts of good things in the way of entertainment and education into this area," Comstock said at an Aug. 30 news conference.

"This will integrate the university and community in a joint effort . . . the first time it's been done for the performing arts."

Other officers in the Association are Katie Stein, vice-president, and Carolyn Johnson, secretary-treasurer.

Five chairmen have agreed to lead the key UCAA committees that will work on the Morrison Center project. They include Paul Corddry, concept and design of the Center; Katie Stein, pro-

Fall headcount might top 1978 figures

Exact numbers won't be released until later, but an unofficial survey of Boise State administrators indicates that enrollment this fall should be slightly higher than last year.

If final figures from Registrar Susanna Yunker confirm what most deans suspect, Boise State should top the 10,389 total headcount from last fall's academic and vo-tech programs.

Comments by Arts and Sciences dean William Keppler, who oversees BSU's largest school, are typical.

"In the three falls I've been here, our enrollment this year looks better than before," he said.

Keppler added that communication, biology, history and chemistry are four departments that "look real good" in his initial enrollment studies.

In early card counts, the School of Business registered a 4.5 percent in-

crease from last year, reported associate dean Jim Doss.

That figure could vary, he said, as late registration and other class changes are counted.

All departments in the school are up, with business education eight percent higher and economics six percent higher than last year.

Dean Victor Duke, School of Health Sciences, said there is "more excitement and interest about health careers than I've ever seen."

Most programs in that school are limited in enrollment, which means they are full every year. The pre-professional program, taken by students who want to enroll in medical, dental or other professional schools, shows an increase.

Duke added that environmental health is "up significantly" this fall.

Education dean Richard Hart has

much the same story. Teacher education enrollment is "holding its own," while slight increases are expected in psychology and physical education.

The Vocational-Technical School, which also has limited enrollment in most programs, areas, reported most programs as full.

But director Don Miller said the school has had the most "no-shows" since he has been here. Those are students who earlier paid a \$75 deposit for a spot in the school, but didn't enroll this fall.

In phone calls to those students, Miller said the biggest problems seems to be that students didn't earn enough money this summer to attend school in the fall.

But Miller said most vo-tech programs were filled from alternate lists.

Early counts also indicate that BSU's young graduate school is continuing to

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