

Countdown to The Leonardo !

- Art, Culture, Science Center Unveils Project Timeline, Building Renovation Plan
- Project Secures New Funding from County, City; Updated Website, E-Newsletter Also Launched

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 15, 2006—The Leonardo presented a project timeline and renovation plan for the old main library building last night at a meeting of the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency (RDA). The plan already has the support of the administration and other stakeholders in the project, including the Library Board and the historic preservation community. In the meeting, the RDA committed \$750,000 as the last money in to begin construction in fall 2007. The Leonardo also announced a \$400,000 donation by Salt Lake County, which was approved on December 5 as part of the county's 2007 budget.

Timeline

The Timeline details milestones leading up to The Leonardo's opening in 2009 (see attached). The project's first major milestone happened in November 2003, when Salt Lake City voters approved a \$10 million bond to renovate the old main library for use as The Leonardo. Since that time, The Leonardo has raised the \$10 million match required to release the bond, begun architectural and exhibit planning, started audience research, opened administrative offices on Library Square, and launched a new brand. Early next year, The Leonardo will present details and drawings of its exhibits and programs.

Building

The building renovation plan illustrates how The Leonardo will transform the old main library building into an exciting new destination, while at the same time, completing renovations—including seismic upgrades—and honoring the significant architectural features of this beloved community gathering place. This new proposal comes with significant benefits: it reduces the total building budget from the original estimate of \$18 million to just \$13 million; achieves Silver LEED certification, and; meets Historic Registry guidelines, leaving open the possibility of significant tax credits. The distinctive concrete panels will be preserved and utilized as “canvasses,” where banners, projections and other visualization techniques will be used to enliven the building and give passer-bys a preview of what is happening inside (image attached).

“We are excited to begin into this new, public phase of The Leonardo's development,” said Executive Director Mary Tull. “In the coming months, we will present drawings and plans for exhibits, and begin pilot testing of some of our programs. We will also continue to solidify partnerships with individuals, foundations, businesses and government organizations that understand and support the vision of The Leonardo. We look forward to beginning the physical work of building a world-class facility to which the young people and adults of Utah can come to learn, be inspired and explore their own creative and intellectual potential.”

The Leonardo also launched an updated website and e-newsletter today. In September, The Leonardo introduced a new brand, including a new logo and color palette. The updated website and e-newsletter reflect the new look-and-feel, and are designed to keep the public updated as the project's progress.

About The Leonardo

Inspired by Leonardo da Vinci—one of history's most versatile and creative geniuses—The Leonardo will be a one-of-a-kind art, culture and science center with a multidisciplinary approach. Located in the heart of Utah's capital city, The Leonardo will be part of Library Square, a developing civic and education center anchored by a magnificent new City Library, which is the state's second most-visited tourist destination. The mission of The Leonardo is to create opportunities for visitors to become participants by exploring “new ways of seeing” their world, themselves and each other. Three founding partners have come together to develop The Leonardo: YouthCity Artways (www.youthcityartways.org)—formerly Global Artways; the Center for Documentary Arts (www.cdautah.org), and; the Utah Science Center (www.utahsciencecenter.org).

The Leonardo: Project Timeline

February 2006	Salt Lake City confirms The Leonardo has raised \$10 million to match the \$10 million voter-approved bond. Release of bond funds begins.
June 2006	The Leonardo's conceptual framework for exhibits and programs complete.
September 2006	Phase I market/audience research begins New branding launched New administrative offices open
December 2006	Exterior building and seismic solution announced. New website launched.
January 2007	Phase I market/audience research complete
February 2007	Begin exhibit final design period Architectural schematics begin
April 2007	Construction documents begin.
July 2007	Construction bidding process begins
October 2007	Exhibit final design period complete Building construction starts
October - November 2007	Bidding for fabrication of exhibits
December 2007	Begin exhibit fabrication
September 2008	Exhibit fabrication complete.
October 2008	Building construction complete.
December 2008	Exhibit installation complete.
February 2009	Final exhibit testing complete.
Early-Mid 2009	The Leonardo opens.