

**wexner center  
for the arts**

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**WEXNER CENTER ANNOUNCES RENOVATION SCHEDULE**

***EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE BELMONT BUILDING;  
OTHER PROGRAMS CONTINUE AT WEXNER CENTER***

The gallery spaces at the Wexner Center are currently closed as preparations for renovation continue, with construction due to begin in the late summer or fall of 2004 and the galleries due to reopen in the fall of 2005. The project entails significant infrastructural changes, including replacement of the skylight and glass wall that run the length of the galleries, improved environmental and climate control, and roof repair. The project is currently in the final design phase.

“These renovations will greatly enhance the function and flexibility of the galleries, allowing the Center to better meet rigorous museum standards,” says Wexner Center Director Sherri Geldin. “We are especially pleased that the improvements will allow for more sophisticated light control capabilities while at the same time more fully revealing the building’s original architectural intent. To responsibly and successfully exhibit art in all media, it is imperative that we install these state-of-the-art systems.”

The Ohio State University has allocated \$12 million for the renovation project. Arup, an international design and engineering firm with expertise in museum and gallery renovations, is overseeing the renovation design.

Exhibitions are on view at the Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building at Spring Street and Neil Avenue near the Arena District in downtown Columbus. *Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* and *Tea and Coffee Towers* are on view there January 31–May 2; the photography exhibition *Visions from America: Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art* runs May 22–August 15.

Performing arts programming sustains its customary pace, using the Center’s Mershon Auditorium (which will not be affected by the renovations), the “black box” setup on Mershon Auditorium Stage, the Performance Space, and other campus venues, including Weigel Hall and the Drake Center’s Thurber Theatre.

The Center's popular film program also maintains an active schedule. As always, the education department is using a variety of venues both within and outside the Center for its lecture series, discussions, family events, workshops, student events, and symposia. The Wexner Center Bookshop remains open Monday–Friday, and the Wexner Center Artshop at Easton is open daily. The Center's Art & Technology facility—including state-of-the art video and sound editing suites—remains active, supporting artists' projects throughout the year.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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