

## **Arsenal Center for Arts to break ground**

*Thursday, November 4, 2004*

**T**he Arsenal Center for the Arts will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 9, to commemorate the start of construction of the new 30,000-square-foot center for the visual, literary and performing arts. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. in front of the arts center at 321 Arsenal St., Watertown.

Representatives from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Boston Foundation, StageSource, Harvard University, the town of Watertown, and local business, financial, academic and cultural institutions will be on hand to help celebrate this momentous occasion. Resident companies New Repertory Theatre and the Watertown Children's Theatre will also attend.

Executive Director Michael Miner and members of the Boston arts community will speak about the significant impact this new cultural resource will have on Greater Boston's accessibility to the arts. Leadership donor Charles Mosesian, who donated \$1 million to the arts center, will be an honored guest at the ceremony. The main theater will be named in Mosesian's honor.

Guests will have an opportunity to sign a steel beam that will be installed in the building. The John Baboian Quartet will provide musical entertainment. Panera Bread, also located on the Arsenal on the Charles campus, will provide refreshments.

Construction of the facility began in September and will be completed this spring. Richard White Sons of Auburndale is the general contractor, and The Beal Companies provide construction management services. The facility is designed by Amsler Woodhouse MacLean Architects of Boston. Watertown Savings Bank is providing \$1.2 million in construction financing for the project.

Over \$6.5 million has been raised for planning, design and construction of the arts center. The Campaign to Build the Arsenal Center for the Arts is actively soliciting the final 12 percent of its overall goal during the construction period. Naming opportunities beginning at \$10,000 are currently available.

Centrally located in Watertown, the Arsenal Center for the Arts will house theaters, classrooms, galleries, artist studios, rehearsal spaces and gathering places. Plans call for year-round performances in music, dance and theater by resident and visiting artists, film offerings, arts classes, arts camps for kids, artist-in-residence programs, writers' workshops and readings, outreach and youth programming, public art programming, and rotating exhibits in the galleries.

The mission of the Arsenal Center for the Arts is to strengthen community through the power and presence of the arts. The Arsenal Center for the Arts has been recognized by The Boston Foundation as a major new piece of cultural infrastructure for the region.

For more information call 617-923-0100 or visit [www.arsenalarts.org](http://www.arsenalarts.org).