

Report

of the Chairman of the Building of the Century Campaign

TO DATE, THE museum has successfully raised \$267 million in funds to support the \$350 million capital campaign. Of this amount, \$236 million is designated for construction and endowment for the new wing. The balance represents gifts to support reinstallation of the entire museum as well as ongoing endowment needs. In the past year, \$111 million has been received in generous gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations in support of these efforts.

One of the accomplishments in this fiscal year was the receipt of a landmark contribution for the naming of our new museum building. As the contributors preferred that the name reflect the civic stature of the Art Institute, the decision to name the new addition “The Modern Wing” was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees in December. In building the Modern Wing, the Art Institute of Chicago hopes to make significant and lasting civic and architectural contributions to the city of Chicago.

The past year heralded several other significant gifts to the Modern Wing. Most prominent among these has been the support given by our 21st Century Founders and Benefactors, who have each given gifts of one million dollars or more. The designation of 21st Century Founders and Benefactors harkens back to early philanthropists whose leadership and generosity supported the Art Institute’s founding, crediting our current generation of philanthropists who are helping to make the Modern Wing a reality. We are pleased and proud to recognize each of these families and individuals in the list of campaign donors contained within this Annual Report.

We have a great challenge to raise the remaining funds toward the campaign goal. Our success can only be made possible with the help of museum donors, committee members, volunteers, and civic partners, many of whom have already come forward with gifts in support of the *Building of the Century Campaign*. As we look to the opening of the Modern Wing in 2009, the campaign will invite the museum’s extended family to become involved in this momentous effort.



View of the Modern Wing under construction at the corner of Monroe Street and Columbus Drive.

Finally, at this critical juncture, we would like to thank and recognize all of the donors who have made gifts in support of the *Building of the Century Campaign* and to thank our campaign committee members and Trustee leaders for their vision.

Louis B. Susman, *Chairman*