



NEWS RELEASE

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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RECEIVES MAJOR PHILANTHROPIC GIFT *New Facility to be Named for Donors*

DAYTON, OHIO (December 16, 1999) – Officials of Second and Main, Ltd., announced today a major philanthropic gift that assures the success of the private fundraising campaign for Dayton’s new performing arts complex. Also announced was the naming of the facility for the donors.

“Today we mark a major milestone in the life of the new performing arts center,” said Steve Mason, retired CEO of the Mead Corporation and chairman of the board of Second and Main, Ltd., project developer. According to Mason, a philanthropic gift of \$8 million toward the project has been made by Dr. Benjamin and Mrs. Marian Schuster of Dayton.

“In recognition of the Schusters’ generosity, we will name Dayton’s new facility the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center,” Mason said.

Benjamin Schuster is a renowned cardiologist who has practiced medicine in the Dayton area for 41 years. His wife, Marian, is an accomplished musician and arts activist. Both are long-standing supporters of the cultural arts in Dayton.

“I have enjoyed my cardiology practice here, and serving my patients has been very rewarding,” Dr. Schuster said. “We have become involved in this project because it means so much to Dayton’s future. This is our way of sharing something that’s very special to us: our love of the arts.”

“It’s such an honor for us to be associated with this project. We’re emotionally thrilled about it,” said Mrs. Schuster. “This will be a great legacy for the children — and the future.”

The \$121 million performing arts complex, located at the corner of Second and Main streets in downtown Dayton, was first announced by Second and Main, Ltd., the project developer, in July 1999. The complex includes a 2,300-seat theater, 120 apartments and condominiums, a 120-room hotel, an eight-story “Wintergarten” glass atrium and a \$13.5 million operating endowment. When the facility opens in the fall of 2002, it will be the new home of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Dayton Opera Company, and the site for the Victoria Theatre Association’s large Broadway touring productions.

“With this outstanding contribution, the financial elements of this project are falling into place,” Mason said. “We have raised \$39 million in private donations, and we remain optimistic about the State’s participation. Additional private contributions will be used to ensure the highest standards of excellence in the development and future programming of the performing arts center.”

“The physical presence and beautiful architecture of this facility will have a ripple effect and raise the standard for other buildings in the area,” said Dr. Schuster. “I believe it will enrich our community in many ways.”

The Schusters have three married daughters, Marla Nissan, Debra Tanger and Karen Brace, and six grandchildren.

“Our children are really proud that we are part of this project,” Mrs. Schuster said. “They know how strongly we feel about the importance of the arts for everyone.”

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