

“Such a center would offer yearning Aurora residents a buffet for the brain, a virtual smorgasbord of exciting things to experience, watch, absorb and grow with.”

— **Karen Johnson**  
Publisher  
Aurora Sentinel

“I’m excited about the possibility of having a cultural complex in the City of Aurora. A Cultural Complex would contribute to the economic development and enhance the quality of life in the City of Aurora. Having a Cultural Complex would be an important feature, vital to companies moving into and staying in a city of this size. The Chamber actively promotes the involvement of the business community in the arts and entertainment area..”

— **Kevin Hougen**  
President  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

“A formula for success—  
our City’s growth + a new performing arts complex +  
an enlarged central library + a new museum =  
Aurora becoming a First-Class city.”

— **Michael Peterson**  
President  
Adolfson & Peterson Construction

“No community can grow without a soul. The soul of any worthwhile community is its cultural arts, which when properly housed and nurtured, prosper for all people throughout time.”

— **Kay Garrett Dahlinger**  
52-year Aurora Resident

“A new performing arts center in Aurora would help to enhance the already established music and performing arts programs. It would also help to generate more interest and involvement in all aspects of the performing arts.”

— **Shaina Jarvis**  
Gateway High School Student

“In the two years I have taught music in Aurora I have noticed a significant need for a cultural arts center. My students, as well as other citizens of Aurora, need a place to experience the arts, and at this time many students who can’t afford transportation to get downtown do not get this opportunity.”

— **Tim Libby**  
Music Director  
Gateway High School

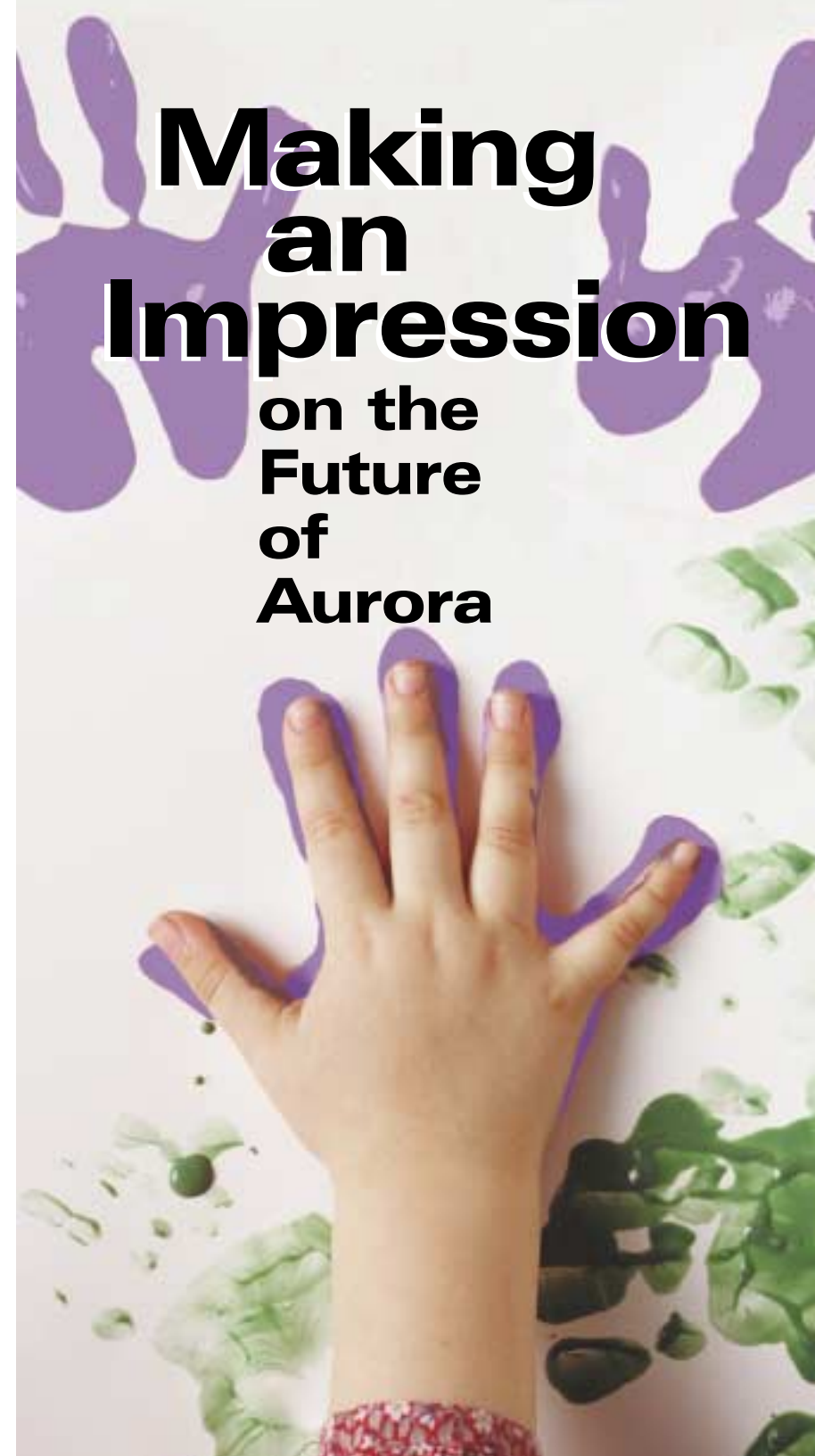
Production / Printing donated by:  
Redi-Print  
Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
Aurora Arts & Humanities Council  
SIX B SIX, Inc.



citizens  
cultural complex  
initiative

c/o Administrative Offices  
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# Making an Impression on the Future of Aurora





## A Complex for the Future of Aurora

A Cultural Complex unlike any other in the country will offer more opportunities for individuals of all ages, abilities, and economic status, to learn, experience and participate within the Aurora community.

The proposed Cultural Complex will consist of:

- A **performing arts center** featuring up to a 2000+ seat auditorium theater; classroom space for visual arts and dance; areas for public display of art.
- A **state-of-the-art library** facility with space for an expansive collection of books and reference material; electronic library capabilities; training facilities.
- A **History Museum** which will provide the vehicle for greater understanding and appreciation through exhibits, lectures, tours, and study. Additional gallery space



would allow Aurora to continue and expand the preservation of its past as well as provide a venue for various special events and educational exhibits.

## Business of the Arts

*“The arts are very good business for many of our communities. They generate cash flow and employment, and have a ripple effect that can be quite substantial.”*

— **A. Thomas Young**  
President and COO  
Martin Marietta Corporation

When persuading new employees and new businesses to move to an area, quality of life is always an issue. A Cultural Complex of this magnitude and diversity will fill a large void for Aurora’s business community.

The existing local business economy will benefit from this Cultural Complex as well. It will expand opportunities for tourism, increase patronage to local restaurants and businesses, and offer a venue for meetings and special events.

A 1997 survey commissioned by the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) showed that 2.3 million *more* individuals attended arts, cultural and science events than the combined annual number of individuals attending the home games of the Colorado Rockies, Denver Broncos and Denver Nuggets.

It is evident that much of Aurora’s potential cultural arts revenue, both directly and indirectly, is spent elsewhere.



## Arts in Education

*“A broad education that includes the arts helps give children a better understanding of their world... We need students who are culturally literate as well as math and science literate.”*

— **Paul Ostergard**  
Vice President  
Corporate Communications  
Citicorp



Every year, cutbacks in our public schools have meant the elimination of our children’s exposure to the arts. The Cultural Complex could help bridge the gap between what is taught in our schools and what is needed to succeed in today’s everchanging society.

A four-year study conducted by the Arts Education Center at NYU revealed that achievement test scores in academic subjects improve when the arts are used to assist learning in math, creative writing, and communication skills. “Our children need arts education more than ever,” says Paul W. Chellgren, President and CEO of Ashland Inc. “A second set of basics is now required to function in today’s world – along with the basics of reading, writing, and math.

“Students need the ability to allocate resources; to work successfully with others; to find, analyze, and communicate information; to operate increasingly complex systems of seemingly unrelated parts; and, finally, to use technology. The arts provide an unmatched opportunity to teach these skills for today’s workforce.”  
Direct comparisons show that students

with four years of art and music education scored higher on SAT scores than students without – 59 points higher on verbal; 44 points higher on math.

Currently, the City of Aurora offers many cultural arts programs but their facilities are outdated and filled beyond capacity. The dance program alone has a waiting list of over 400 students – a list which has grown steadily for nearly 10 years.

