



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Pat Evans**  
Mayor

**Sally Magnuson**  
Mayor Pro Tem

**Jean Callison**  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

**Shep Stahel**  
Place 1

**Scott Johnson**  
Place 2

**Loretta Ellerbe**  
Place 3

**Harry LaRosiliere**  
Place 5

**Lee Dunlap**  
Place 8

**Thomas H. Muehlenbeck**  
City Manager

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 15, 2007

**CONTACT:**  
James Wear, Creative Arts Manager  
972-941-5202 (o) 972-816-2851 (c)  
[jimw@plano.gov](mailto:jimw@plano.gov)

### **CITY OF PLANO RECEIVES GRANT FROM ARTS FUNDER Plano Arts and Cultural Endowment Assists Courtyard Theater**

Thanks to a generous gift from the Plano Arts and Cultural Endowment (PACE), local theater-goers will soon enjoy some spectacular new lighting effects. Ralph Stow, PACE Chairman of the Board, presented a \$49,000 check to Mayor Pat Evans at the November 12 City Council meeting. According to Jim Wear, Plano's Creative Arts Manager, the funds will help the City purchase several programmable lighting instruments for use at the Courtyard Theater and the Cox Building Playhouse in downtown Plano.

The Courtyard Theater is a 309 seat flexible facility developed and managed by the City of Plano. The adaptive re-use of this historic building, located at 1509 H. Avenue, was funded through proceeds of Tax Increment Finance District #2 and was originally a gymnasium and classrooms.

The Cox Building Annex was a Works Progress Administration project built in the late 1930's. It is owned by the Plano Independent School District (PISD) which leases it to the City of Plano. Since it re-opened in 2002, the Courtyard Theater has been the site of hundreds of theater, dance and music performances.

**(MORE)**



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The 100 seat Cox Building Playhouse is located next door to the Courtyard Theater. This building was built in 1924 as the central school for the community, which had fewer than 1,500 residents at that time. The Cox Building was refurbished as a cooperative project involving the City of Plano and PISD, re-opening in 2006. In addition to the playhouse, the building houses the City's Creative Arts Division and a number of PISD departments, including the PISD Fine Arts administrative offices.

PACE is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) non-profit organization established in 2000 as a philanthropic funding and educational vehicle to promote arts and culture in Plano and surrounding communities. Since its inception, PACE has provided over \$260,000 to groups such as the Plano Courtyard Theater, the ArtCentre of Plano, Plano Civic Chorus, Men of Note, Plano Symphony Orchestra, and The Classics. In 2005, PACE donated a 7 1/2 foot Steinway concert grand piano to the Courtyard Theater.

Plano Arts and Cultural Endowment hopes to grow in size (to \$50 - \$100 million in the next ten years), in order to ensure that the arts will flourish in this community. For more information on the arts in Plano, please visit [www.planostages.com](http://www.planostages.com).

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