

**SPRING 2025**

# **NEWS LET TER**

**The Campaign for Colburn**

**SPRING 2025**

# President's Update

**CAMPAIGN  
COMMITTEE**

Henry Choi, *Co-chair*  
Diane Naegele, *Co-chair*  
Carol F. Henry  
Sean Rourke  
Harry B. Suh



Dear Friends,

This time of year, families and friends gather in our halls to listen to end-of-year performances. Diplomas are presented and graduation caps are tossed into the air. Experiencing the celebratory energy accompanying these events is always a highlight of the close of the academic and performance year at the Colburn School.

We are also celebrating one year since groundbreaking for our new campus. Construction has included site infrastructure and the building's foundation. Stringent seismic requirements informed the work, as well as precise attention to the unique needs of a performing arts campus. Internationally renowned acousticians Nagata Acoustics along with leading noise and vibration consultants considered each foundational detail of the new concert hall, ensuring it is isolated from the sounds of an urban environment.

In April, the project reached a major milestone with a significant concrete pour, which began in the early morning hours with nearly 70 workers distributing concrete from over 120 concrete trucks. I was awed by this choreography; it is what I would call a "construction ballet." As of today, we have poured nearly 12,000 cubic yards of concrete: 90% of the concrete for the project. Now, vertical construction is taking place with a 1,300-ton crane lifting Utah milled steel into place for both the concert hall and dance school.

As the building takes shape, one can envision the activities that will take place inside and outside the Colburn Center. From Kohl Hall to the studio theater and the dance studios to the outdoor gardens, this transformational project will provide magical new experiences for our students, faculty, and audiences. We hope you enjoy envisioning a "Day in the Life" of the Colburn Center through this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sel Kardan".

**Sel Kardan**  
President and Chief Executive Officer



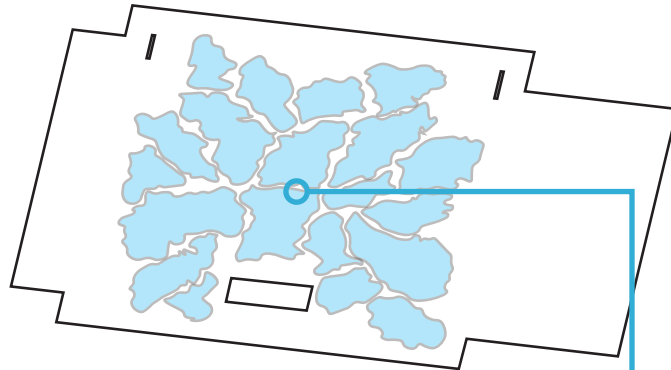
**CAMPAIGN  
PROGRESS  
TO DATE**

**\$400M  
GOAL**

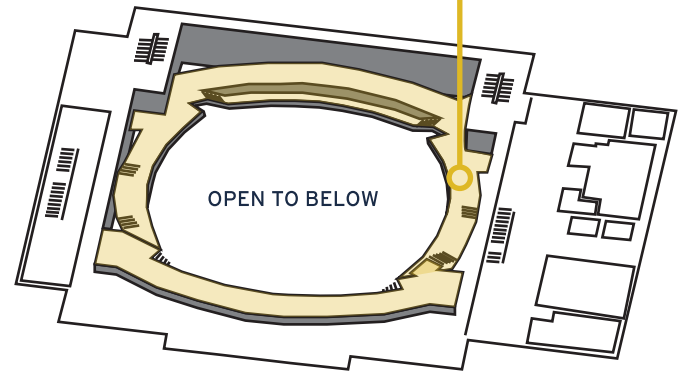
**\$331M  
GIFTS AND  
PLEDGES**

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE COLBURN CENTER

In this newsletter, we imagine a Saturday evening at the Colburn Center and the multitude of activities taking place in synchrony. We hope you share our awe of this new space and the possibilities it brings for further strengthening and expanding our community.



**CEILING**



**LEVEL 5**



**IN THE CLOUDS** With an hour until the concert begins, the house isn't open, but the ushers recognize us and let us peek inside the hall. Sculpted clouds float above and act as an acoustical ceiling; this architecture is the most outwardly creative and internationally recognized Frank Gehry element in the Colburn Center.

**SETTING THE STAGE** On Thomas and Judith Beckmen Stage, production crew rearrange chairs and music stands. From the control room/stage, an engineer checks the lights, circling through the different settings that will be used during the performance. A spotlight illuminates the beautiful grand piano, its cast iron plate gleaming. A concert technician plays each key, listening carefully and making the finest adjustments.



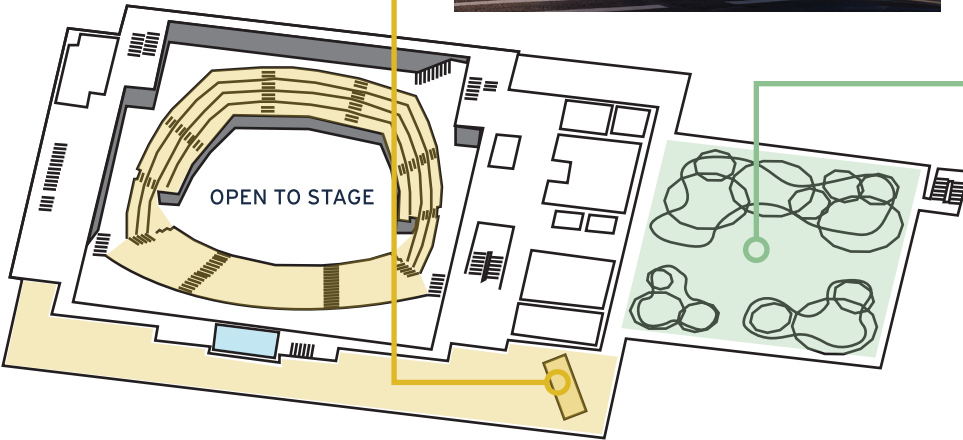


## THAT'S THE TICKET

A grab-and-go stand with an assortment of pastries, organic snacks, and packaged sandwiches and salads is open on the outside balcony, a 5,000 sq. ft. "front porch" facing the community above Olive and 2nd Streets.



## LEVEL 4



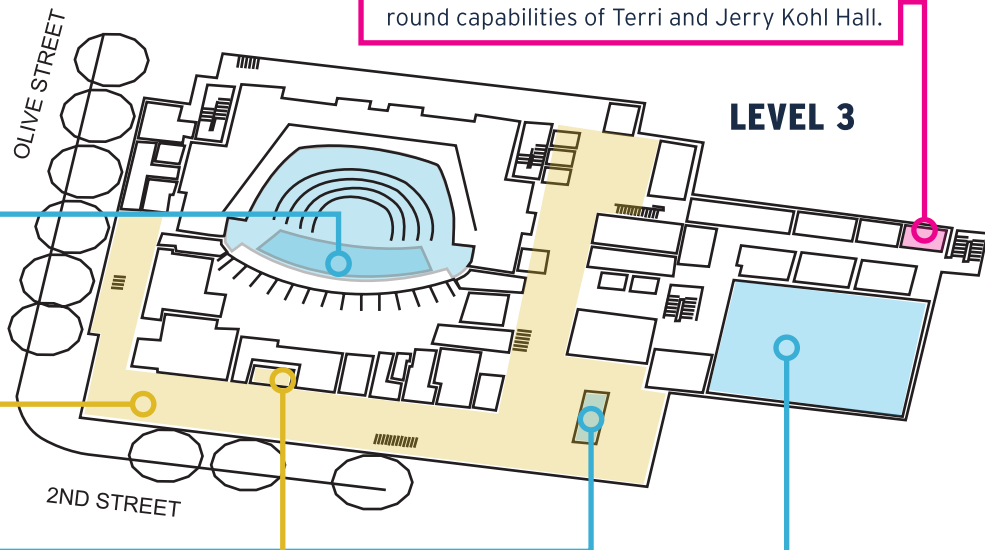
**CITY OASIS** Upon arriving in the Mullin Family Garden of Thoughts and Dreams, we are greeted by a Founders Circle concierge pouring Henry Family wines for a pre-concert treat. The sun sets on the garden and a chime signals the evening performance is about to begin!

In the Dance offices, Artistic Director Janie Taylor discusses nuances of an upcoming collaborative performance of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, utilizing the full theater-in-the-round capabilities of Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall.

The 70-musician orchestra pit is raised tonight, allowing for stage-level seating. With our feet on the same level as the principal orchestra musicians, we feel the vibrations and energy they emit and feel. We are one with the orchestra tonight!

From the Promenade lobby of Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall, couches, chairs, and bistro tables hug the long wall of windows with views of 2nd Street. The building's grand entrance, a trio of double doors with access to Olive Street, is at the far end of the Promenade.

**AT THE BARRE** With time to spare, we visit Diener Barre in the Promenade, and enjoy all beverages "on tap" at the "Barre!" Craving a moment of outdoor serenity, we ascend the stairs to Level 4 and exit to the Mullin Family Garden of Thoughts and Dreams.



\*All images and renderings are approximations of future build and are for illustrative purposes only.

Our resident professional dance company is rehearsing in the 100-seat studio theater. With a stage the size of NYC Ballet's Koch Theater, this space is ideal for full-scale ballets, with scrims, theater lighting, and a sprung floor, all of which provide the perfect intimate experience for the evening's show.

The concierge services window is a welcome place to pick up our tickets to tonight's Colburn Orchestra concert. We recognize a seat number as one we dedicated to the teacher we studied with in the Community School years ago. There will be a plaque on the seat with their name engraved.

## PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES

Outside the Denise Scheerer Tap Studio, students wait for their class to begin, sitting legs outstretched, clicking their toes together. On the other side of the hall, a ballet class lets out and children chassé to the lobby, where their families are waiting.

In the north ballet studio of Level 2, Dance Academy students prepare a Balanchine work, courtesy of the Balanchine Trust.

In the south ballet studio, dancers work on pas-de-deux repertoire with a live Music Academy accompanist in preparation for their upcoming Counterpointe performance.



**ALL THAT JAZZ** At the corner of 2nd and Hill Streets, we hear syncopated, strolling melodies from a keyboard, the plucking of a double bass, and shish-taps from a hi-hat. The Community School Jazz program livens the afternoon at the outdoor stage, while families and downtown visitors soak up the music and the sun at benches and cafe tables in the nearly 7,000 sq. ft. garden.



Parents and students flow in and out of the Dance entrance, pirouetting on the pathway and pondering on benches in the Choi Family Garden: an oasis of greenery in the arts corridor of Downtown Los Angeles.





# FOUNDERS

## CIRCLE

The Founders Circle recognizes donors who have made a gift to the Building Our Future Campaign of \$100,000 or more.

Your Founders Circle experience will include invitations to the project's most historic moments, including festivities related to the campaign and the building's opening.

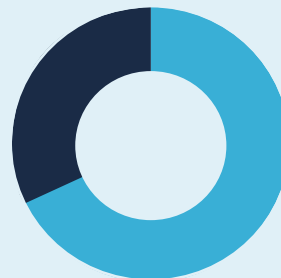
Your generous support will be acknowledged inside Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall, and most importantly, your support will change the lives of countless Angelenos. Thank You!

## THE COLBURN EXPERIENCE

Located in the cultural corridor of Downtown Los Angeles, the Colburn School provides the highest quality music and dance education to 2,000 students in a typical year. Robust scholarship support for students levels the playing field in arts education. The School's founding principle of "access to excellence" provides a performance-centered education with unparalleled faculty and facilities for all stages of development. This commitment is also evidenced by Colburn's rich history of providing audience access to excellent musical and dance performances, 85% of which are free and open to the 30,000+ audience members yearly.

For information about our upcoming events and performances, both free and ticketed, visit our season calendar: [colburnschool.edu/calendar](http://colburnschool.edu/calendar)

To learn more about being a part of the Colburn School's transformation, please contact Annie Wickert, Senior Vice President of Philanthropy and Director of Capital Campaign, at [awickert@colburnschool.edu](mailto:awickert@colburnschool.edu) or call **310-569-0690**.



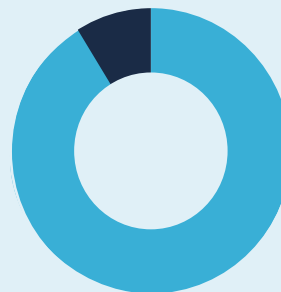
### ANNUAL ARTIST ACCESS

**350**

Performances by Colburn students & faculty

**180**

Performances by guest artists



### ANNUAL AUDIENCE ACCESS

**315**

Free performances

**35**

Modestly-priced performances