

FALL 2025

**NEWS
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The Campaign for Colburn

FALL 2025

President's Update

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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



Dear Friends,

This summer, we reached a major milestone in our building project. On July 25, Colburn and project partners joined civic and community leaders for topping out: a longstanding construction tradition that commemorates the building team's expertise and hard work with the placement of the structure's final steel beam. Hundreds of signatures decorate the 2,408 pound, 28-foot long beam, raised 112 feet in the air to mark the building's northernmost point.

The irresistible enthusiasm and profound sense of camaraderie I felt on this occasion is a preview of the vitality I know the Colburn Center will inspire in Downtown Los Angeles when it opens in 2027. This will be a place where artists and audiences celebrate dedication, craftsmanship, and creativity; where ultimately, we will experience how the performing arts is quintessential to our community. Already we are hearing from top artists and presenting organizations, representing both firmly established and new voices in the industry, who are excited by what the new space offers. We can't wait to share the remarkable collaborations we have in store for the Colburn Center's opening season.

Topping out signified the height of summer construction activities, but there is certainly no slowing down this fall as we prepare to substantially complete the exterior and begin work on the interior. At a nearby warehouse, full-scale construction models replicate the building's key features, including the iconic "Pink Kandi" paneling, a Gehry Cloud, acoustically sensitive interior walls, seating configurations, and elements from the rooftop garden. These models allow us to refine design systems, validate performance, and ensure safety and resilience before construction. The building is going up quickly now, and will soon be enclosed and protected as the interior work begins.

As we watch the building arise across the street, it feels like we reach an exciting milestone nearly every day. In this newsletter, we wanted to share some of the milestones we see on the site, as well as the many vital campaign milestones you may not yet see. Thank you for making this all possible. We look forward to the continued journey ahead.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sel Kardan".

Sel Kardan
President and Chief Executive Officer

To learn more about being a part of the Colburn School's transformation, please contact Annie Wickert at awickert@colburnschool.edu.

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS TO DATE

\$400M GOAL

\$340M GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Building Our Future Milestones

We are grateful to our donors, contractors, neighbors, faculty, staff, and community members, all of whom have participated in their own ways to this success of *Building Our Future*. Our core mission of educating the next generation of performing artists is unchanged. Above all, we are a school, and all we do serves an educational purpose—for students, their families, and audiences. This project amplifies this work, providing unmatched resources for our community on campus and all around us. There have been countless milestones since the purchase of the land in 2016. Below, we highlight a curated selection of key moments along our journey. Thank you for joining us!

- Construction
- Major Campaign Gifts
- Certifications

DECEMBER 2018
A study conducted with leadership of 23 local performing arts institutions revealed that 95% of participants strongly desired opportunities to perform in a major concert hall and that such a space would be actively booked year-round by community partners. This informed the School's vision for what the buildings could become. Frank Gehry incorporated this community use program in the designs.

NOVEMBER 2021
The flagship ensemble of the Colburn Conservatory of Music, the Colburn Orchestra, is generously underwritten by Eva and Marc Stern.

SEPTEMBER 2021
Concertmaster Dressing Room named in honor of Charles Hamlen by Cathy and Peter Halstead via the Sidney E. Frank Foundation.

SEPTEMBER 2021
The Henry Family Fund names the Warner Henry Family Artist Lounge.

MARCH 2022
Frank Gehry design press reveal launches the public *Building Our Future* Campaign with \$270M in secured funding.



JANUARY 2018
Frank Gehry selected as project architect along with world-class team of supporting contractors, many of whom worked on Walt Disney Concert Hall. Design phase of the project commences.

JULY 2021
Frank Gehry completes design development phase of the project, providing the School with initial design elements and architectural vision.

AUGUST 2021
Principal gift made to launch the quiet phase of the campaign and inspire campaign leadership gifts in the subsequent months.

FEBRUARY 2022
Ann Moore names the Denise Scheerer Tap Studio.

DECEMBER 2021
Leadership gift received from Terri and Jerry Kohl to name the in-the-round concert hall with a full-sized 70-musician orchestra pit, and stage that can accommodate up to 120 musicians, and up to 96 choral performers.

DECEMBER 2022
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation makes the first institutional campaign gift.

JANUARY 2023
Peter and Merle Mullin name the rooftop garden the Mullin Family Garden of Thoughts and Dreams.



APRIL 2023
The Ahmanson Foundation commits a significant investment to the campaign, awarded upon the beginning of vertical construction.

OCTOBER 2022
Henry and Queence Choi name the Choi Family Garden, the verdant public gathering space outside the 2nd and Hill Street entrance.



JANUARY 2024
The iconic Gehry Cloud Ceiling design and engineering is finalized, with 20 clouds in total. Alyce Williamson, the Broad Foundation, and Diane Naegele have dedicated clouds in this acoustically vital artistic masterpiece.

SEPTEMBER 2023
Jennifer Diener pledges her support and names the Diener Barre in the concert hall lobby Promenade.

T. Robert Greene Foundation establishes the Maestro Ernst H. Katz Chair of Conducting Studies, currently held by Esa-Pekka Salonen.

JUNE 2023
Letter of determination granted. This is the first round of jurisdictional approvals that allow the construction project to proceed.

AUGUST 2023
Richard Flock establishes the Flock Family Fund for Excellence to support faculty recruitment and academic excellence of the Colburn School.

DECEMBER 2023
The David Kobrin Fund for Dance Excellence is established to ensure that dancers have access to the most inspiring and confidence-building learning and performance spaces in the world.

FEBRUARY 2024
Shoring and Grading Permits are approved by the City of Los Angeles allowing initial site preparation.

MARCH 1, 2024
Mobilization begins for demolition and excavation of the building site, which has been an undeveloped surface parking lot for decades.

APRIL 2024
Name Your Seat campaign launches with the opportunities to dedicate seats in the future Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall and Dance Studio Theater as well as existing beloved venues of Zipper Hall and Thayer Hall. www.colburncenter.org/seat

OCTOBER 2024
Underground water collection cisterns are installed.

JUNE 2024
Foundation permit issued for drilling caissons and piers and foundation walls and slabs to support the project.

JUNE 2024
Tom and Judy Beckmen name the Judith and Thomas Beckmen Stage of Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall.

AUGUST 2024
New Building Construction Permit issued for full 6-story performing arts complex including concert hall and dance studios.

JULY 2024
First rebar installed for Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall.

JUNE 2024
The Ward Family establishes a youth ensemble performance fund to support Community School ensembles performing in campus venues including Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall.

JULY 2024
Judith Mishkin supports the campaign by naming the Harp Faculty Studio in memory of her teacher, Marcel Grandjany.

APRIL 5, 2024
Groundbreaking Ceremonies



DECEMBER 2024
W.M. Keck Foundation makes a leadership gift to name the previously-established youth ensemble performance fund the Keck Youth Performance Fund.

DECEMBER 2024
Foundation walls poured for Thomas and Judith Beckmen Stage.

APRIL 2025
Rafael & Luisa de Machena-Huyke Foundation name the Director of Bands position in the Community School, currently held by Eleanor Núñez.

APRIL 2025
Significant concrete milestone reached with approximately 200 concrete trucks delivering concrete for the main Level 3 pour.

A specialty 40-ton crawler crane is installed on site to facilitate vertical construction.



DECEMBER 2024
Prototypes of Poltrona Frau concert hall seating, clad in samples of custom Frank Gehry-designed fabric, are delivered to Colburn.



JULY 2025
Offsite mock-up construction begins to test all finishes and building joints.



SEPTEMBER 2025
Concrete slabs are poured for the rooftop garden, the porch, and all seating sections in Terri and Jerri Kohl Hall, marking the final placement of over 14M cubic yards of concrete on the project.



OCTOBER 13, 2025
Founders Circle Inaugural Celebration colburncenter.org/make-a-gift

FALL 2027
GRAND OPENING FESTIVAL
Visit colburncenter.org for project updates and more.



OCTOBER 2025
Exterior glazing enclosure begins for Dance School.

JULY 25, 2025
Steel Topping-Out Celebration welcomes skilled tradespeople, local government and city leaders, media, as well as Colburn students, faculty, donors, and community to watch the final steel beam be mounted on Terri and Jerry Kohl concert hall.

PROJECT METRICS As of July 2025

- 3,340,000 lbs of steel in over 2,500 individual pieces
- 24,000 cubic yards of dirt excavated (would fill more than half the auditorium of Walt Disney Concert Hall)
- 12,830 cubic yards of concrete have been placed (would fill nearly four Olympic-size swimming pools). Over 14,000 cubic yards expected by end of September
- 3,889,061 lbs of rebar (equivalent to the weight of 750+ F150 trucks or five 747-100 airplanes)
- 535 workers have contributed to date over 105,700 hours of work (equivalent to one person working 8 hours a day for over 36 years)
- 20 acoustical clouds with each cloud containing 30-50 individual plates welded together and finished with sound specific coating



NAME YOUR SEAT!

Donors of all levels can participate in the campaign by naming a seat in commemoration of yourself, faculty, family, or friends. Dedicate seats in all four Colburn venues—Zipper Hall and Thayer Hall, plus the two future venues of Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall as well as the Dance Studio Theater.



LEARN MORE

For information about seat naming, and to view current seat maps and availability, visit colburncenter.org/seat.



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



ANNUAL ARTIST ACCESS

350
Performances by Colburn students & faculty

180
Performances by guest artists



ANNUAL AUDIENCE ACCESS

333
Free performances

46
Paid performances