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## **Website will track development of downtown arts complex**

Residents wanting information on the major arts complex that will change the face of downtown St. Catharines can now log onto a website dedicated to the Academic and Cultural Arts Centre being built by the City and Brock University.

The site, [www.buildingtheartsdowntown.ca](http://www.buildingtheartsdowntown.ca), will feature news and photos about the Downtown Performing Arts Centre and Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts. These cornerstones to downtown revitalization are two of the biggest projects in St. Catharines in recent history.

The website will be maintained by Brock and the City throughout the development and construction of both projects. Construction is to begin by early 2012, with occupancy expected in late 2014.

"As the Performing Arts Centre moves into the final stages of the design phase, there will soon be signs of work on the site," said Steve Solski, Executive Director of the Performing Arts Centre. "Having a website dedicated to the construction of the joint venture will allow anyone interested to follow its progress."

The Performing Arts Centre and the Walker School are complementary projects created side by side: the multiple-venue Performing Arts Centre at the top of the hill and, nestled below, the Walker School, which will relocate 500 students and faculty from Brock's main campus to the city centre.

The federal and provincial governments are jointly providing \$36 million for the \$54-million Performing Arts Centre, while the Ontario government is contributing \$26.2 million to the Walker School, which has a construction budget of \$39.6 million. To cover its share, the University will need to raise about \$20-million through its Campaign for a Bold New Brock.

***For more information contact:***

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