

CONSTRUCTION PENDING ON TANNERY ARTS CENTER

Entrepreneur investor Bud Colligan, wife make major donation



PHOTOS BY DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Groundbreaking for the nearly \$6 million Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center took place Tuesday morning.

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SANTA CRUZ » During a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday, supporters of the Tannery Arts Center announced the campus' performing arts theater anticipated to open in summer 2015 will be named in honor of major donors Bud and Rebecca Colligan.

As the final piece in a 13-year vision to preserve and redevelop the former Salz Tannery on River Street, Devcon Construction crews soon will begin to transform the historic Hide House into the Colligan Theater at Tannery Arts Center, which will be operated by the Jewell Theatre Co.

"Our desire is to have a world-class theater here in

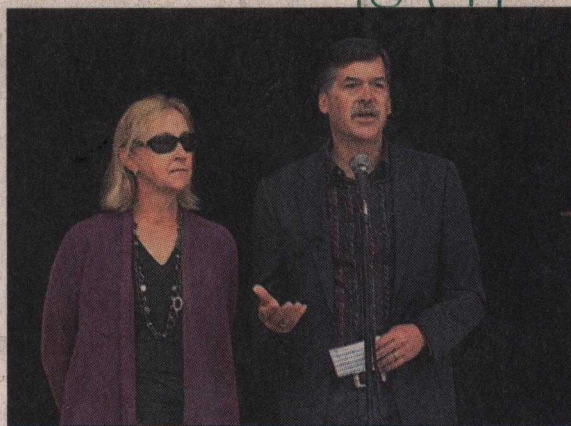
Santa Cruz," said Bud Colligan, an entrepreneur and investor who noted he and his wife, a painter, support historic preservation in addition to the arts.

"I'm excited to see the dancing, theater, plays, speakers, conferences and things we can't even imagine happening here," Colligan said.

At the urging of Angela Chestnut, the arts center's major gifts officer, Colligan said he became interested in making a significant donation more than a year ago. He said Jewell Theatre's involvement was key to he and his wife's decision to contribute because the partnership would ensure the project was more than a dream and would be a "viable economic entity going forward."

Exact details of the

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The new Tannery Arts Center's Colligan Theater is named for Santa Cruz investor and entrepreneur Bud Colligan and wife Rebecca.

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— Ceil Cirillo, Santa Cruz former redevelopment director

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2014

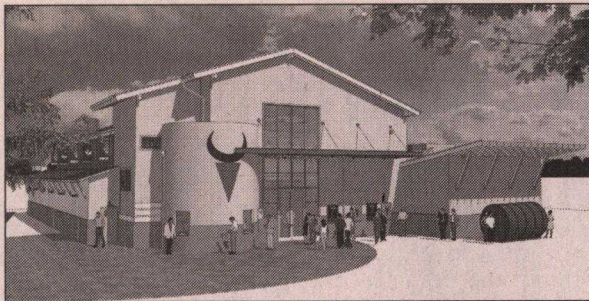
Tannery

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Santa Cruz couple's gift were not disclosed, but the amount was described as enabling the start of construction. The Colligans are among 380 donors who collectively have given more than \$5.6 million toward the nearly \$6 million project, with \$2 million alone raised in the past year.

"That just says so much about how the community has come together to save this historic building," said Ceil Cirillo, the city's retired redevelopment director.

A member of the center's board, Cirillo spearheaded the adaptive reuse of the 158-year-old tannery site, which now contains 100 affordable housing lofts and 28 working artists studios and is home to the



COURTESY OF TANNERY ARTS CENTER

The Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center is expected to open in summer 2015.

Arts Council of Santa Cruz County. The 10,000-square-foot theater complex, which also will feature an open-air courtyard for events, will be home to Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre.

Mayor Lynn Robinson, who recalled her mother's love for leather goods from the tannery, shared the ceremonial duty of shoveling dirt Tuesday with, among others, 90-year-old Norm

Lezin, who was president of the tannery that closed in 2001 after first opening in 1856. She predicted the theater will prove to be a regional draw when completed in about nine months.

"This is truly groundbreaking for our community," Robinson said.

When not in use by Jewell Theatre, the venue will be available for rental by

PERFORMING ARTS THEATER

Name: Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center

Cost: \$5.87 million, with more than \$5.6 million raised to date

Naming donors: Bud and Rebecca Colligan

Location: Hide House at historic Salz Tannery, 1010 River St.

Expected completion: Summer 2015

Operator: Jewell Theatre Co.

Website: tanneryartscenter.org/performing-arts-center

community organizations and businesses. The relocation by Jewell and its artistic director, Julie James, will free up space at Jewell's current site, the Center Stage, for other performance groups.