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ARTS & CULTURE

O.C. Museum of Art Breaks Ground on New Home at Segerstrom Center for the Arts



JULIE LEPO, *Voice of OC*

From left, Craig Wells, Anton Segerstrom, Thom Mayne, Annette Wiley, Katrina Foley, Mark Perry, Carlos Gonzalez, Todd D. Smith celebrate the groundbreaking of Orange County Museum of the Arts' new building on the Segerstrom Center campus in Costa Mesa.

By RICHARD CHANG September 20, 2019

A major project decades in the making finally had its public groundbreaking Friday, signaling to the county and to California that the Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) truly means business regarding its long-planned move from Newport Beach to Costa Mesa.

About 200 people attended the late morning groundbreaking, which occurred at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, at the very spot adjacent to the 13-year old Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall that has long been set aside for an art museum. A massive hole in the ground proved to attendees that construction plans for the new museum are already well underway.

"It is the strongest indication of the future of this museum," said Todd D. Smith, director and CEO of OCMA since 2014. "It is the moment that many have worked for, have hoped for, have spent sleepless nights thinking about. And people have been involved for 20 years, people have come on board in the last two months to support the project. There's a feeling that this is the moment, and this is the project."

Anton Segerstrom, son of the late Henry Segerstrom, who was founding chairman of the Orange County Performing Arts Center (now Segerstrom Center for the Arts), told the audience that the construction of an art museum had long been a wish and vision of his father, a leading figure in the local arts and business communities who died in February 2015.

"This is the final piece of that campus," said Anton Segerstrom, partner at South Coast Plaza and C.J. Segerstrom & Sons.

Mark Perry, chairman of the board of Segerstrom Center, captured the feeling of onlookers and many involved in the project. "This is incredible," he said. "You're not dreaming."



JULIE LEOPOLDO, Voice of OC

Mark Perry, Chairman of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Board of Directors, speaks at the official groundbreaking of the Orange County Museum of Art's new building.

For the first time in years, OCMA revealed the exact price tag of the new museum: \$73 million. Smith said the museum has already raised 65 percent of the campaign goal, or approximately \$47.45 million. That means the museum still has about \$25.55 million to raise.

"We are pleased with where we are at the moment," Smith said. "To get to this point, without going public, without having a groundbreaking, is a real push for us."

Smith added that the public phase of the capital campaign has officially kicked off with Friday's groundbreaking.

The new museum, scheduled to open in 2021, is designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne and his L.A.-based firm Morphosis.

The three-story building will be 53,000 square feet, with 25,000 square feet of exhibition space — about 50 percent more space than its former location had at 850 San Clemente Drive in Newport Center.

The museum will include exhibition galleries, a multi-purpose education hall, a roof terrace, event spaces, a museum store, a café and administrative and support spaces.

What Will It Look Like?

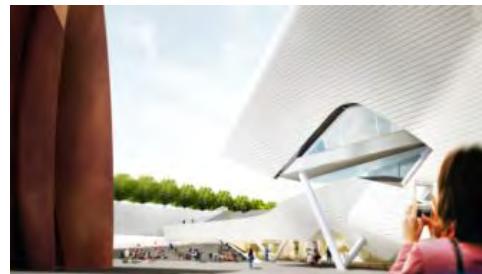


Image courtesy of Morphosis Architects.

An artist's rendering of the view of the new OCMA building from the Julia and George Argyros Plaza of OCMA's main entrance, located near Richard Serra's monumental sculpture, "Connector."

The exterior will feature undulating bands of ceramic tile paneling, a glazed curtain wall, exposed concrete, landscape on the roof terrace and plenty of open and public space.

"We've been working for 12 years on this project," Mayne said during the groundbreaking ceremonies. "We're going to move very quickly. This is a project that's going to move at the speed of light."

Mayne added, "It's going to be very much about the public. It's going to be a place for people to hang out and meet. We're going to build a building and leave 80 percent of the site capacity for a plaza."

At a lunch that followed the groundbreaking, Mayne said, "It's kind of not a building. We're building public space."

The road toward constructing the new

OCMA has been arduous. Renzo Piano was originally picked as the architect for a new home for the Newport Harbor Art Museum, as OCMA was then called, but that plan was scuttled.

In 2016, OCMA tried to sell its Newport Beach property to Related California, which proposed a high-rise condominium project called Museum House.

Local activists opposed that plan, and the city of Newport Beach was forced to revoke approval for the plan and settle two lawsuits related to the aborted sale.

OCMA wound up selling its Newport Beach property to Vivante Newport Center LLC, a subsidiary of Nexus Development Corp., a real estate developer with offices in Santa Ana and Phoenix.

The amount of that sale was \$24 million, according to the Orange County Business Journal. The bulk of that money is expected to go toward construction costs for the new museum at Segerstrom Center.

While it waits for its new home to be built, OCMA is operating out of a temporary space in Santa Ana, across from South Coast Plaza, called OCMAExpand — Santa Ana.

The museum's third season of six exhibitions opens Saturday.

Richard Chang is a contributing writer for Arts & Culture at Voice of OC, focusing on the visual arts.



Photo courtesy of Morphosis Architects.

OCMA's ground floor and mezzanine are designed to hold open, flexible galleries for permanent collection installations and temporary exhibitions.



Image courtesy of Morphosis Architects.

Design for the roof terrace at OCMA.



Architect Thom Mayne, third from left, helps officials break ground Friday for the Orange County Museum of Art's new location at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa. (Scott Smeltzer / Staff Photographer)

By FAITH E. PINHO

SEP. 20, 2019
5:06 PM



The new home of the Orange County Museum of Art is officially under construction in Costa Mesa following a groundbreaking ceremony Friday morning that was more than a decade in the making.

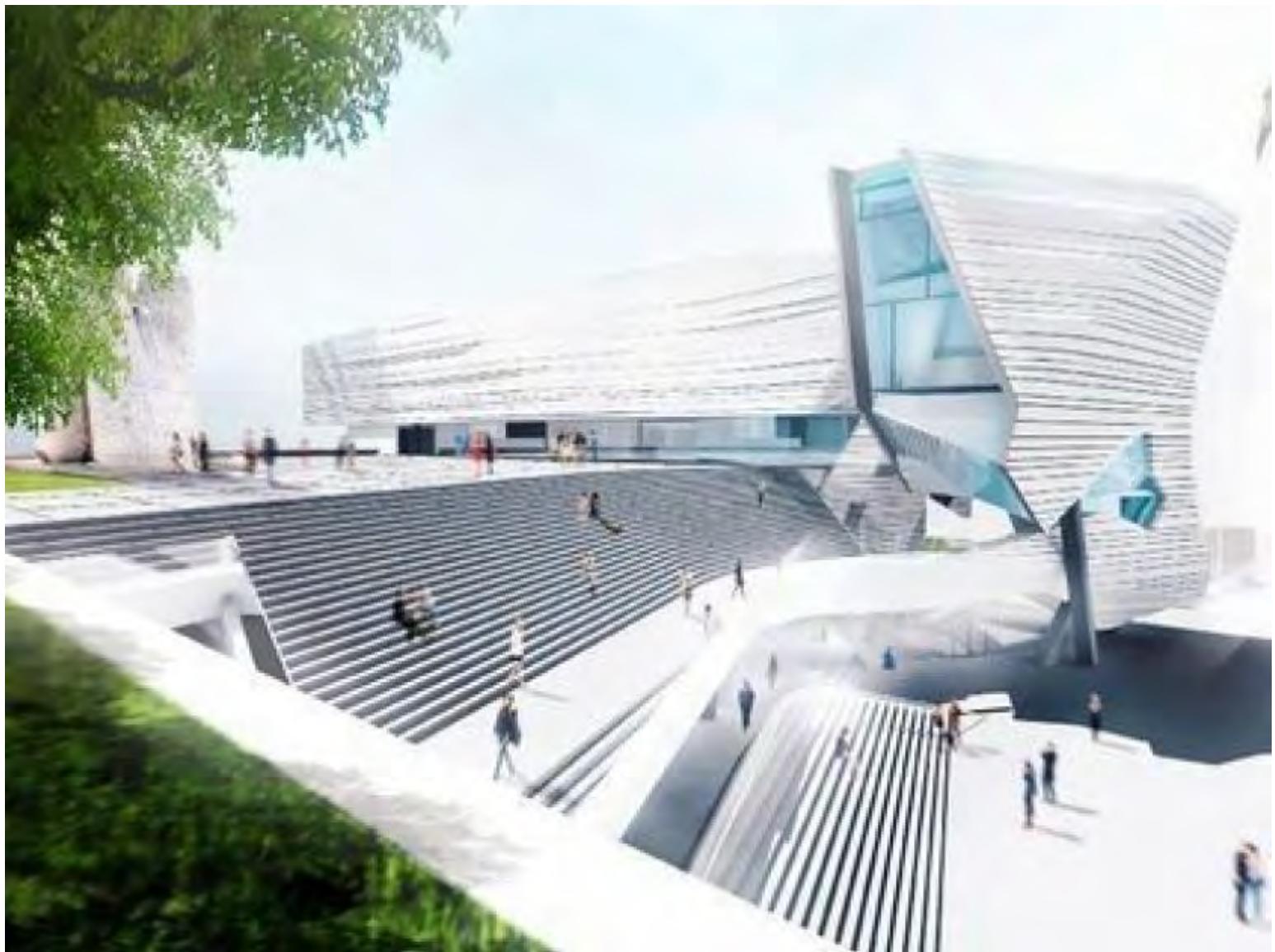
Anton Segerstrom said the museum will complete his family's vision of a cultural arts campus in Orange County. OCMA's new three-story, nearly 52,000-square-foot building will rise from a dirt lot next to the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. The project is slated for completion in 2021.

"I don't think it gets much better than this," he said of the collection of visual and performing arts centers.

"We're the final piece of the puzzle," agreed Todd Smith, OCMA's director and chief executive.

ADVERTISING





A rendering shows the new Orange County Museum of Art building, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne, that is expected to be completed in 2021 in Costa Mesa. (File Illustration)

The museum closed its smaller longstanding [location in Newport Beach](#) last year in anticipation of the new site. In the interim, [OCMAExpand – Santa Ana](#) opened at South Coast Plaza Village for temporary exhibitions.

The vision for OCMA's new project began about 12 years ago, said Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne, and from the beginning, it centered around the public. The building's design includes ample outdoor space, weaving together the museum and its neighboring arts centers. The mission, Mayne said, is to provide an opportunity for people to "just hang out."

"When you see this building, you might say we built a public space with a museum," he said.

Mayne said he recognized the chance to not only build a defining art museum but also to expand the burgeoning arts scene in Costa Mesa, whose motto is "City of the Arts."

"We were really interested in city making," he said. "This represents kind of the early part of the cultural fabric that comes with young cities as they grow up."



Anton Segerstrom, left, greets architect Thom Mayne as Annette Wiley, Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley, Carlos Gonzalez and Craig Wells gather at the groundbreaking ceremony Friday for the new Orange County Museum of Art building at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. (Scott Smeltzer / Staff Photographer)

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley saw the museum emerge from idea to concept and now to groundbreaking. She said Friday that the vision had become reality “to build a world-class art center surrounded by a thriving business community in Costa Mesa ... right in the heart of Orange County, right where the world will soon know all about us.”

Mark Perry, chairman of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts board of directors, told the hundreds of people who attended Friday’s gathering to pinch themselves.

“You’re not dreaming,” he said. “We’ve got a hole out there — it’s happening.”

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Orange County Museum of Art Is One Step Closer to A Permanent Home

Carren Jao | September 20, 2019

It was standing room only, and the biggest celebrity of the day was a hole in the ground. This morning, excitement filled the air as community members and city officials gathered together at the groundbreaking of the Orange County Museum of Art within Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Mark Perry, Board Chair for Segerstrom Center for the Arts asked the crowd to take their thumb and index and place it on their shoulder to pinch themselves. "This is incredible. This is happening," he said. "We've got a hole out there."

Slated to open in 2021, the Thom Mayne-designed building has been more than a decade coming. "It's a story of perserverance," said Perry. But it looks worth the wait.

"Our new home will be a place to stroke your imagination," said Todd D. Smith, OCMA director and CEO, "In other words, it will be a place that reminds us of the gift of being human."

Renderings from Morphosis Architects show a horizontally undulating structure of glazed terracotta paneling meant to play off the neighboring Cesar Pelli-designed Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and the Segerstrom Hall by Charles Lawrence. It was also meant to complement Richard Serra's unapologetically vertical piece, "Connector."

With 53,000-square feet of building space, OCMA promises to be a catalyst for urban connection and conversation. The design has about 50 percent more exhibition space than its former Newport Beach location, allowing it to showcase more of its permanent collections in modern and contemporary art. The main floor is meant to be an open-span exhibition space, while mezzanine and street-fronting galleries can accommodate temporary and

permanent exhibitions.

MORE STORIES ABOUT OCMA



Pacific Rim Artists Are Given the Limelight at OCMA's California-Pacific Triennial

OCMA's 54-Year History: Deep Roots Exhibiting Modern and Contemporary Art

The Avant-Garde at the Orange County Museum of Art

Perhaps one of the largest draws to the new building is its deft thought around interior and exterior space. In the spirit of informal gathering spaces such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art steps in New York City or the Spanish Steps in Rome, Mayne's vision includes an exterior grand staircase that curves around the "Connector," an informal invitation to the public to stay and linger. A roof terrace, about 70% of the building's footprint, is also meant to serve as an extension of the gallery spaces. Al fresco areas could also be used for installations, outdoor film screenings, or events.

We sat down with Director and CEO Todd D. Smith to ask him how arts and culture will change with the arrival of the museum at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

How does the future of the museum change with this building?

T: It changes so much. We get to be in the center of the arts community in Orange County, be part of a center that attracts a million people a year to performing arts events and we now get to add the visual art component to

that experience.

For the institution, it means we have more space to work in, state of the art galleries that would be able to accommodate showcasing our own collection, but also traveling exhibitions from all over the world.

Getting to this point is no mean feat. What are your challenges now?

T: Today there are no challenges. Today is all about celebration, but tomorrow we continue our fundraising projects to complete the project. We're announcing today that we've reached 65% of our goal. I'm very thrilled that we've reached that point already in our project, and then we will continue to fundraise throughout the two years. With the groundbreaking today, we will be able to talk to the public in greater depth and more publicly about the project.

How would the programming for the museum change when this site opens to the public?

T: More than [our programming will] expand. We've been known mostly as a museum of modern and contemporary art, that will stay the same. Our collection is the core of what we do and that is a collection of mostly post World War II California-based artists and that will be showcased in the new museum, but we will be able to start hosting exhibitions from institutions all around the world in a state-of-the-art exhibition hall and really be able to expand the programming we do in the traditional arts, but also architecture, design, really expanding what an art museum does.

What I love about the design is how it weaves indoor and outdoor. Would it be something your artists will be able to take advantage of?

T: That's what we're hoping for. If you look at the renderings, the sculpture terrace has a great area for temporary sculpture, but we're really excited to start working with artists for really interactive sculpture.

It's amazing the quality of the sculpture that already exists here. The Richard Serra sculpture is right in front of our building and really our design was meant to embrace it. You've got Henry Moore, Juan Miro, you've got other examples of 20th century sculpture that the museum can now be a part of.

While waiting for the opening in 2021 however, how will the museum

bridge past and future at the museum?

T: Well, we have this temporary location in South Coast Plaza Village. It's a former furniture square room. It's thirty-something thousand square feet and we're programming it with young and emerging artists from the Pacific Rim and that's an area of specific focus for our institution for finding and developing new talent, not just in California but throughout the Pacific. Starting tomorrow we will have a whole new set of exhibitions at that location and we encourage people to check us out.

Get a glimpse of the future home of the Orange County Museum of Art. Click right and left to see the different images below:



View from the Julia and George Argyros Plaza of OCMA's main entrance, located near Richard Serra's monumental sculpture, "Connector" | Morphosis Architects

the Pacific Rim deal with the complexities of humanity's relationship to the natural world. Participating artists include arolina Caycedo (b. 1978, United States/Colombia), Daniel Duford (b. 1968, United States), Ximena Garrido-Lecca (b 1980, Peru/Mexico), Mulyana (b. 1984, Indonesia), Robert Zhao Renhui (b. 1983, Singapore), and Yang Yongliang (b. 1980, China). For more information click [here](#).

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Top Image: OCMA's ground floor and mezzanine hold open, flexible galleries for permanent collection installations and temporary exhibitions. | Morphosis Architects

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NEWS

Anton Segerstrom, Craig Wells, Annette Wiley, Mayor Katrina Foley, Thom Mayne, Mark Perry, Carlos Gonzalez, and Todd D. Smith at the Orange County Museum of Art groundbreaking ceremony. Courtesy of OCMA. September 23, 2019 at 10:15am

ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BUILDING

The Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) broke ground on the museum's new building at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California. The institution has raised \$47 million of the \$73 million needed for construction costs, which is 65 percent of its campaign goal. Designed by Morphosis, the architecture firm founded by Pritzker Prize-winner Thom Mayne, the new 53,000-square-foot facility is projected to open in 2021.

“We are so incredibly grateful to our donors for allowing us to take this important step towards realizing a new home for the Orange County Museum of Art at Segerstrom Center for the Arts,” said museum director and CEO Todd D. Smith. “The breathtaking design by Morphosis will undoubtedly support our mission of enriching the lives of a diverse and changing community through innovative and thought-provoking presentations of modern and contemporary art.”

The museum’s new home will boast of 25,000 square feet of exhibition space—approximately double the galleries in its former location in Newport Beach—a flexible main floor, a roof terrace equivalent to 70 percent of the building’s footprint, and a grand staircase that connects the venue to the Julia and George Argyros Plaza and the adjacent performing arts venues. It will also feature 10,000 square feet of dedicated space for education programs, performances, and public gatherings, and will include administrative offices, a gift shop, and a café.

While construction is underway, the institution will hold its third season of programming at its temporary space at the South Coast Plaza Village in Santa Ana. Among the highlights from the season are the opening of six new exhibitions of works by artists from the Pacific Rim including Carolina Caycedo, Ximena Garrido-Lecca, Mulyana, and Yang Yongliang.

Rendering of the new Orange County Museum of Art. Courtesy of Morphosis Architects.

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Orange County Museum of Art breaks ground to complete the final piece of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa

21-09-2019 02:33 via Orange County Register



Todd Smith had made a promise: This summer, the Orange County Museum of Art would break ground on a new home at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.

"Sixty-one hours until the end of the summer, here we are," said Smith, CEO and director of OCMA, as he stood on Friday, Sept. 20, in front of a dirt pit that in two years will turn into one of the largest museums in the county. "It feels magical." A view of the grand exterior stair connecting Orange County Museu

Orange County Museum of Art Is One Step Closer to A Permanent Home

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BY CARREN JAO | SEP. 20, 2019

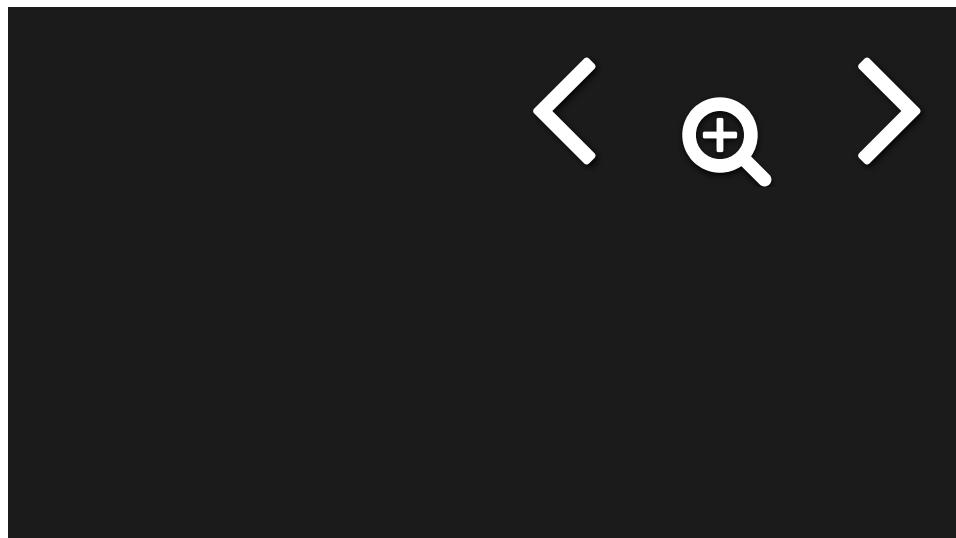


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