

T H E ♦ A ♦ I ♦ R ♦ Y
C E N T E R F O R T H E A R T S

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Ground broken Thursday for The Boedecker Theater
at The Dairy Center for the Arts***

Crocs founder George B. Boedecker Jr., U.S. Rep Jared Polis and Boulder Mayor Susan Osborne helped break ground Thursday morning (Aug. 19) for the new Boedecker Theater at The Dairy Center for the Arts.

The new art house theater is slated to open this winter during the holiday season.

“I’m happy to represent a district that has The Dairy in it,” Polis said. Polis represents Colorado’s 2nd Congressional District, which includes Boulder.

The Boe will be located in existing space in the southeast corner of The Dairy’s historic building at 2590 Walnut Street. The former CATV space will be renovated and reconfigured into a 60-seat cinema featuring independent film and broadcasts of live opera and other performing arts. Comfortable seats in The Boe will offer high-quality cinema view ing, with access to traditional movie theater refreshments, snacks, beer and wine. The theater will also accommodate live performances or programs.

The theater is funded by a generous grant from the Boedecker Foundation and its founder, George B. Boedecker Jr. of Boulder. Boedecker is a longtime Boulder resident and the founder of the local shoe phenomenon, Crocs Inc. He established his Boulder-based foundation to provide critical resources to charitable organizations that inspire positive change within diverse communities around the world. As this project fits well within its mission, his Foundation has also contributed operating funds for The Dairy’s capital campaign.

Richard Polk, chair of The Dairy’s board of directors, saluted Boedecker’s support for the arts in tough economic times.

Polk noted the importance of the arts and of The Dairy to Boulder’s economy.

“Last year more than 150,000 people enjoyed more than 35,000 lessons, classes and performances at The Dairy,” he said.

The Dairy will work with content providers to offer international film festival presentations,

first run independent/international films, high definition productions of concerts, operas, live theater and documentaries, as well as children's programming and other educational programs.

"We expect to work closely with existing film presenters in the area, giving residents one more venue where they can enjoy films," said Richard Harris, executive director of The Dairy.

The theater is part of a major renovation that will complete the repurposing of the Dairy's 42,000-square-foot facility, a nationally recognized model for adaptive reuse of an abandoned industrial space. The building was originally constructed in 1971 as a milk processing plant for the Watts-Hardy Dairy. After Watts-Hardy was sold in the 1980s, a group of artists began to use the property as studio and office space. Boulder residents have raised more than \$5 million since then to gradually improve the building.

In addition to The Boedecker Theater, the current Future of the Dairy project will construct a dramatic new glass façade, adding a safe and convenient entrance along with programming and gallery space. A flowing curved roof covers a transparent glass atrium space and dramatically enhances the solid, block forms of the existing Dairy building. Architect Stephen Sparr, a longtime friend of The Dairy and a former board member, has designed the project and Deneuve Construction is the contractor.

The new entrance, funded by a \$300,000 donation from Boulder-based Western Disposal Co. will provide easy exit in case of emergency and will ensure complete ADA compliance. The City of Boulder, owner of the building, will also contribute. Fundraising is in progress to complete the rest of the renovation.

The Dairy Center for the Arts is a nonprofit cultural arts organization founded in 1992, where the community can experience dramatic theater, comedy, live music, dance performances and visual arts under one roof. The Dairy is home to 15 resident arts organizations. In addition to the new cinema, The Dairy includes black-box theaters of 80 and 100 seats, a 250-seat performance space and multiple galleries. Fundraising continues for the larger lobby space. All donations will also help to seed the future operations of The Dairy, helping to ensure the facility's viability.

For more information on The Dairy Center for the Arts, please contact:

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- **Richard Polk, Board Chair, The Dairy Center for the Arts 303-641-8639**

For information on The Boedecker Foundation, contact:

- **Kelly Gray, Thinkubate, 720-220-1427, www.boefoundation.org.**