

# NORTH PEACE EXPO LEGACY

# ARTS CENTRE

NORTH PEACE EXPO LEGACY COMMITTEE

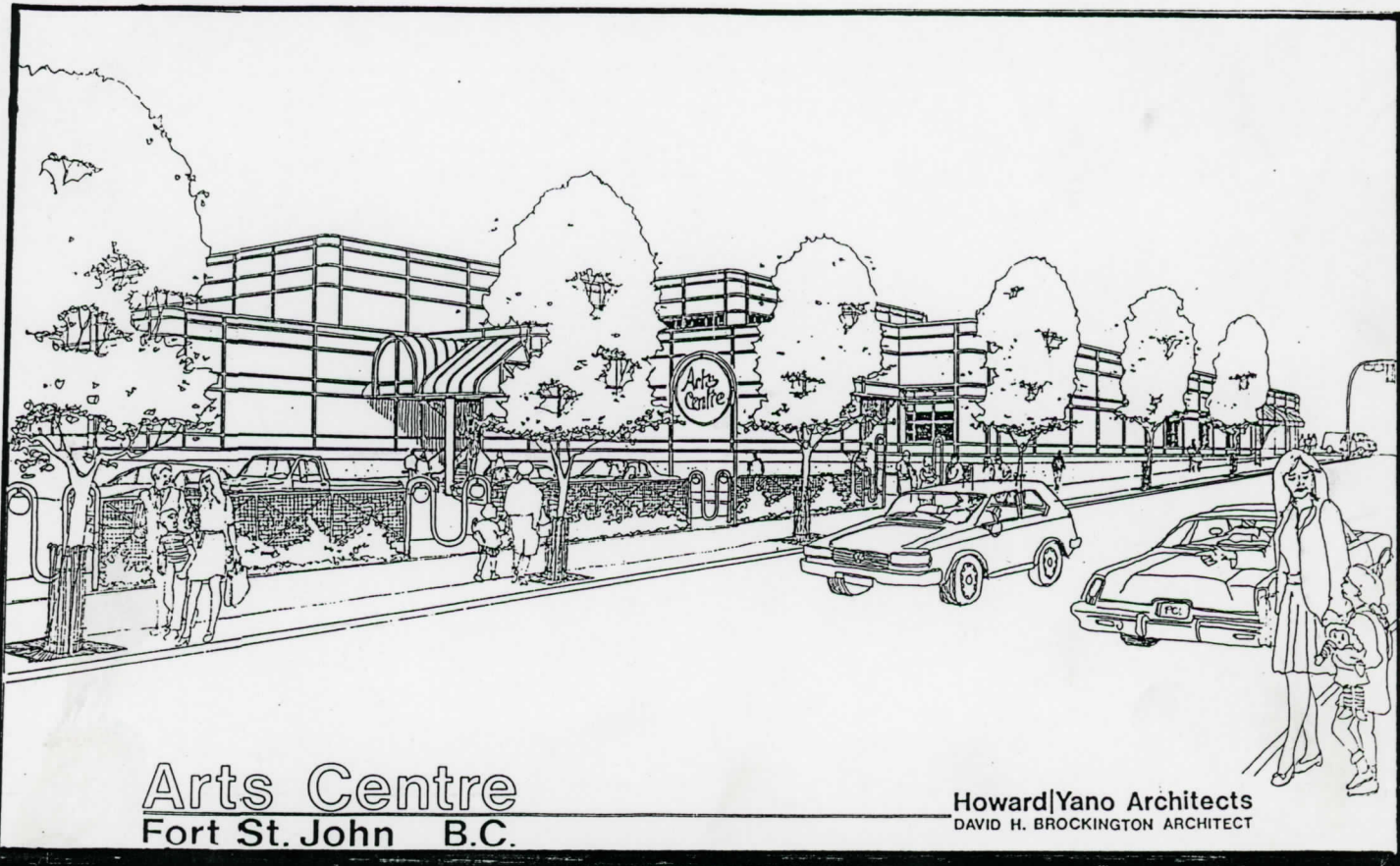
NORTH PEACE CULTURAL SOCIETY

c/o 10003 - 100th Street

Fort St. John, BC

V1J 3Y5

Phone - (604) 785-1988



Arts Centre  
Fort St. John B.C.

Howard|Yano Architects  
DAVID H. BROCKINGTON ARCHITECT



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## THE PROJECT

To construct an Arts Centre with a 10,000 square foot Library, 400 seat theatre, an Artspace for arts-related activities, and an Art Gallery in a vacant 29,000 square foot building. Locating these activities in one facility will increase coordination and encourage continuing development.

## THE LOCATION

The existing building is located in the downtown core of Fort St. John, the service centre for 25,000 people from the City, the Village of Taylor, and Electoral Areas 'B' & 'C' of the Peace River Regional District. The central location will provide access to all and provide economic benefits for the entire community.

## THE NEED

The Public Library currently occupies a rented storefront premise with inadequate space to meet present demands or to plan for future expansion. The present space falls well below the recommended size for the population currently served.

Performing Arts groups are no longer able to utilize facilities at Northern Lights College due to College expansion. The local secondary school gymnasium is of inadequate quality for the scope of the productions and size of the audience. The North Peace area has no proper performing facility.

The Artspace, which coordinates arts activities and classes for all ages and provides a ticket and information centre for the area, occupies temporary commercial space in a basement area of the downtown core.

The Art Gallery is in temporary commercial space and will be asked to vacate if a commercial tenant wishes to lease the premises.

The North Peace lacks the permanent cultural facilities which can provide the amenities required for a stable population, a variety of opportunities, and quality entertainment so often lacking in remote Northern communities. The increasing level of arts activities in the North Peace requires permanent suitable facilities to service the residents and provide a venue for special cultural events which are tourist oriented.





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### THE PARTICIPANTS

The Peace River-Liard Regional District, in cooperation with the City of Fort St. John and the Village of Taylor, initiated the selection of an Expo Legacy Project in the fall of 1985. Input from the community supported the development of an Arts Centre for the North Peace area. A joint application was made to the British Columbia Expo Legacy Fund and a Committee of over 30 interested citizens was formed to pursue other sources of funds.

### EXPO LEGACY FUND

The first major step towards the success of the project was taken when North Peace MLA Tony Brummett announced the approval of a \$1,000,000 grant from the Expo Legacy Fund of the Government of British Columbia.

### FEDERAL FUNDING

A joint application for funding was also made to the Department of Communications under the Cultural Initiatives Program. Hon. Frank Oberle, MP for Prince George-Peace River and Minister of State for Science and Technology made the announcement of a \$500,000 grant from this program in May of 1987.

### OTHER FUNDING

Corporations, local businesses, and private citizens have been and continue to be approached for their support of this worthwhile project.

### BUILDING COMMITTEE

In May, 1987, a Building Committee composed of four people was formed to oversee the construction of the project. Their first task was to obtain a complete and detailed feasibility study and design to answer many of the questions arising in the area regarding the project.

### ARCHITECTS CHOSEN FOR DESIGN STAGE

Following careful research and interviewing, the firm of Howard/Yano Architects with David Brockington, Architect, was chosen and meetings were held with all user groups to determine the features required in the finished project. The report presented by the architects in September 1987 included many new features as well as a new budget. The same firm has been engaged to complete the design stage.

### SOCIETY FORMED

In June of 1987, the North Peace Cultural Society was registered. This Society will act as legal entity during construction and to operate the facility once it is completed.



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BAY BUILDING PURCHASED

On the recommendation of the Expo Legacy Committee and with the concurrence of all user groups, the Society formally purchased the Bay building in early October of 1987.

STRUCTURAL CHANGES

Hegge Construction of Dawson Creek was contracted in June, 1988 to complete the basic structural changes to the Arts Centre. December 1988 is the date of completion of Phase I of the construction which will prepare the outer shell of the building only.

THE FUTURE

Continued fundraising in 1989 will allow the interior of the building to be completed. Phase II will begin when sufficient funds are located.





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## BUILDING COMMITTEE

David Toews has 14 years of building experience in Vancouver and Fort St. John. Mr. Toews established Colteran Development Corp. in 1979 as a building construction and property management company. He has recently completed the first R2000 residential home in Fort St. John.

Ross MacLean came to Fort St. John in 1919 and spent 30 years as the Imperial Oil Bulk Agent. As a member of the Hospital Board for 17 years, Mr. MacLean was actively involved on the fund raising and building committees. In the late 1940's and early 1950's when he served on the Town Council, Mr. MacLean was responsible for the first sewer and water systems. He is a model Rotarian and has retired, or "supposed to be retired", as he states it.

Vonnie Dixon has lived in Fort St. John for 30 years. As a member of the Northern Lights College Board from 1978-83, Mrs. Dixon was Chairman of the Building Committee during the construction of the Fort St. John and Fort Nelson campuses and the renovation of the Dawson Creek campus. She has worked with Project Managers and architects during construction and in 1979 contracted her own home at Charlie Lake. She is a founder of the Potters' Guild and an active spectator of live performances. She is currently a creative writer of magazine articles.

John Herron has lived in Fort St. John "all his life". During his work as a manager of Chatham Steel, Mr. Herron was involved with the re-construction of the warehouse. He has served 4 years on City Council and spent one year as a volunteer consultant for City Public Works. He has experience with planning, project management, and budgeting for building construction projects from warehouses to offices. His most recent completed project is the new ICBC building in Fort St. John.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The Building Committee will have responsibility for requesting proposals from architects and recommending their final selection to the overall committee. They will be involved in discussions with the architect chosen and with input from the user groups, will recommend design decisions to the architect and bring the final design to the main committee for approval.

A similar procedure will be followed with regard to selecting a Project Manager or General Contractor and will work with the individual chosen on tender calls and selections. They will receive progress reports from the construction supervisor, submit financial reports to the Expo Legacy Committee, and recommend bills to be paid by the Society.