

Ackland Museum Store opens its doors

By Britton Alexander
Staff Writer

After four months of construction, the Ackland Museum Store finally opened its doors May 5 on the corner of Franklin and Columbia Streets.

The property, which was empty for more than seven years, has been converted from a bank space to a gift shop and gallery.

The project is funded in part by a November 2009 grant of \$150,000 from UNC's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. Originally meant to open in November 2010, construction and contractor negotiations forced the Ackland to delay the store's opening.

Emily Bowles, director of communication for the museum, said the store functions as a gateway from Franklin Street to the Ackland Art Museum.

"We want to make sure people are aware of the museum," she said.

Store merchandise ranges from jewelry and architectural books to home decor and children's toys, with prices being anywhere from between \$5 and \$575.

"The vast majority of the products are things you cannot find in this area," Bowles said.

Gallery space inside the store contains original artwork from regional artists, pieces that



DTH FILE/TARIQ LUTHUN

The Ackland Museum Store opened its doors May 5. The store functions as a gateway from Franklin Street to the Ackland Art Museum.

patrons can buy after a set period of time, said store manager Alice Southwick.

The current exhibit features the work of Ron Liberti, a local rock poster artist who currently has roughly 100 works on display.

In addition to promoting museum awareness, Southwick said she is optimistic that the store will generate profits directly benefiting the museum's educational programs and projects.

"I think this will bring more people to the museum, as well as those who are traveling in Chapel Hill and may not know that the museum is half a block down from Franklin Street," said Sam Rosman,

60, a museum patron since 1978.

Southwick said the store has received a lot of positive feedback.

"I have to say that for the museum, and me personally, it is just a really exciting time," she said. "The reception that people have given us has warmed the cockles of my heart."

Contact the Arts Editor
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CPA receives major grant

By Tariq Luthun
Arts Editor

Two years might seem long way away, but when it comes to centennial anniversaries, it's never too early to start preparing.

On July 20, Carolina Performing Arts announced it had received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation worth \$750,000.

The money will fund 12 commissions inspired by Russian composer Igor Stravinsky's ballet "The Rite of Spring," which celebrates its 100th birthday in 2013.

"The Rite of Spring at 100" series will be presented throughout the 2012-13 CPA season to celebrate the controversial ballet.

Emil Kang, the University's executive director for the arts, said the grant allows CPA to begin taking more concrete steps to making the project a reality.

"The main thing the grant does for us is allow us to pay some of these artists," Kang said, adding that the centennial celebration has been in the works since 2008. The project already features a list of distinguished performers, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

The century-old ballet was the most controversial of its time. Its heavy use of dissonance and themes of fertility and sacrifice incited riots during its world premiere, said

Reed Colver, director of campus and community engagement.

"It premiered on a level that was unheard of," Colver said. "How often have you heard of a ballet that caused riots?"

Kang said the University was one of three schools with performing arts organizations to receive grants from the Mellon Foundation for classical music projects, the other two being the University of Texas and Penn State University. CPA received the largest grant of the three schools, he said.

But CPA still has its work cut out for it, Kang said.

"The budget is going to be a little over 2 million (dollars), the rest of which we need raise ourselves," he said.

Colver said the commissions will be made by 20 artists. While they have some time, it's not as large of a window as one would expect, Colver said.

"Anything like this needs lead time to prepare," she said. "It will be a significant portion of our season."

Each team of artists will be taking part in a residency of its own,

with commissions featuring new musical scores and visual performances, Kang said.

The Mellon Foundation grant is the second Carolina Performing Arts has received for the project.

In the spring, Carolina Performing Arts received a smaller grant of \$45,000 from the foundation in order to support an exploratory residency for the commission by world-renowned artists Anne Bogart and Bill T. Jones, who took part in a 'concept to curtain' talk on campus in April.

Bogart and Jones will bring their companies closer together when they return for another residency in the fall, Colver said.

"Working with Bill so far has been nothing less than miraculous," said Bogart, artistic director of New York-based SITI Company. "We listen to one another and then each of us makes bold suggestions."

A version of this story ran in the July 21 issue of The Daily Tar Heel.

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