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Moody Foundation gives \$20M for Rice's new arts center

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With a \$20 million award from the [Moody Foundation](#), [Rice University](#) plans to build a new Center for the Arts.

Rice said Tuesday that plans for the 50,000-square-foot Moody Center for the Arts are currently in the predesign phase. The building will be constructed near Rice's current arts and media center and is expected to open in 2015.

"The Moody Foundation's trustees saw the potential for the Moody Center for the Arts to open new creative channels between Rice and Houston's outstanding museum community," [Ross Moody](#), a trustee of the foundation, said in Rice's statement.

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Rice still needs additional funding and the board of trustees' approval for the building. The exact amount of additional funding needed is not yet available, a Rice spokesman said.

Plans for the new center include lecture and studio classrooms, a theater venue and gallery space, which would feature exhibitions of faculty and student work as well as curated exhibits.

The space will allow for collaboration — both within the university and with the city's museums — and complement Rice's existing arts facilities. It also should help attract faculty and students, [Caroline Levander](#), vice provost for interdisciplinary initiatives, said in the university's statement. Levander will oversee the center along with a faculty director funded with an endowed position.

"The arts at Rice have been significantly enhanced over the past decade, and the Moody Center for the Arts will enable Rice University to take an important step to provide suitable space to serve an increasing recognition of the importance of the arts across disciplines," Rice President [David Leebron](#) said in the statement.

Olivia Pulsinelli is the web producer for the Houston Business Journal's award-winning website. [Follow her on Twitter for more.](#)

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