

# Donors Make a Difference

A leadership commitment from the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation provides a crucial base of support for the Center's Plaza Project.

## The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation

In January of this year, the Kennedy Center Trustees unveiled the preliminary plans for a project that will transform the face of the Kennedy Center and the city of Washington. The plan describes reconnecting the Center with the city by creating a stately performing arts plaza over the tangle of highways that now isolate the Center. In addition, these plans call for two new buildings created by renowned American architect Rafael Viñoly. One will house rehearsal and administrative space for the Center and the other a comprehensive arts education and exhibition center. The education center will be an interactive exhibition space that will include experimental learning activities for children. It will also highlight and pay tribute to the heritage of individual achievement in the performing arts, serving to both educate and inspire visitors to the Kennedy Center.

Before these plans had even been announced, this vision had already received a crucial vote of confidence through a \$100 million lead gift from the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation. The Center would like to pay tribute to the philanthropic impact of the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation and the vision of the two people who have made possible this unparalleled philanthropic leadership, Catherine and Wayne Reynolds.

The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation seeks to support institutions and programs that educate and inspire. The Foundation's leadership holds firm to the belief that when individuals are given the educational tools and the incentive to achieve, society as a whole is trans-



Catherine and Wayne Reynolds

formed. The Foundation desires to fulfill the need for a forum to honor and highlight individuals' contributions to and legacies in the performing arts. It supports the role of the performing arts in lifting the spirit and nurturing the imagination of individuals. As artists and companies strive for excellence in their performances, they in turn inspire audiences with their talent and virtuosity. Catherine and Wayne Reynolds, through the support of the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation, have given the Kennedy Center the unprecedented opportunity to realize the goals of this major new project.

Prior to this lead gift for the Kennedy Center Plaza—the largest in the Center's history—the Foundation's leadership had already demonstrated a commitment to supporting the Kennedy Center and National Symphony Orchestra. By underwriting the 2001 National Symphony Orchestra Ball, the

Foundation provided crucial leadership support for the Orchestra's innovative artistic initiatives. A \$10 million commitment in December 2001 established the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Series for Artistic Excellence, which will allow Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser to present ten truly exceptional annual artistic engagements that would otherwise not be financially possible. Highlights of the Series, now in its third year, include bringing the Bolshoi Ballet and Opera together for the first time in a single evening and a thrilling all-star concert version of Oscar Hammerstein's *Carmen Jones*. During the 2003–2004 performance season, the Series will present a week of performances and master classes by incomparable soprano Renée Fleming.

When the Kennedy Center Plaza comes to fruition, our nation's capital will boast an extensive performing arts campus, increasing the Center's artistic capacity and enabling the Center's programs to reach an even broader audiences. The philanthropic leadership of the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation has brought the Center's goal to raise \$300 million to build these new facilities well within reach.

To learn more about the Kennedy Center Plaza expansion please visit the Kennedy Center's Web site at [kennedy-center.org/about/plaza](http://kennedy-center.org/about/plaza). To learn of opportunities to become a part of this groundbreaking project, please contact Marie A. Mattson, Vice President of Development at (202) 416-8066 or [mamattson@kennedy-center.org](mailto:mamattson@kennedy-center.org).