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New buildings envisioned for Kennedy Center, walkway to downtown

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Sketches of two new buildings for the Kennedy Center, an eight-acre plaza and a tree-lined road and walkway connecting them with downtown Washington were displayed Wednesday by Rafael Vinoly, named Wednesday as architect of the \$650 million project.

The plan includes a large circular fountain. The Capitol and the Washington Monument are visible in the distance.

The project will bridge freeways that separate the Kennedy Center from much of the city. The buildings are expected to house a museum of the performing arts, offices and rehearsal space.

Vinoly is a New York architect who has also designed the Tokyo International Forum and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

"His concept for the plaza clearly reflects his understanding of the Center and its mission," said Kennedy Center Chairman James A. Johnson.

Congress has authorized \$400 million for the public-private project. Last month the **Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation** announced a gift of \$100 million for it.

"I'm sure my brother would be proud of the way the center is fulfilling its mission as a national performing arts center," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., in a statement. The center is named after President John F. Kennedy.

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