

SKYPAC Breaks Ground on the Robert P. Ramsey Annex, Marking a Milestone in Their Expansion

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SKYPAC took a major step forward in its expansion with the groundbreaking of the new Robert P. Ramsey Annex on Tuesday, April 1st. Joined by the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, notable community figures, and local supporters, SKYPAC celebrated the beginning of this exciting new chapter outside its main facility on the 7th Avenue side, between the Kentucky Grand Hotel and the Historic Taylor's Chapel.

The ceremony emphasized how the annex will enhance SKYPAC's ability to support the region's artistic and cultural landscape. It also celebrated the organization's ongoing impact and future growth. Following the groundbreaking, guests gathered in the SKYPAC lobby for a reception and a viewing of the annex renderings, offering a first look at the vision for the new space.

This expansion was made possible by a significant \$8.5 million appropriation from the Commonwealth of Kentucky last year. The funding was secured through the efforts of both state and local leaders, including Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear. Sen. Mike Wilson, Sen. David Givens, and Sen. Max Wise sponsored the bill in the Senate, while Rep. Michael Meredith, Rep. Kevin Jackson, Rep. Robert Duvall, and Rep. Shawn McPherson supported its passage in the House. Richie Sanders served as SKYPAC's representative in Frankfort, and key local leaders, including SKYPAC board chair and former Judge-Executive Mike Buchanon, SKYPAC board member and former House Speaker Jody Richards, and SKYPAC board member Gary Ransdell, played vital roles in the process. Additionally, Judge-Executive Doug Gorman and the Warren Fiscal Court approved the expansion, located on county-owned land adjacent to SKYPAC.

"We want to thank the Kentucky General Assembly, Governor Andy Beshear, and our local legislators for funding this much-needed facility. The four-story annex, designed by Williams Associates Architects and built by Sunbelt Construction, Inc., will feature two large rehearsal halls, administrative offices, talent accommodations, props construction space, storage, and mechanical & maintenance rooms. We are so excited to have officially broken ground on our new addition," said SKYPAC board chair Mike Buchanon.

SKYPAC President and CEO Jeff Reed emphasized the importance of this expansion, stating, "The Robert P. Ramsey Annex will enable the Ramsey Theatre Company to continue producing professional shows and elevate them to a new level. Countless young people who participate in our BG OnStage productions will have a place to rehearse. Due to SKYPAC's rapid growth over the past four years, we are in dire need of more office and storage space. This building will also meet those needs. I am grateful to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the grant that made construction possible."

Managing Director of Ramsey Theatre Company and Artistic Director of BG OnStage, Elise Charny, shared her enthusiasm for what this means for the future of local theatre. “This annex is truly a symbol of growth for our future. BG OnStage and Ramsey Theatre Company both have so much to offer. This space will allow us to nurture the talent that walks through those doors and continue to provide the area with more theatrical opportunities and experiences.”

Producing Artistic Director for Ramsey Theatre Company and BG OnStage, Diane DiCroce, added, “This groundbreaking for our annex is truly breaking 'new ground' for professional and educational theatre here in Bowling Green. With each new set we build in our scene shop, we will be able to build the future of Ramsey Theatre Company and BG OnStage and provide a 'theatre home' for both professional and emerging artists to rehearse and live so that we can share the joy of live theatre with the community and beyond.”

SKYPAC board member, Ramsey Theatre Company founder, and the namesake of this new annex, Robert P. Ramsey, also expressed his excitement, stating, “I'm pleased with the direction Ramsey Theatre Company is headed. Bringing Broadway to Bowling Green and witnessing the new leadership take it to another level has been exciting. I'm enjoying the incredible shows and talented actors, and there's a real need for space to continue elevating the theatre experience for both the actors and patrons. This new annex will be a truly great addition.”

More details on the project's timeline and vision will be shared as construction progresses.

ABOUT SKYPAC- SKYPAC is a premier performing arts venue located in downtown Bowling Green, KY, and is home to Orchestra Kentucky, BG OnStage, and the Ramsey Theatre Company. The facility includes the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall, a 1,700-seat state-of-the-art auditorium; the Goodwin Gallery, the primary art exhibition space; the Renshaw Education Center, which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater—a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls and classrooms; and the Denny and Carol Wedge Children's Art Gallery. SKYPAC is led administratively and artistically by Jeffrey Reed.

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