



Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017

Contact:

Katy Dorrah, Executive Director

Mark Arts

316-634-2787

katy@MarkArtsKS.com

David and Julia Koch Family Supports Wichita's new Mary R. Koch Arts Center Also known as *Mark Arts*

\$1 million gift dedicated to David's mother Mary R. Koch for her dedication to the arts

WICHITA, KAN. – In celebration of his mother's passion for the arts, David and Julia Koch announce a \$1 million donation to Mark Arts. This donation funds the David and Julia Koch Family Great Hall at the new Mark Arts building currently under construction in Wichita.

"My mother had a true appreciation and devotion to the arts," Koch said. "We are honored to be able to support Mark Arts and the tremendous work being done to enhance the arts community."

Mark Arts' new building at 1307 N. Rock Road will be known as the Mary R. Koch Arts Center. The name Mark Arts is both a nod to an influential benefactor – Mary R. Koch, who was also a student in the School of Visual Arts – and refers to the marks artists make on their work.

"Our students and patrons are grateful for David and Julia's donation to Mark Arts," said Katy Dorrah, executive director at Mark Arts. "Their generous support allows Mark Arts to provide the region with a flexible, architecturally significant great hall that can be used for corporate events, weddings, civic functions and more. This unique space complements the innovative teaching studios and art exhibition galleries."

Mark Arts' new 40,000-square-foot prairie-style arts center will feature an events center that hosts up to 700 people; state-of-the-art technology for teaching and exhibitions; art and educational spaces optimized for creative media; a culinary teaching kitchen; a sculpture garden; gallery space for national exhibits; and green space for art fairs, special events and plein air classes.

Mark Arts will celebrate its grand opening with the Midnight at Mark Arts event on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017. Details about will be posted at MarkArtsKS.com.

About Mark Arts

The mission of Mark Arts is to be a vibrant arts hub in Wichita and the region by providing opportunities to appreciate and create art in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. It was originally founded in 1920 as the Wichita Art Association, later became The Wichita Center for the Arts and is the area's oldest visual arts organization. The galleries are open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit MarkArtsKS.com or call 316.634.2787.

###

MARY R KOCH ARTS CENTER