



## ARCHITECTURE Phoenix's Next Museum Boom

**By Ed Irving** • If a city's progression is measured by its culture, then Metro Phoenix is well on its way. With hundreds of millions of dollars going into the expansion, renovation, and construction of Phoenix-area museums, it is safe to say the Valley is riding another cultural wave not seen since 1988, when voters approved a \$1 billion cultural bond that financed the Burton Barr Central Library and renovations at the Heard and Phoenix Art museums. Now, 17 years later, Phoenix is poised for another museum-building bonanza. With the coming expansions of the Phoenix Art Museum and Arizona Science Center—and the completion of the Mesa Arts Center and Phoenix Family Museum—the Valley is well on its way to being the Southwest's cultural capital.



### Phoenix Art Museum

The Phoenix Art Museum undergoes another major expansion this fall. With a budget of \$33.2 million, the new facilities include a dramatic new entrance, a 12,500-square-foot indoor/outdoor lobby, and a new four-level gallery wing, which will encompass more than 25,000 square feet for the expanding collections of modern, contemporary, and Latin American art.

**Scheduled completion: May 2006**



### Arizona Science Center

The science center's 20,000-square-foot expansion is nearly complete, adding some much needed breathing room. The new space will allow the center to keep its regular Arizona-themed exhibitions while having sufficient room to feature national traveling shows. In addition, the project will restructure classroom space and the indoor eating area to better accommodate visiting schools during field trips.

**Scheduled completion: October 2004**



### Mesa Arts Center

Located in the heart of Downtown Mesa, the MAC is the largest single capital improvement in the city's history and is already serving as a catalyst for revitalization. More than two-thirds complete, the \$90 million center will be the largest arts center in Arizona, offering four theaters, five galleries, 14 visual and performing arts studios, a lecture hall, and outdoor gardens and sunken courtyards.

**Scheduled completion: Spring 2005**



### Phoenix Family Museum

Architect Wendell Burnette reviewed the suggestions of Valley children and educators to create a multi-sensory toy box of interactive exhibits, classrooms, and auditorium space in Downtown's old Monroe School building. The museum's interior will receive a boldly colored, modern overhaul, while the historic structure will retain its neoclassical façade to satisfy the city's historic commission.

**Scheduled completion: Spring 2006**