

parents to bring their kids to play. The park is expected to cover approximately 10,500 square feet. The "Kid's Corner" will also allow a place for children to try on uniforms, play on equipment or have their picture taken with cardboard cutouts of famous ball players.

"We are looking to add a family dimension to the ball park," Aylesworth says. "If you happen to have young children, who may not have the patience to sit through nine innings of baseball, there's something else to do."

The stadium planners also want to surround the main concourse with baseball history. "This museum concept is alive and well," says Aylesworth. "We're not yet sure of the form, but it's clearly an aspect of the

design that is forthcoming."

One such idea for this history concept is the Play-O-Gram, which would be a lighted scoreboard that keeps track of the progress of the game like they did in pre-radio days.

"We want some things in the design that are reminiscent of the old ball parks," Aylesworth says. Baseball memorabilia such as posters, art and video exhibits will also be displayed throughout the stadium.

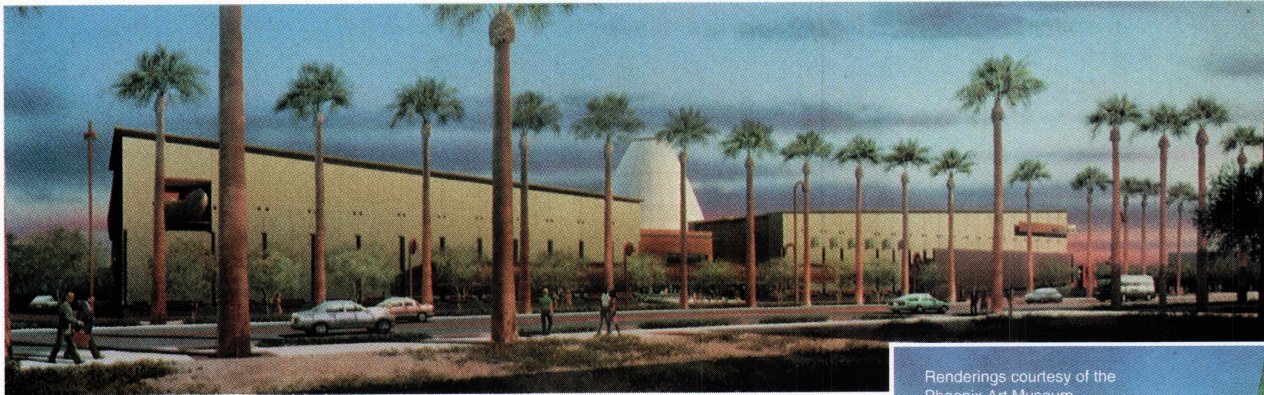
Hopes are high that the Arizona Diamondbacks, Arizona's newest baseball team, will do well. Stadium plans call for a Hall of Fame in the southwestern part of the stadium to track and showcase their achievements.

According to Aylesworth, utility relocations will start in September of this year. The existing site has utilities that will either have to be relocated or enhanced to provide capacity for the stadium. Once that construction work is finished, contractors are expected to start the excavation and foundation work in November.

Arizona has waited a long time for a stadium. Every time it seem that the dream would go down in flames, it rose out of the ashes. And now, it seems, the dream is finally going to be a reality.

"We're going to play ball in April 1998," says Aylesworth. "The stadium will be there for opening day."

A B



A Work of Art

by Cynthia Scanlon

If you've driven down Central Avenue and spotted the huge green monolithic structure growing out of the ground, you've gazed at the Phoenix Art Museum's new \$25 million expansion. But unlike many of the Phoenix construction projects currently dotting the landscape, this multimillion dollar demolition and renovation project is going smoothly and according to plan.

"We are on schedule and on budget, which, for a museum project, is fairly atypical," says Brock Huttenmeyer, project manager for Johnson Carlier, Inc., the contractor that is building the project. "They are usually difficult to complete to the quality a museum expects, and typically, they run over budget."

Huttenmeyer attributes the company's success to Phoenix Art Museum Director Jim Ballanger and the museum staff's careful planning of the entire project.

"Jim Ballanger went around the country touring other museums that were under construction," Huttenmeyer says. "He found out what to expect, including all the pitfalls."

The museum, which is currently 73,000 square feet, will expand to more than 160,000 square feet.

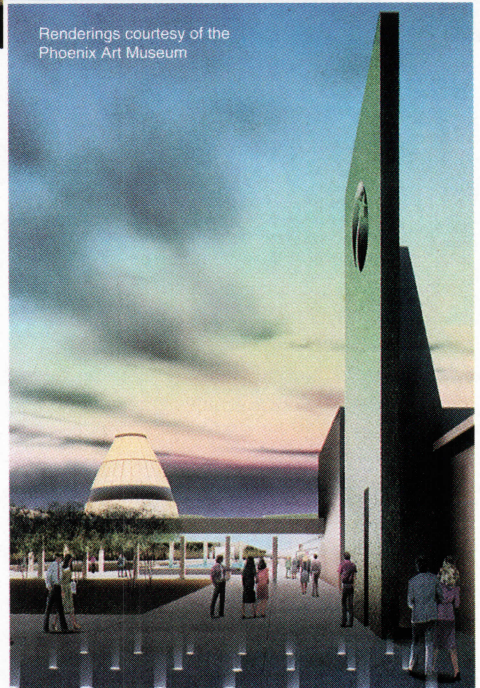
The galleries will double to 65,000 square feet, and a new special exhibitions gallery of 9,100 square feet will provide for large-scale exhibitions that are not being able to be shown in Arizona currently.

The completed facility will also include a lobby, a great hall for community events, a 300-seat public theater for lectures, an audio-visual orientation room, food service facilities, and a covered 4,500 square-foot structure pavilion to be located in the renovated courtyard. All areas will be connected by public elevators and inclined walks.

Storage facilities, classrooms, studios and staff offices will also be renovated and modernized. Finally, state-of-the-art security systems will be installed.

The expansion of the museum was designed by the architectural firms of Lescher and Mahoney/DLR of Phoenix in association with Tod Williams/Billie Tsien and Associates of New York City.

Renderings courtesy of the
Phoenix Art Museum



The design and construction of the project will take place in three phases. From May 1994 to May 1995, Johnson Carlier, Inc. completed new construction of the lobby, great hall, exhibitions gallery, public theatre, Latin American gallery and graphics gallery.

Phase two will take place from May 1995 to May 1996 and will center around the renovation of the current building. The third phase will commenced simultaneously with phase two in May, with the demolition of part of the old Phoenix Public Library, which has moved to Margaret Hance Park.

The westernmost part of the library was built in 1950. The easternmost part was added in 1976. Johnson Carlier demolished the western part of the library in May. The new museum construction will then be extended to the existing library structure.

"We'll fill in the basement hole of the 1950 portion, and then do asbestos abatement and rework the interior finishes of the 1976 portion," Huttenmeyer says. "This will become the administration and education portion of the building where they'll have the administrative offices and their own library."

Huttenmeyer says the 300-seat lecture hall posed quite a challenge for the Johnson Carlier workers. "All of the construction and walls are solid concrete to make it a soundproof room," he says.

The museum's outside walls are constructed of green marble, which was transported in from Park City, Utah, and a sparkling sand, which was imported from Georgia.

"We used these materials for the precast panels on the outside,"

Huttenmeyer says. "When the sun hits those panels, it makes them glisten."

The Phoenix Art Museum, which is currently the largest visual arts museum in the Southwest, is slated to be completed in the fall of 1996.

"When it's finished, we'll go around the block and rework the parking lots and sidewalks, put in landscaping, and paint," says Huttenmeyer. "It will be a nice makeover for the entire block."

Currently, the Phoenix Art Museum, which is a private, nonprofit educational institution, has an average annual attendance of more than 210,000. About 20 percent of its visitors are from out of state.

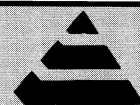
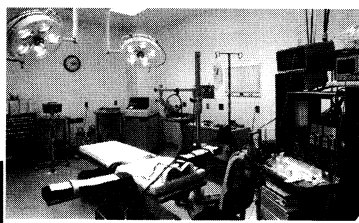
More than 13,000 works make up the museum's permanent collection, including 3,780 works on paper, 1,584 paintings, 518 sculptures, and more than 6,000 textiles. Areas of emphasis include American Art, Western American Art, Latin American Art, Asian Art, and Costume and Costume Design.

The Museum's current operating budget is now \$2.9 million. More than 75 percent of that is derived from businesses and individuals. To provide for future financial stability, the museum has embarked on a fundraising project to raise \$15 million additional dollars. To date, they have raised almost \$10 million of that and hope to have the other \$5 million raised by the opening in 1996.

A B

Cynthia Scanlon is a free-lance writer based in Tempe.

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