

# Roswell Daily Record

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## RMAC to get historic facelift

[Vanessa Beauman](#)  
Record Staff Writer

The Roswell Museum and Art Center has a monumental facelift coming its way just as the RMAC Foundation wraps up the last stretch of an equally historic fundraising effort.

Elizabeth Shamas, president of the RMAC Foundation, had three years beginning in 2007 to raise \$300,000 in order to receive a matching donation from local philanthropist and businessman Don Anderson. In a fundraising campaign called "Reaching New Heights," Shamas has helped raise about \$281,000 in just over a year.

Once the additional \$19,000 is received, Shamas will be able to say there is \$600,000 available to help the RMAC Foundation and the projects it supports.

"With the 300,000 matching dollar campaign, it's taking us truly up the summit," Shamas said. The RMAC's renovation will be funded in part by a grant received through New Mexico MainStreet.

The RMAC, at 11th and Main streets, was first to have just one patio renovated. This project soon expanded to include the renovation of most of the museum's outside appearance.

Renovations will be done on the museum's patio, a sculpture garden, a "pocket park," a Goddard rocket gantry and a statue of Robert H. Goddard.

The new Goddard rocket gantry will include piano wire surrounding the structure to allow a good view as well as deter people from touching it.

"This is going to be a landmark," Shamas said of the RMAC. "This is going to be a marvelous addition to our museum." Shamas referred to the RMAC as the "jewel of the Southwest," as it offers not only Roswell but its entire region with an unparalleled artistic and cultural experience. She called the RMAC a multi-disciplinary venture that offers the community not only art, but science and history as well.

Shamas has made several presentations during the "Reaching New Heights" campaign to share the prospective renovations with the community. Her presentations include information about Baker H. Morrow, the architect for the project, and his drawings which depict how the museum will soon look.

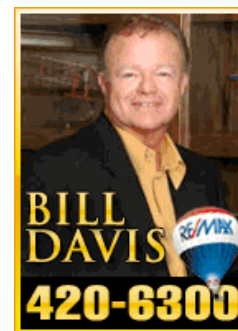
Morrow has written various books on landscapes, architecture and design; taught architecture at the University of New Mexico; and has years of experience as a landscape architect in New Mexico and its surrounding regions.

"I can't tell you how proud we are to have him as our architect for this renovation," Shamas said of Morrow.

Donations for the "Reaching New Heights" campaign may be sent to the Roswell Museum and Art Center Foundation, 400 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 220, Roswell, NM 88201. For more information, call (575) 627-0918.



The Executive Board of Roswell Museum and Art Center reviews conceptual drawings for the patio to be added to the RMAC building as a part of the Reaching New Heights campaign. From left, John Basset, Cindy Torrez, Elizabeth Shamas, Bill Liakos, Gail Burroughs and RMAC Director Laurie Rufe. (Courtesy Photo)

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