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RMAC holds donor appreciation

[Andrew Cone](#)

Record Staff Writer

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The Roswell Museum and Art Center Foundation held a donor appreciation reception Friday to thank donors who contributed to the recently-concluded Reaching New Heights campaign.

Donors were treated to a champagne toast and "behind the scenes" tours from the RMAC staff and volunteer guides.

Laurie Rufe, museum director, said a majority of the donated funds would be used to expand the museum's courtyard out to Main Street.

The foundation will host a groundbreaking event for the renovation and expansion of the museum's courtyard at 10:30 a.m., Friday.

Donald Anderson and Stephen Fleming enjoy a champagne toast during Friday's reception, intended to honor donors of the museum's Reaching New Heights campaign. ([Daily Record/Andrew Cone](#))

"It will be a beautiful venue for public activities, as well as the museum's activities, and there will be a bronze sculpture of Robert Goddard installed out there in January of 2010," she said.

Rufe said the rest of the money would be used toward art education classes and an investment fund to secure the future of the foundation and the museum.

The campaign was initiated by Don Anderson, a longtime supporter of the museum and the founder of the museum's Artist-in-Residence program.

Anderson pledged to provide "matching dollars" to all funds raised by the campaign. The campaign raised \$600,000, including \$300,000 in matching funds pledged by Anderson.

Anderson has been involved with the museum for 60 years, and in 1983 received the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence for his patronage of the arts. He is also an accomplished artist, having had several of his paintings on display at the museum over the years.

After being nominated by Governor Bill Richardson, Anderson was chosen by the National Governors Association as one of eight recipients to receive the 2006 Distinguished Service Award for establishing the Artist-in-Residence program in 1967 and for opening the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art in 1994.

The RMAC was opened in 1937; the facility averages nearly 41,000 visitors annually and serves some 11,700-plus students and has a membership of almost 800 households.

The foundation was incorporated in 1987 and is dedicated to promoting and supporting the educational mission of the museum.

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