

Art institute opens new facilities

The heart of the Detroit Institute of Arts will open again next Tuesday, marking the end of \$3.6 million of improvements in public facilities inside the main building.

Cafe service will resume in the new sky-lighted Kresge Court. Other additions include new restrooms, a new North-South corridor connecting the museum's two wings on the ground level, new ticket service facility and auditorium lounge area and a new table service restaurant with cocktails during noon hours.

The interior project, largest ever undertaken by the art institute required 18 months to complete. It was made possible by a \$1,914,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation with additional funds from the Founders Society. The design is by William Kessler and Associates.

Architects. The R. E. Dailey Company acted as construction manager. Museum director Frederick Cummings describes the "Kresge Sequence" as the midway point in the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (1979-1983) which calls for refurbishing the interior and exterior spaces before the Centennial Year 1985.

Cummings said work on the public park surrounding the art institute continues on schedule. The expected completion date of the Woodward Entry Plaza with stepped waterfall, fountains and driveway is July 1. The entry plaza is made possible by a gift from the Benson and Edith Ford Fund.

Meanwhile, the start of construction of an outdoor sculpture garden in anticipation in the spring of 1981. This garden is funded by Mrs. Allan W. Sheldon. Landscaping of the entire museum perimeter is planned after 1982.

Still to be financed are the restoration of the 54-year old auditorium and lecture/recital hall and interior construction of a Teacher Resource Center, a Student Orientation Center and expanded office space in the loft areas.

Puppeteers give show

Twins Janet and Linda Herman of Southfield will give a puppet program on a Valentine's Day theme 2-3 p.m. Saturday at Baldwin Library.

They have given more than 600 puppet shows including an appearance in Shain Park. They make their own puppets and teach puppet making in the Super Saturday program in Southfield. Both are members of the Puppeteers of America and the Detroit Puppeteers Guild.

The Five-Year-Plan, Cummings said, will modernize the beautiful 96-year old museum and facilitate its one million annual local attendance.

Their original production which they will do at Baldwin Library on Valentine's Day features audience participation and fairy tale type stories. The show is recommended for ages 4 and up. There is no charge and no registration is required.

For information contact the Baldwin Library youth room, 647-1700.

Thursday, February 12, 1981

(F15)

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