

## = Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center =

The Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center is a multi @-@ use arts and performance venue in downtown Hillsboro , Oregon , United States . Opened in 2004 , it is housed in a red @-@ colored stone building completed in 1949 as a Lutheran church . Hillsboro , a city on the west side of Portland , owns the three @-@ level facility and operates it through their Parks and Recreation Department .

Walters Cultural Arts Center includes gallery space , classroom space , and a 200 @-@ seat performance hall . With two above ground floors and one below ground level , the center has a total of 15 @, @ 664 square feet ( 1 @, @ 455 @. @ 2 m2 ) of space . Located on East Main Street , the Washington County Courthouse and the Hillsboro Civic Center are just to the west and the Edward Schulmerich House one block to the east on Main . The center is named in honor of a local couple who donated \$ 1 million towards the project which included purchasing the property and US \$ 2 @. @ 4 million worth of renovations .

## = = History = =

The Trinity Lutheran Church congregation was founded in 1917 and acquired their first church in 1923 . By the 1940s the congregation needed a larger place to worship and bought a lot on the corner of Fifth Avenue and East Main Street in downtown Hillsboro in 1941 . A Camas , Washington , rock quarry offered the church an unlimited amount of red colored rock for \$ 1 @, @ 000 as a long as the church transported the rock back to Hillsboro . Construction began in 1947 and the new church was completed in 1949 . By the late 1990s Trinity Lutheran had again outgrown their church and began building a new campus in the southeast part of the city .

The church did not want to sell its former home to just anyone , or for it to be torn down . At this time the city was looking for a space to use as an arts center . Plans for an arts and culture center in Hillsboro were made in the city ? s Hillsboro 2020 Vision . This community plan was finalized in 2000 and designed to improve the livability of the city located in the Portland metropolitan area . Hillsboro purchased the property from the church for \$ 1 @. @ 325 million in November 2000 .

Most of the purchase price came from a \$ 1 million donation by Glenn and Viola Walters to the city to help pay for an arts center in 1999 . The Walterses had earned their money from operating a nursery in the surrounding community . The city had hoped to open a remodeled arts center during the winter of 2001 , but this was delayed with later estimates having the center opening in late 2002 . In December 2002 , construction began on the work to transform the church into a culture and arts center . WaterLeaf Architecture & Interiors designed the changes to the building that sits on a 54 @, @ 648 square feet ( 5 @, @ 077 @. @ 0 m2 ) lot .

Renovations included adding a new roof , creating a new entrance , adding an elevator , among other changes . Creating a new entrance involved removing hand quarried stone from the walls to enlarge a window opening . The remodeling also brought the building up to modern seismic codes and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act ( ADA ) . City officials hoped to maintain the character of the original structure despite changes and upgrades . The total cost for renovations as of opening were \$ 2 @. @ 4 million , with the city paying for 60 % of those costs . Some financing for the center came from selling bricks to the public that were then used on exterior spaces .

On March 16 , 2004 , the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center opened . Total cost for the project including buying the property was around \$ 3 @. @ 5 million . The center ? s operating budget comes from city funds and user generated fees . A new classical music concert series was started at the center in 2009 , as was a book club focusing on arts and culture titles . In April 2010 , the Oregon Mandolin Orchestra held their first ever concert at the center .

## = = Building = =

Located on Main Street at Fifth Avenue in downtown Hillsboro , the center is two blocks from the Hillsboro Central / 3rd Avenue Transit Center MAX light rail station . The building covers 15 @, @

664 square feet ( 1 @, @ 455 @. @ 2 m2 ) of space and contains five classrooms , a lobby , meeting rooms , a box office , exhibition gallery , and an auditorium . The main part of the building has rock walls , and the auditorium contains high , arched ceilings and stained @-@ glass windows . Once featuring a stone chimney , contractors removed the chimney during conversion to the center and inserted an elevator to comply with ADA requirements .

The T @-@ shaped center has three levels , which includes a basement that houses classrooms used for art instruction . Instruction includes courses on creating pottery , sculptures , and ceramics . The second story contains exhibition gallery space and multipurpose rooms , with the focus on visual arts . On the main level is the 2 @, @ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot ( 190 m2 ) auditorium where the church ? s sanctuary was located . The auditorium seats up to 200 people and is used for concerts , lectures , plays , and other events .

On the outside is a garden , and a lawn area to the east with a small stage that is used for fair weather events such as summer concerts . Also outside the building is a new wheelchair ramp that was added to the east side where a new entrance was added . There are two terraces on the exterior of the building and the inside also has a kitchen area .

= = Operations = =

Walters Cultural Arts Center was designed to be a bookend , along with the Hillsboro Civic Center , to increased downtown development . The center is the city ? s first dedicated arts facility . City officials hoped to create a magnet for artists and aficionados in the downtown area with the center and other developments that include a renovated Venetian Theatre . The goal was to have the center encourage art studios to open and for art related festivals to develop to attract people to downtown after most businesses closed . Traditionally , shops and businesses closed by 6 : 00 p.m. as workers in the county seat left for the day . The center also is rented out to groups for private functions .

Performances at the Walters Cultural Arts Center include opera , folk music , country music , and spoken word acts . These include poetry readings and lectures . Art exhibits have included " Organic , " " Questioning Functionality , " and " Questioning Functionality 2 ( QF2 ) " among others . These shows have included art forms such as interior design , crafts , sculpture , and fine art .