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## PAC Trust plans Guthrie Green shows

BY JAMES D. WATTS JR. World Scene Writer  
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Much of the programming for the new Guthrie Green stage in the Brady Arts District will be supplied through a partnership between the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, as well as a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The PAC Trust received one of 80 "Our Town" grants from the NEA that will go toward the first "Lawn d'Arts" performance series, a proposed two-year series of free performances that will be given on the Guthrie Green stage.

The PAC Trust was the only Oklahoma arts organization to receive an "Our Town" grant this year.

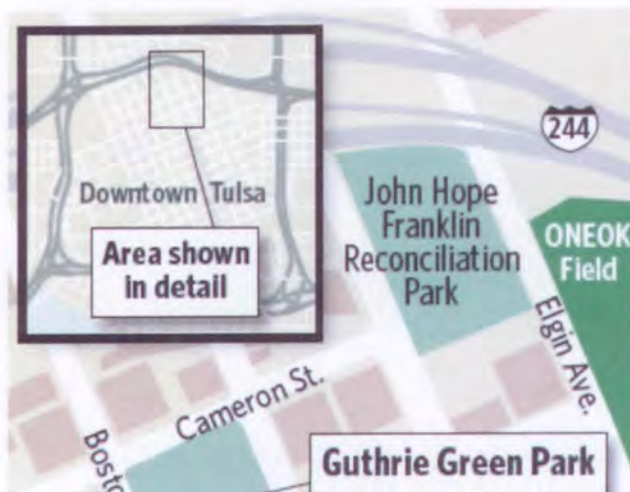
It will also work with local artists and other area nonprofit organizations, including the Tulsa Community Foundation, Tulsa Symphony Orchestra and Living Arts, to present local, regional and national performers on the Guthrie Green.

The Guthrie Green will fill the block bounded by Boston and Cincinnati avenues and Brady and Cameron streets in the Brady Arts District north of downtown Tulsa.

Besides the stage, the \$8 million Guthrie Green will include gardens, brick and concrete paths, a fountain and other water features, a covered pavilion, and canopy.

It is one of several major arts-related projects currently under construction in this area. The Guthrie Green is located directly across from the Mathews Warehouse project, which currently houses the Zarrow Center for Arts and Education, operated by the University of Tulsa and Gilcrease Museum.

The Mathews Warehouse will also be the home of the new Woody Guthrie Center, which will become the permanent home of the Woody Guthrie Archives.

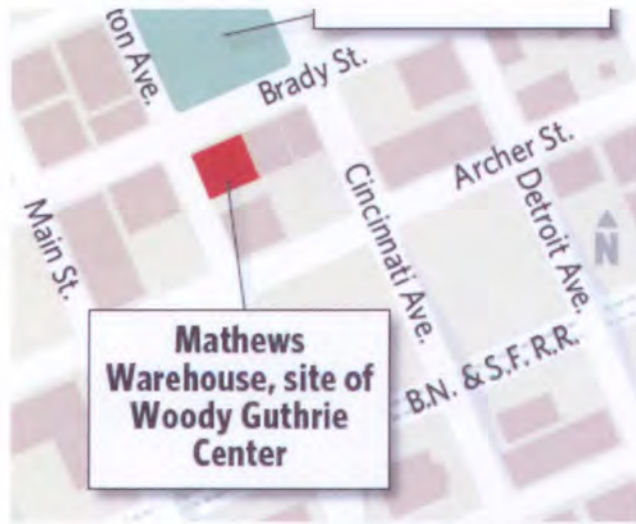


The building will also house the headquarters of the Brady Craft Alliance, the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra and the Philbrook Museum of Art's Eugene B. Adkins Collection and Study Center, and George R. Kravis II Contemporary Design Collection.

These developments are part of a \$110.5 million investment in the Brady Arts and Greenwood districts, which include commercial, residential and nonprofit developments.

The George Kaiser Family Foundation has committed \$53.1 million to the area, with





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the remaining \$57.4 million coming from other sources.

"When we set out to develop a new park, we knew that the success of the space would rely heavily on the activities presented there," said Stanton Doyle, senior program officer with the George Kaiser Family Foundation. "A partnership with the Tulsa PAC Trust was the obvious path for us to take."

The Kaiser Foundation and the PAC Trust first collaborated in 2009, when the two organizations worked to bring the Broadway touring production of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County" to Tulsa.

The foundation and the Trust staff have continued to work together on an informal basis on projects ranging from the Tulsa Awards for Theatre Excellence to the local theater website [greenroomok.com](http://greenroomok.com).

"The Trust's staff had developed a really strong and effective working relationship with the Kaiser foundation," said Ken Busby, chair of the PAC Trust board. "And, quite honestly, the Kaiser foundation was going to need people to create programming for this new facility. So it made sense for them to go with the Trust's staff."

Doyle added that another reason for the partnership was the PAC Trust's "strong record of presenting family-oriented programming at the PAC, and their close ties with many local performing arts organizations."

The George Kaiser Family Foundation paid a stipend of \$15,000 to the Trust for the staff's services. Busby said the Trust will in turn present that money to the city.

The Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust is an independent entity created in 1977 to provide programming for the PAC that is outside the scope of what is offered by the local arts groups that regularly use the PAC.

Although the Trust is independent, its staff are city employees.

The stipend paid by the Kaiser foundation, Busby said, "is to absolve everyone of any perceived conflict. The work that the staff does for the Guthrie Green will become part of their regular duties."

"And as we see it, this is a way of furthering the PAC Trust's mission in a very positive way, of a way of expanding the arts in the downtown area," he said.

That idea was instrumental in earning the NEA's "Our Town" grant. The grants help fund what the NEA calls "creative, place-making projects that help transform communities into lively, beautiful and sustainable places with the arts at their core."

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### Tulsa Roots concerts announced

The series of concerts that were announced Friday, which includes such performers as reggae pioneers The Wailers, folk singer Robbie Fulks and Cajun band Beausoleil, is being presented by Tulsa Roots Music.

"We have been wanting to do some kind of free, family-oriented concert series," said Michael Koster, who runs Tulsa Roots Music with Julie Watson. "And when we learned about the plans for the Guthrie Green, it seemed like all the stars had aligned."

Koster and Watson approached the George Kaiser Family Foundation with what Koster called "a pretty ambitious proposal" for an eight-week series of free concerts.

"We have secured a number of sponsors so that the series is funded enough for us to bring in all national acts," Koster said. "We'll have as many as three acts a day, and the level of musicianship will be high.

"I've been to similar concert series in other cities, and they always had this great atmosphere," he said. "We chose Sundays for this series because it's a good day for families, and we won't be as likely to be competing with shows at other venues in the area, like the Cain's Ballroom or the Brady Theatre."

The Tulsa Roots Music concerts will be presented Sunday afternoons, beginning at 2:30 p.m. At least one of the participating acts from each concert will appear that evening at Fassler Hall. These performances will be \$8 person, and open to those 21 years and older.

The current concert schedule for Tulsa Roots Music's outdoor series (which Koster said is still being booked) is:

**Sept. 9 - The Wailers.** The current incarnation of the band created by the late Bob Marley.

**Sept. 16 - Del Castillo.** An Austin, Texas, band whose music has been featured in the movies "Kill Bill, Vol. 2" and "Spy Kids 3D."

**Sept. 23 - Nation Beat.** An Anglo-Brazilian world music ensemble.

**Sept. 30 - Robbie Fulks and Nora O'Connor with Elephant Revival.** Original acoustic folk music.

**Oct. 7 - Beausoleil with Michael Ducet and the Three Bad Jacks.** Cajun and rockabilly.

**Oct. 14 - The Paul Thorn Band and Uncle Lucius.** Two bands specializing in Southern blues-rock.

**Oct. 21 - Shannon McNally and Samantha Crain.** Singer-songwriters.

**Oct. 28 - TBA**

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**Associated Images:**





A rendering shows the Pavilion Cafe proposed for the Guthrie Green, now under construction in the Brady Arts District. Courtesy

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