



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“NewsNight Akron” visits Akron Art Museum

Special program looks at dramatic renovation project

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KENT, Ohio — June 27, 2006 — Mitchell Kahan, Akron Art Museum director, treats “NewsNight Akron” panelist Jody Miller and viewers to a tour of the exciting renovation under way at the Akron Art Museum. The special “NewsMaker Akron” program airs on Friday, July 7 at 9 p.m., and repeats on Saturday, July 8 at 5 a.m.

Slated for completion in May 2007, the construction project has distinct new architectural elements, including a three-story glass lobby, a large exhibition space and the “roof cloud,” a 300-foot-long cantilevered steel armature extending over and embracing the old and new buildings and the adjacent street, creating a striking new urban landmark.

The \$38 million project will add 63,300 square feet to the Akron Art Museum’s existing 19th-century structure, for a total of 84,300 square feet. The expansion will exponentially increase the museum’s permanent holdings collections and special exhibition spaces, feature new public spaces and create a civic gathering place in the heart of the Greater Akron community.

“Museums today are expanding the role they play in their communities,” said Mitchell Kahan. He added that the new facility will be “a museum that serves visitors with functional design and at the same time challenges and inspires them to think about museums in new ways.”

The project is the first public building in the United States designed by the international firm Coop Himmelb(l)au, recognized around the world for its unique contemporary architecture and innovative engineering.

About “NewsNight Akron”

“NewsNight Akron” airs every Friday night at 9 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49 and offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron.

Hosted by Vincent Duffy, director of programming and operations at 89.7/WKSU-FM, “NewsNight Akron” features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. When opportunities arise, “NewsNight Akron” provides additional in-depth coverage with “NewsMaker Akron” feature stories and candidate debates.

About PBS 45 & 49

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