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## Community volunteers sought for art center

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There will soon be a new "Home for the Arts" in the heart of historic Stillwater.

The ArtReach Alliance facility on Fourth Street North is expected to be occupied by the end of July. Work on the 4,200-square-foot house across from the Stillwater Public Library and adjacent to City Hall is progressing as planned.

On June 20, ArtReach Alliance needs the community's support in landscaping the large property. ArtReach Alliance was selected by Community Thread as a site for the 2009 Summer Service Event.

"We are honored to be a part of this community event," said Jessica Pack, ArtReach Alliance executive director.

"The exterior of the building needs work and this is a great opportunity for the community to make this art center ready for the great programs, exhibits and classes that can happen here."



Volunteers will work at the ArtReach Alliance site to complete landscaping projects and prepare the building for move in day. More volunteers are needed. Call ArtReach at 651-439-1465 or Community Thread at 651-439-7434 to volunteer.

ArtReach Alliance's goal of bringing this center for the arts into existence required both effort and funds.

"Fortunately, ArtReach Alliance had the support of friends of the arts, the city of Stillwater, foundations, corporations and the arts business community to help make this project happen" said Pack. "The building will be ready in July and we are planning an open house for this fall."

Funding was gained from grants and donations for the first phase of functional and aesthetic improvements, and are nearing completion. The arts center will incorporate exhibition space, workshop, studio, offices, ticketing, and meeting space. The exterior of the building will be preserved while providing the public with a new venue for enjoying and participating in arts activities.

Before his passing, longtime community supporter Dick Huelsemann purchased the historic house at 224 N. Fourth St. Huelsemann's wish was to give ArtReach the opportunity to purchase the home, and foundations support was provided to restore the building's historic exterior, complete interior renovations, and improvements to prepare the facility for public use.

Additional funding came from the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, The St. Paul Foundation and the F. R. Bigelow Foundation.

ArtReach Alliance is a non-profit organization whose mission is to connect the St. Croix Valley community and the arts. ArtReach Alliance sponsors community arts events and arts education, supports the work of artists and other arts organizations, and provides arts leadership within the St. Croix Valley community.

More information is available at [www.artreachalliance.org](http://www.artreachalliance.org).

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