

Broad Contemporary Art Museum to Open in 2008

Broad Contemporary Art Museum at LACMA, as well as larger five year expansion plan is well under way at LACMA. BCAM was funded by a \$60 million dollar gift from developer Eli Broad, and designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect Renzo Piano. The architect also designed such buildings as Centre Pompidou and The New York Times building, and is responsible for the expansions of several museums, including the Whitney the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

The new building will feature 25,000 square feet of exhibition space and house Broad's vast collection of contemporary and modern art works. BCAM is part of a larger \$191 million expansion for LACMA. The three phase project includes a new façade, an underground parking garage, and a redesign of the Ahmanson Atrium, with an expected completion date of 2010.

The expansion also includes addition the BP Grand Entrance, an entry gate and pavilion named for British Petroleum in response to their gift of \$25 million. The entrance, situated between the Ahmanson Building and BCAM, will feature *Train*, by Jeff Koons, a 70 foot steam locomotive hanging from a 161 foot construction crane.

The decision to name the entrance for the oil company was met with controversy, as BP has paid over \$125 million in fines for environmental violations in California. BCAM and the BP Grand Entrance are scheduled to open in February 2008.

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