



**Contact:** Geoffrey Bleeker  
Pensacola Opera  
(850) 433-6737 (voice)  
(850) 433-1082 (fax)  
[admin@pensacolaopera.com](mailto:admin@pensacolaopera.com)  
[www.pensacolaopera.com](http://www.pensacolaopera.com)

**For Immediate Release (July 9, 2008):**

**Pensacola Opera Thanks Donors who made new space possible; “Pave the Way” Campaign Continues**

The Pensacola Opera has now spent two months in the newly renovated and rededicated Donald H. Partington Center. As the company has moved to a fully-professional producing company with a staff of seven, the Opera Center itself struggled to contain the company’s growing needs. The new addition, which provides 1300 square feet of office space, allows Pensacola Opera to accommodate its growing staff and create a private conference and practice room. The main hall is now a fully-functioning 1,000 sq. ft rehearsal and banquet hall, used for the Opera to rehearse main stage productions and produce smaller workshop pieces, and available for rental to the general public. Tomorrow, July 10th, the Pensacola Opera Guild will hold its season kick-off party as the first official Opera event in the new space.

Pensacola Opera would especially like to thank the companies whose generous donations of time and materials have made the move to the new space possible: J. Chandler General Contractors, Contract Resources, Hatch Mott MacDonald, Masland Carpets, Urban Objects, W.R. Taylor, Charlie Merritt’s Paint & Wallcoverings, the Italian Cultural Society, Business Communications & Data, Bryan Mullins Professional Services, Tip McAlpin, Spencer, Maxwell, Bullock Architects, and Floor City USA.

The addition and renovations were made possible by a host of area individuals and businesses who came together to provide funding, services, and materials to help the Opera create a space that fits its growing needs, spearheaded by the tireless organizing and generous personal donations of Vaughan Hedrick and Donald H. Partington. While the new office spaces are up and running, funds are still needed to complete renovations. Opportunities to support the Opera’s building fund remain through the “Pave the Way” campaign. For more information on how you can purchase an inscribed brick for the new Opera Center sidewalk, contact Erin Kelley Sammis at (850) 433-6737 or [erin@pensacolaopera.com](mailto:erin@pensacolaopera.com).

The Pensacola Opera Center was dedicated in honor of Donald H. Partington. Partington has been a leader in the community for Pensacola Opera on multiple levels since its founding. He sings with the Pensacola Opera Chorus, and serves as a Trustee Emeritus on the Pensacola Opera Board. It was his generous gift that allowed the Pensacola Opera to move into its own space ten years ago. He spearheaded the effort to expand the Center to accommodate the growing needs of the company. After years of tireless, generous, and unparalleled service, it is only fitting that the Pensacola Opera Donald H. Partington Center bears his name.