

ARCHITECTS, SPONSORS RALLY TO SUPPORT CANSTRUCTION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – CTA Architects Engineers, Harrison G. Fagg & Associates (HGFA), UPS with architect Bob Cummings, and Architectonis have signed on to build sculptures from food cans for the Billings Canstruction, March 13 & March 14, 2010, at the Billings Food Bank.

CTA will have two teams competing against the three other teams to see who can build the best sculpture from cans of food, which will then be donated to the Food Bank.

Sponsors include Big Sky Collision, CTA Architects, Congregation Beth Aaron, JC Penney, Peter Yegen Jr. Golf Course, UPS, J & H, Inc., Galusha Higgins, and Galusha, CPA PC, State Farm Insurance, UPS Stores - the Heights & West End, Linda Harris, CPA PC, and The Pita Pit. Sponsors are still being sought to help with the purchase of cans for the teams.

“We’ve had some terrific response, but we need thousands and thousands of cans to build these sculptures,” according to Dr. Karen Beiser, RMC business and economics assistant professor and SIFE faculty advisor. RMC is coordinating the first Billings event.

Canstruction® is a volunteer trademarked charity of the Design and Construction Industry under the auspices of the Society for Design Administration.

Teams of architects, sponsoring businesses, and organizations compete to design and build colossal structures made from full cans of food. The results are giant “canned art” exhibits, Beiser explained.

The theme for the first annual Billings Canstruction® event is something about Billings, about Montana, and/or about a Billings organization.

The teams build entertaining structures, which will be judged by a panel of judges and by the public, on March 13 & 14 at the Food Bank. The public may view them during regular

Food Bank hours March 15-18.

According to Sheryle Shandy, the Food Bank executive director, Canstruction is a wonderful way to cap a great year for serving the area's underprivileged.

The event will celebrate the new Food Bank with a Billings Canstruction gala reception and awards ceremony March 19.

Construction of a new building was made possible, in part, by a \$1 million donation from the Fortin Foundation in December 2008, the largest single gift the Food Bank received, according to Shandy.

The Fortin Foundation gift, presented by Nick Cladis of Capstone Wealth Management, was a result of the Fortin family recognizing the prudent way the Food Bank was operated and "the passion that the board and Sheryle had for the project," Cladis told The Billings Gazette.

"We're proud to partner with Billings architects, the Billings Food Bank, our neighbor down the street – the Circle K Club from Montana State University–Billings – and the whole community to bring this to Billings. Not only will it be challenging and fun, but it will help with the effort to educate the public about a great need and, hopefully, address that need," Beiser added.

The new building is the ideal place to hold the Canstruction event. The huge warehouse provides ample space for the structures to be built and displayed, a good venue for the public to see the structures, and eliminates any problem of delivering the cans when the event is over.

"The cans will all be right here, ready to be stacked on shelves, and used," Shandy said. "Our mission is first to feed the hungry, but also to educate, to address root causes of hunger and poverty and to promote economic development," Shandy said.

Businesses and organizations interested in participating should contact Karen Beiser, RMC assistant professor, business administration and economics, (406) 657-1170, or email: karen.beiser@rocky.edu.

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