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Immediate Release

**Press Contact:**  
Karen Gysin  
612.375.7651  
karen.gysin@  
walkerart.org

**WALKER ART CENTER'S SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN HAS RAISED GIFTS  
TOTALING \$77 MILLION**

**INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, AND FOUNDATIONS HAVE SUPPORTED THE  
WALKER'S \$92 MILLION EXPANSION**

The Walker Art Center announced today it has raised \$77 million in support of its \$92 million expansion to be completed in April 2005 (\$67.5 million for construction; \$24.5 million in endowment funds for operations). At a critical juncture in the Walker's history and prior to the public phase of the Walker's capital campaign, 120 individuals, corporations, and foundations have made a commitment to help shape the Center's future and enable it to remain a valuable cultural resource in Minnesota and one of the leading contemporary art centers in the world. The Walker's expansion will double the size of the existing facility by adding 130,000 square feet of interior space, and, in phase two, four acres of green space. The expanded 17-acre Walker campus invents a new model for cultural institutions—placing audience engagement at its center and visual, performing, and media arts under one roof.

Lead gifts to the Walker's campaign have come from longtime supporters as well as from succeeding generations eager to contribute to the cultural vitality of their community. Since 1966, Julia W. Dayton and her late husband, Kenneth, have made it possible for countless others to engage with contemporary art with their major contributions to the Walker's annual, capital, and acquisition funds. In addition, their lead gifts were instrumental in the creation and expansion of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, and they have donated more than 300 artworks to the Walker collection. As the

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Walker heads toward completion of its new campus, the Dayton's have continued this generous support with a lead gift of \$16 million, the largest gift to the capital campaign.

“Judy and Ken Dayton have played a singular role in sustaining this institution’s growth and ambition for more than three decades,” says Walker Director Kathy Halbreich. “They have been the best partners a museum director could imagine—intellectually vivacious, generous beyond my dreams, and caring about all aspects of the institution. Judy’s passionate commitment of her time—she has served on the Walker Board for more than 38 years and now co-chairs our Capital Campaign Advisory Committee—is a constant inspiration. While her modesty would make it inappropriate to even attempt, it is impossible to calculate what she has contributed to the Walker and to the community.”

A new generation of philanthropic leaders is also helping to shape the Walker’s future. Another major gift of \$10 million from William W. and Nadine M. McGuire marks one of the largest ever committed to the commissioning, development, and presentation of new works in the performing arts. The gift provides for the construction of the Walker’s new theater; the creation of the Walker’s first named curatorial position; and a \$2 million fund to continue its commissions of new work. Nadine McGuire has been a member of the Walker’s Board of Directors since 1994. Walker Board members Matthew Fitzmaurice, Andrew Duff, Nazie Eftekhari, and John Taft have contributed time and resources to the campaign and encouraged support among their peers. “The Walker expansion represents much more than bricks-and-mortar growth,” said Fitzmaurice. “It feels to me that the Walker is heading toward an important point in its history. . . . There seems to be a grassroots momentum—a new, younger generation that’s engaging with and taking ownership of the organization.”

Generous major gifts for the Walker’s expansion have come from the Twin Cities corporate community as well. Donors whose civic pride and gifts of \$1 million or more have helped to build community support for the project are: Target Corporation, General Mills Foundation, Medtronic Foundation, U.S. Bancorp, Cargill Foundation, and Star Tribune Foundation.

The Walker has been fortunate to receive a wide range of contributions from the Target Corporation over the years, including substantial annual operating support and

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contributions to specific events and programs. When the Walker building closed its doors for renovation on February 15, 2004, a yearlong exploration of art without boundaries began. Thanks to generous support from Target, Walker without Walls took the Walker vision outside to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and to venues across the Twin Cities.

Now, as the expansion project moves ahead, the Target Corporation has continued its significant support by helping the Walker erect new walls and move back inside. A generous contribution of \$5 million, the largest corporate gift to the campaign, will go toward construction of one of four new galleries on the Walker campus, to be identified as the Target Gallery. Laysha Ward, Vice President of Community Relations for Target Corporation, comments on the company's relationship with the Walker: "Target Corporation has been proud to partner with the Walker as they've explored innovative ways to bring audiences to contemporary art, and take contemporary art out into the community—back into the everyday life of the Twin Cities. It's been a partnership built upon a shared devotion to the creative spirit and to the importance of the arts in communities. Now, as the expansion nears completion, we're so excited to help provide a permanent space in the new building, one where the community can continue to enjoy the world-class exhibitions for which the Walker is known."

The General Mills Foundation has been an important partner in the history of the Walker's capital projects, in addition to providing funding to Walker endowments and individual programs. In 1969, a \$150,000 contribution to the Walker's Capital Fund Drive supported construction of the Edward Larrabee Barnes building. In 1980, the Foundation contributed \$500,000 toward a campaign that resulted in the expansion of the museum's physical plant and the creation of new galleries, the Library, Lecture Room, Sol LeWitt Room, art storage, and Print Study Room. And in 1989 the Foundation contributed \$1.2 million for "The Fund for the Walker" campaign toward the completion of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. General Mills has also signed on to be a "Premier Partner" at the Walker for three years once the building opens. The Foundation's most recent gift of \$1.5 million helps make possible a distinctive threshold to the new Walker campus—the General Mills Hennepin Lounge.

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For the tens of thousands of commuters and pedestrians passing by the new Walker, perhaps the most striking feature will be the multilevel south wing clad with embossed aluminum mesh panels that will catch natural light and respond to changes in weather and point of view. On the street level, the tall windows of the General Mills Hennepin Lounge will reveal the activity inside the Walker to passersby while connecting visitors to the life of the street. General Mills Foundation President Chris Shea explains its commitment: “We believe our community is fortunate to have an internationally acclaimed, multidisciplinary art center of the caliber of the Walker, and that it enriches the quality of life in the Twin Cities. As the Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, we are particularly proud of our long and continuing partnership with the Walker Art Center. The new expansion will accelerate its evolution as an innovative gathering place. This increased capability to connect the community to art is very consistent with the mission of our General Mills Community Action organization to champion strong communities.”

One of the most celebrated art museums in the country, the Walker Art Center is known for commissioning and presenting innovative contemporary art; fostering the cross-pollination of the visual, performing, and media arts; and engaging diverse audiences in the excitement of the creative process. The museum has evolved from a small-scale, primarily regional institution into a major local, national, and international artistic resource.

The design for the new Walker, by Pritzker Prize-winning architects Herzog & de Meuron, engages the surrounding neighborhood with a new four-acre park as well as vistas onto the downtown Minneapolis skyline. The expanded facility, double the size of the existing building, will feature new galleries; education areas; a new 385-seat theater; street-level and roof-top terraces; plazas, gardens, and lounges; and increased services and amenities for visitors. The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, a project of the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, is adjacent to the museum. Since its creation in 1988, more than 5 million people have toured the 11-acre site, which has become one of the top 10 destinations in the state.

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