



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Brock, City receive consultants' report, outline next steps**

The final report of the feasibility study on the proposed relocation of the Brock University Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in conjunction with the construction of a downtown performing arts centre in St. Catharines has been delivered to the University and City of St. Catharines.

The report, prepared by Levitt Goodman Architects, Martin Vinik Planning for the Arts and Urban Strategies, is more than 400 pages, and was circulated to members of the University's Board of Trustees at a Dec. 4 Board meeting, and presented to members of St. Catharines City Council this evening.

The report has been submitted to the Brock Board of Trustees' Capital Projects and Finance Committees to study and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, and the City has referred the document to staff for their input.

A team of Brock and City staff established as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the parties will work to develop a set of joint recommendations to facilitate the project, which will then be presented to the University's Committees and City Council for review.

A joint meeting of Brock's Capital Projects and Finance Committees will take place on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009 to consider the administration's recommendations. The Committees' recommendations will then be placed on the agenda of the Board of Trustees' Feb. 26, 2009 meeting for review and ratification. Similarly, St. Catharines City Council will review and assess the recommendations by the beginning of March 2009.

"This project represents an incredible opportunity for both the University and City, and we are excited to be moving forward in our collective efforts to create a significant 'arts hub' for Niagara in downtown St. Catharines," says Jack N. Lightstone, President, Brock University. "As this initiative moves ahead, we will continue to work with our private and government stakeholders to foster the support that will make this project a reality."

"This project will be the cornerstone of Council's vision for a revitalized downtown St. Catharines," says Mayor Brian McMullan, City of St. Catharines. "With the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts bringing students downtown by day and the proposed Niagara Performing Arts Centre attracting audiences from across the region, it will encourage the type of cultural district growth that will be a catalyst for downtown redevelopment."

#### **For more information, please contact:**

- **Brian McMullan, Mayor, City of St. Catharines, at 905-688-5601, ext. 1540;**
- **Jeffrey Sinibaldi, Media Relations Officer, Brock University, 905-688-5550, ext. 4687; jsinibaldi@brocku.ca**