

C O L B U R N

Colburn's Frank Gehry-Designed Expansion, Los Angeles's New Home for Education and Performance, to Open September 25, 2027

Opening celebrations to include a gala concert in Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall and inaugural performances in the Dance Center



LOS ANGELES, Calif. (October 6, 2026) – Sel Kardan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Colburn, today announced that Colburn's highly anticipated 100,000-square-foot campus expansion, designed by Frank Gehry, will open with a gala concert on Saturday, September 25, in Colburn's new 1,000-seat, concert hall in-the-round, **Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall**. A community celebration will follow on Sunday, September 26, featuring a ribbon-cutting ceremony; free performances throughout Colburn's campus, including inaugural performances at the **Dance Center**; and a grand finale concert in Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall that evening.

These performances will kick off a week-long opening festival with performances by acclaimed guest artists, visiting ensembles, resident organizations, faculty, and students, exemplifying Colburn's unique position in Los Angeles at the intersection of education and performance.

"We are excited to announce the opening date for our extraordinary new facilities, which the late Frank Gehry designed for us with unsurpassed artistry and skill and heartfelt devotion to our mission. Transformational philanthropic support has enabled the creation of a building which will offer new opportunities for world-class music and dance education and exceptional performances at Colburn," Sel Kardan said. "We look forward to welcoming students, faculty, audiences, artists, and performing arts organizations to Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall and the Dance Center in downtown Los Angeles, making the Colburn campus more vital than ever as a hub of artistic activity and exchange."

Meaghan Lloyd, Partner at Gehry Partners, said, “Colburn and its trustees and donors have been incredibly generous in planning this building to unlock the potential not only of Colburn’s students but of the performing arts across Los Angeles. Frank Gehry shared that commitment to expanding access to the arts, which made this project so important to him. He created this world-class hall in the hope that it would inspire generations of artists to experiment, take risks, and find their own voices.”

Programming in Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall and the Dance Center will include a mix of performances featuring Colburn students and faculty, Colburn-presented guest artists and ensembles, resident organizations, and rental clients. Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall will become the permanent home of the Colburn Orchestra, the flagship ensemble of the Conservatory of Music. Colburn’s 2027-28 season, to be announced in full this spring, will include artist residencies and festivals that combine educational opportunities for students with performances for the public.

Colburn offerings will be complemented by ongoing performances by resident organizations, including the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO). Beginning in 2027–28, Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall will become the new Downtown LA home for LACO, with a season that includes a commissioning initiative supported by Grammy- and Academy Award-nominated artist Seth MacFarlane. LACO concerts will feature premieres of new fanfares by celebrated film composers, including a work by John Williams to be performed at LACO’s inaugural concert in the hall.

The new building will complement Colburn’s existing 428,137-square-foot facilities, which include the 430-seat Zipper Hall and 189-seat Thayer Hall, as well as rehearsal areas, practice rooms, studios, administrative offices, and a residence hall.

It will offer an additional prominent cultural destination in Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA), where, in 2028, Colburn will celebrate 30 years on Grand Avenue. Colburn continues to be an anchor in the Grand Avenue Cultural District, contributing to the vibrancy of the area along with the neighboring Walt Disney Concert Hall, The Music Center, The Broad, and MOCA. The building will join the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall and mixed-use development The Grand in establishing the largest concentrations of Frank Gehry-designed buildings in the world.

Frank Gehry’s design for the building is a dynamic composition of varied, interlocking volumes, both transparent and opaque, that step down into the natural contour of the site. The distinct components are knit together by an expansive, light-filled entrance and a pair of gardens at street and rooftop level. The exterior metal cladding features a luminescent pink paint coating called Pink Kandi, a fluoropolymer resin-based finish with aluminum flake developed in collaboration between Gehry Partners and Sherwin Williams coil coating division. The custom color was inspired by Kandy paint, a high gloss vibrant color process used on automobiles. The project reunited Gehry with Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics, his collaborator on Walt Disney Concert Hall, and with Michael Ferguson, principal of TheatreDNA, who formerly consulted on Gehry’s New World Center in Miami Beach and Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College.

The building's 1,000-seat **Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall** has an in-the-round design that will create intimacy between the performers and the audience and features an orchestra pit and a stage large enough to accommodate the grandest works and the largest orchestrations. The interior of the hall features natural light and adjustable acoustic elements, hovering above the performers, which give the impression of floating clouds. Equipped for large-scale orchestra, dance, opera, jazz, and other productions, the hall will provide a much-needed performance space for the region's established and emerging performing arts organizations.

Colburn's new building will also include the **Dance Center**, the new home for Colburn's Trudl Zipper Dance Institute. Poised to be one of the most comprehensive dance education complexes in Southern California, the new facilities will triple the space currently dedicated to dance at Colburn. The Dance Center's 100-seat Studio Theater and four professional-sized studios will allow for expanded dance instruction, rehearsals, and performances. The Dance Center will open with the 2027-28 academic year in August 2027.

Construction of the 100,000-square-foot building, located adjacent to Colburn's Grand Avenue campus in DTLA, is expected to reach substantial completion in summer 2027. Among the construction milestones to be reached in the coming months, an outdoor stage will be poured in the Choi Family Garden; trees will be planted in the rooftop Mullin Family Garden of Thoughts and Dreams; lift machinery will be integrated and wood flooring will be installed for the Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen Stage; and a bar, the Diener Barre, will be created in the building's lobby.

This project has been made possible through the early generosity of remarkable philanthropists from Los Angeles and around the world. Colburn's Building Our Future campaign is generously supported by leadership gifts from Carol Colburn Grigor and Terri and Jerry Kohl. Philanthropists joining the Grigors and Kohls have created programs and spaces that include the Mullin Family Garden of Thoughts and Dreams, the Fiock Family Fund for Excellence, Eva and Marc Stern's underwriting of the Colburn Orchestra, the Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen Stage, the Maestro Ernst H. Katz Chair of Conducting Studies by the T. Robert Greene Foundation, the Choi Family Garden, the Denise Scheerer Tap Studio, the Keck Youth Performance Fund, the Kobrin Fund for Dance Excellence, the Diener Barre, the Warner Henry Family Artist Lounge, the Charles Hamlen Artist Dressing Room, the Rafael & Luisa DMH Foundation Director of Bands, and Alice Steere Coulombe's underwriting of Colburn's beloved weekly Performance Forum of the Conservatory of Music. Additional early leadership support has been provided by the Ahmanson Foundation and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. The Colburn School is grateful for the support of many additional donors who have made remarkable gifts towards this transformational project through shared funds, seat dedications, and Founders Circle memberships.

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About Colburn

Colburn is a home for music and dance in Los Angeles, providing world-class performing arts education for its students and exceptional performances and programs for the public. This mission comes to life through a community of artist-faculty dedicated to excellence, and in state-of-the-art performance spaces and educational facilities that welcome students, audiences, artists, and performing arts organizations from Southern California and across the globe.

Each year, more than 2,000 students come to Colburn, ranging from emerging professionals to young beginners. They study in one of four academic units—the Community School of Performing Arts, Conservatory of Music, Music Academy, and Trudl Zipper Dance Institute—which are united by a single philosophy: that all who desire to study music or dance should have access to top-level instruction. Over \$16 million in annual scholarship support helps students reach their full potential, regardless of their ability to pay. Serving all units of the School, the Center for Innovation and Community Impact prepares students for sustainable careers and nurtures the passion and ability to serve their communities, while also offering a suite of pipeline programs for students from local Title I schools.

A destination for the performing arts, Colburn also presents more than 500 performances each year on campus and in the community. Featuring internationally acclaimed guest artists, faculty, alumni, and students and offered at accessible prices, these performances invite the community to experience exceptional music and dance while cultivating the next generation of audiences.

About Gehry Partners

Gehry Partners, LLP is a full-service architectural firm with extensive international experience in the design and construction of academic, museum, theater, performance, and commercial projects. Founded in 1962 by Frank Gehry (1929-2025) and located in Los Angeles, California, Gehry Partners currently has a staff of more than 100 people.

At the heart of the firm's approach is a method in which the client is brought fully into the process as a member of the design team, making the design a true collaboration between architect and client. Every possible design option is developed using physical models and presented to the client for review. As work proceeds, the physical models become refined and documented using the computer program Digital Project, a highly advanced three-dimensional surface modeling program developed by Gehry Technologies for use in the architectural, engineering, and construction industry.

At any given time Gehry Partners has as many as 25 projects in various stages of development. These projects vary in size from the very large-scale Guggenheim Museum Abu Dhabi to projects as small as the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum in Biloxi, Mississippi. Projects that were in design at the time of Frank Gehry's passing included the Ocean Avenue Project in Santa Monica, California; China Medical University (CMU) Medicine Innovation Museum in Taichung, Taiwan; QMOCA Museum in Quanzhou, China; a residence in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; the Lower Tram structure at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, California; the

Louis Vuitton Flagship location in Beverly Hills, California; Dar Al Funoon Abu Dhabi performing arts center in the United Arab Emirates; and the new Gladstones Restaurant in Los Angeles, California.

Projects designed by Frank Gehry that are under construction as of fall 2026 include the King Street Development in Toronto, Ontario; the Guggenheim Museum Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates; La Maison LVMH – Arts, Talents, Patrimoine in Paris, France; the Colburn expansion in Los Angeles, California; and Prospect Place at Battersea Power Station in London, England.

Images: Renderings of Terri and Jerry Kohl Hall and the Dance Center at Colburn. Courtesy of Frank O. Gehry & Gehry Partners, LLP.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Crescent Communications, Lisa Bellamore
323 500-3071 | lbellamore@gmail.com

Polskin Arts, Ruth Frankel
646 213-7249 | ruth.frankel@finnpartners.com