

Peace Center meets \$21.5 million goal

By Paul Hyde

Arts Writer

phyde@greenvilleonline.com

A \$1 million contribution from Greenville County has helped the Peace Center reach its \$21.5 million fundraising goal for its ongoing extensive renovations, Peace Center officials said late Tuesday.

The county's donation capped off a capital campaign that began with a \$2.5 million pledge from the City of Greenville in January 2010, although

more than 80 percent of the total funding has come from the private sector.

"The Peace Center is most grateful to County Council and Greenville County taxpayers for this generous gift," Peace Center president Megan Riegel said in a prepared statement.

"It brings beautiful symmetry to the city's gift that kicked off our campaign and is a testament to the collaborative spirit that has helped our community become a national model for public-private partnerships."

The Peace Center's 20th anniversary renovation plan has provided a dynamic new look for the performing arts venue's exterior while greatly expanding lobby space inside.

The Grand Plaza in front of the center has been redesigned with new water fountains and landscaping aimed at making the area more park-like and pedestrian friendly.

Still to come are a redesigned outdoor amphitheater called the

Continued from Page 1B

TD Stage and, inside the Peace Center, a new patron's lounge area with a stage, dance floor and outdoor balcony overlooking the amphitheater and the Reedy River.

Greenville County Council Chairman Butch Kirven said the county's contribution made

cal component to the positive economic growth of Greenville County, with \$1.1 million in annual tax revenues," Kirven said.

He said the Peace Center has an overall economic impact of \$25 million annually.

"Contributing to this project is an investment that will reap significant economic, educational, social and cultural rewards for Greenville County