

STEAMBOAT ART MUSEUM

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STEAMBOAT ART MUSEUM OPENS SATURDAY

The Steamboat Art Museum will open its doors to the public at 807 Lincoln Avenue this Saturday as part of the initial phase of establishing the museum in the Rehder Building on the main street of Steamboat Springs. The museum, which incorporated a year ago, is leasing the space formerly occupied by Into The West from the City of Steamboat Springs.

“We wanted to have a ‘soft opening’ as soon as possible so that locals and the many visitors this time of year could see what we’re doing,” said Robert Dieckhoff, President of the museum’s board of directors. “We’ll have a gala opening later this winter to celebrate this important move and direction for the Steamboat Art Museum (SAM).”

Initially, visitors will be able to view a diverse and eclectic collection of artwork from past and current Northwest Colorado artists, some historical pieces from local museums, and loaned artwork from private collections that was created in the area. In addition, information about becoming a member of the museum, plans for the future, and a model of a planned remodel of the building will be on display.

The museum is in the process of contracting for a long term lease of the space from the City. The City received the building from the estate of Helen Rehder, who specified that the building be used as a museum.

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The museum has contracted with a nationally recognized art consultant to do a feasibility study to determine the needs and opportunities for an art museum in the area. Plans call for the museum not only to start an art collection, but also a collection of art books and subsequent research capabilities and educational programs.

One goal for SAM is to establish a relationship with the Denver Art Museum and through an advisory relationship with Peter Hassrick, who is the curator of the Western Collection, to bring the Denver Art Museum's Western Collection to Steamboat Springs as one of SAM's upcoming museum shows. In the future, the plan would be to loan Steamboat's permanent collection to other museums throughout the country, creating interest in Northwestern Colorado art and artists.