

County Museum breaks ground for new gallery

But \$6 million more needed to finish the job

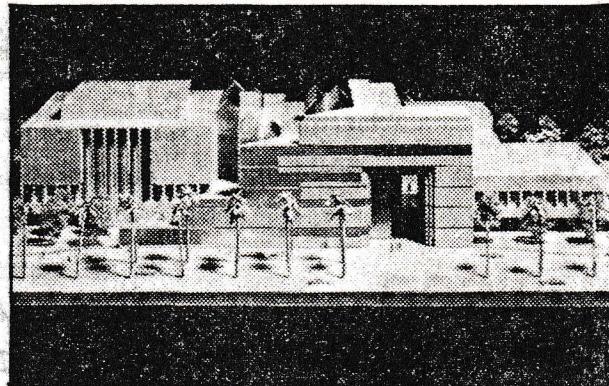
By Hunter Drohojowska

A brass band played and balloons ascended as 1,500 of the L.A. County Museum of Art's financial supporters gathered for a luncheon of hot dogs and beer yesterday. The occasion: The ground-breaking ceremony for the museum's Robert O. Anderson Gallery for 20th-Century Art. On hand to celebrate were Supervisor Ed Edelman (whose district includes LACMA), museum president Julian Ganz Jr., museum director Dr. Earl A. Powell III, and the gallery's namesake, who is also chairman of the Atlantic Richfield Co.

Designed by the New York architectural firm of Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer, the 75,000-square-foot, four-story building of pink limestone and glass block will double the museum's original exhibition space. To be located in the plaza area of the museum, the facility was named in Anderson's honor after ARCO donated \$3.5 million to LACMA in 1979. Projected to open in 1986, the gallery will have a 100-foot facade running along Wilshire Boulevard. (During construction, visitors will enter from Ogden Drive via a temporary bridge.)

The building initiates Phase II of LACMA's four-phase expansion program. And after the Anderson Gallery is completed, there are plans to build a Costume and Textiles Research and Design Center, a central court and an environmental control center. Phase I, which concluded last March, involved expansion of the conservation center, Ahmanson Gallery and the addition of a bridge to link that building to the Armand Hammer Wing. Phases III and IV will include a Robert Gore Rifkind Center for German Expressionist Studies, a 22,000-square-foot pavilion to house the museum's collection of Far Eastern art and a photography gallery.

Ganz illustrated just how costly such ambitious plans are by presenting the partygoers with an appeal



for more money. The museum's capital campaign has raised more than \$50 million since 1980, \$7 million of it in the last six months. But according to the museum president, another \$6 million is needed by next year. The funds are used for expansion, acquisitions and the endowment, and so far, \$27.5 million has been raised toward the \$33 million tab for the Anderson project.

In endorsing continued cooperation between the public and private sectors, Anderson said, "I happen to believe that the greatest collection of artistic talent in the world resides in this great city. By the end of the century, L.A. will be the undisputed world center for the arts."



Paul Chinn/Herald photographer

From left: Ed Edelman, Julian Ganz Jr., Robert O. Anderson and Dr. Earl A. Powell III at yesterday's ground-breaking ceremony for L.A. County Museum's Robert O. Anderson Gallery (model shown below).