

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, SEPT. 2, 2014

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## **Significant gift helps SAPAC reach funding goal**

### **Naming rights assigned; City Auditorium restoration to move forward**

The San Angelo Performing Arts Coalition and the City of San Angelo proudly announce a \$3 million gift that earns naming rights to City Auditorium and allows the modernization and re-opening of the auditorium to move forward.

The agreement between the City of San Angelo, the San Angelo Performing Arts Coalition, and local arts patron Elta Joyce Murphey McAfee provides for naming the auditorium the “Elta Joyce Murphey Performance Hall & Stage at San Angelo City Auditorium.”

Mrs. McAfee’s generous gift, other gifts and grants received by the Performing Arts Coalition, and funding from the city’s half-cent sales tax provide sufficient funds to rehabilitate the City Auditorium stage and front-of-house as well as the addition of a new back-of-house annex.

The improvements will provide outstanding facilities for local performance groups, including the San Angelo Symphony, the Civic Ballet, and others. It also allows San Angelo to attract traveling Broadway-styled shows and other entertainment which it could not do in the auditorium’s existing configuration.

City Council last month authorized hiring Killis Almond and Associates to begin final architectural design documents on the estimated \$7-8 million project. Bidding and construction on the project may begin as early as next spring, with opening targeted for late 2016.

The newly refurbished Elta Joyce Murphey Performance Hall and Stage at San Angelo City Auditorium will join another construction project next door—the San Angelo Performing Arts Center located at the former Coca-Cola warehouse—to create an impressive performing arts campus and dramatically move forward revitalization of San Angelo’s downtown area.

Both construction projects are funded primarily through donations and grants raised during the past three years. Both projects target a completion date in late 2016. For more information, visit [www.sa-pac.com](http://www.sa-pac.com).