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Irish Arts Center Says It Has Raised \$47 Million for New Performance Space

BY MICHAEL PAULSON

The Irish Arts Center, seeking to build a new performing arts space in Hell's Kitchen, says it has now raised \$47 million toward the ambitious project.

The center, which presents theater, music, dance and other art forms associated with contemporary Irish culture, is seeking to raise \$60 million to build a new space on 11th Avenue and to renovate its existing building on West 51st Street. Work on 11th Avenue is expected to begin this year.

The new theater space will be just around the corner from the future home of MCC Theater, which is building on West 52nd Street. The area is home to an increasing concentration of performing arts organizations, including the Alliance of Resident Theaters/New York and the 52nd Street Project, which will be located alongside MCC, as well as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ars Nova, Ensemble Studio Theater, and Intar.

A number of performers will be joining the Irish Arts Center for an Easter Rising anniversary event on April 22, at Symphony Space, to start the final phase of the fund-raising campaign. Among the artists expected are multiple poets, musicians, writers and actors, including Liam Neeson, Patti, Zadie Smith, Colm Tóibín and Cassandra Wilson.



Liam Neeson and Cassandra Wilson in 2015. Credit Mike Pont/WireImage