

BRING A CAN: PUBLIC INVITED TO CANSTRUCTION CELEBRATION FRIDAY

For more information:

Karen Beiser

Assistant Professor, Business Administration and Economics

Phone: (406) 657-1170

Email: karen.beiser@rocky.edu

PHOTOS available by DAVE M. SHUMWAY, RMC, from CANSTRUCTION BUILDING on MARCH 13:

http://photos.rocky.edu/gallery/11544395_XDyzi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – The public is welcome to attend a celebration of the Canstruction® awards ceremony and reception, Friday, March 19, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the Billings Food Bank, located at 2112 Fourth Ave. N.

Admission is free, but those attending are asked to make a donation of canned or packaged food.

The first ever Billings Canstruction® event was organized by Rocky Mountain College Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE).

Four tons of canned goods were used in the event, and all of that canned food will stock shelves at the Food Bank, according to Karen Beiser, SIFE faculty advisor and RMC professor.

The sculptures, which were built in the new Food Bank warehouse, will be judged Friday, at 3 p.m.

Teams of architects, sponsoring businesses, and organizations competed to design and build colossal structures made from full cans of food. The results are giant “canned art” exhibits. The structures were completed March. The public could view them and vote for their favorites during regular Food Bank hours March 15-18.

CTA, Inc. entered two sculptures; HGFA, teamed with the Rocky Mountain College debate team; Dennie Stephenson of Architectonis, teamed with MSU-B’s Circle K Club; and Robert E. Cummings, AIA, teamed with UPS.

The theme for the first annual Billings Canstruction® event was something about Billings, about Montana, and/or about a Billings organization. One team entered a structure titled, “No place I’d rather be,” representing the plains running up to the mountains. Another team has an entry called “Bridging the Gap.” featuring the railroad bridge, east of Billings, and saluting railroad history. A third team chose to replicate the

new Food Bank building in cans. The fourth structure is a recreation of Woodbine Falls near Nye, Mont. The last structure is a replication of the local landmark, Sacrifice Cliff.

Prizes will be awarded for People’s Choice, Jurors’ Favorite, Best Meal, Best Use of Labels, and Structural Ingenuity.

Beiser said RMC was especially grateful for many sponsors who donated money to purchase cans for the teams.

“The list is too long to name, but when you are able to get 8,000 cans donated, you know that comes from a lot of generous people,” she said.

The new Food Bank building was the ideal place to hold the Canstruction event. The huge warehouse provided ample space for the structures to be built and displayed, a good venue for the public to see the structures, and eliminated any problem of delivering the cans when the event was over. The building was made possible, in part, by a \$1 million donation from the Fortin Family Foundation.

“The cans are all right here, ready to be stacked on shelves, and used,” Sheryle Shandy, the Food Bank executive director said. “Our mission is first to feed the hungry, but also to educate, to address root causes of hunger and poverty, and to promote economic development,” Shandy said. Holding Canstruction in its new three-level, 54,000-square-foot facility complements that mission.

According to Shandy, Canstruction was a wonderful way to cap a great year for serving the area’s underprivileged.

“We’re proud to partner with Billings architects, the Billings Food Bank, our neighbor down the street – the Circle K Club from Montana State University–Billings – and the whole community to bring this to Billings,” said Beiser.

Canstruction® is a volunteer trademarked charity of the Design and Construction Industry under the auspices of the Society for Design Administration.

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