



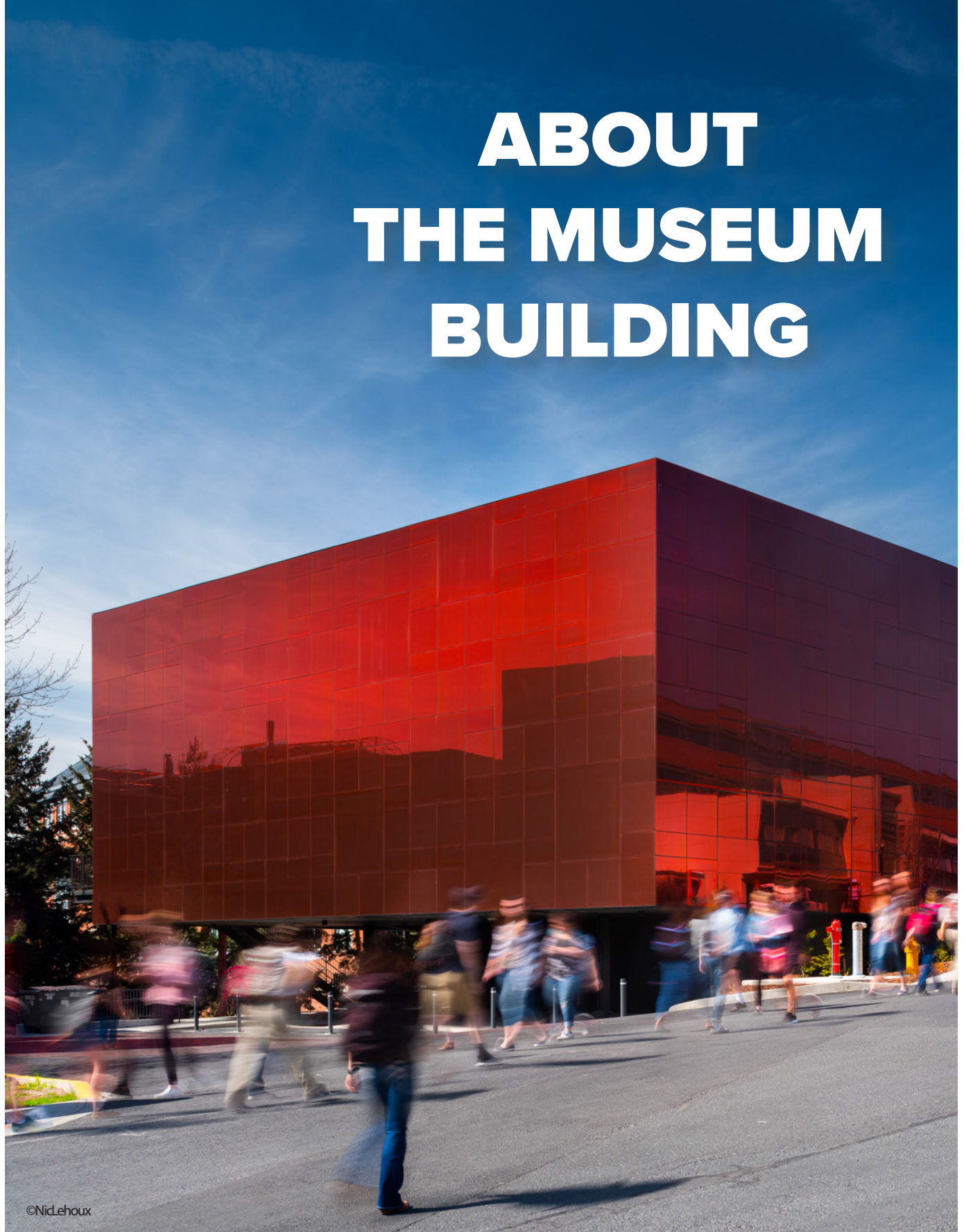
HISTORY

Of the Building and the Garage Doors

The museum was constructed with the existing foundations of the Public Safety Building. Echoes of the building's history can be found in the current architecture, including the preserved floors, showing fire truck parking spots, as well as our building's windows and newly fabricated garage door.



ABOUT THE MUSEUM BUILDING



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Mirrored Crimson Glass Façade

The crimson-colored glass was created for the museum by Netherland based manufacturer, Steinfort Glas, realizing Jim Olson's vision of a reflective surface. The mirror-effect was created by interlaying 4 layers of colored film with transparent and mirrored glass panels and is currently the only glass of its kind in the world.

"Art is about creativity and the world needs creative thinking now more than ever. When students see themselves reflected in this building, they'll see their lives through the lens of art." –Jim Olson, FAIA

OVERVIEW

In 1974, the museum was established and known as the Museum of Art/WSU. At the time, the museum was housed in a 4,000 square foot space in the Fine Arts Center, hosting world-class exhibitions and artists for nearly 45 years.

In the 1990s, museum staff began discussing a better home for the museum, and in the 2000s, conversations were initiated by past museum director Chris Bruce and then WSU president Elson Floyd for constructing a building to display the permanent collection and rotating art exhibitions.

In 2013, a substantial donation of \$5 million, the most significant contribution made to the arts at WSU at that time, was granted by Jordan D. Schnitzer, the president of Schnitzer Properties. This generous gift served as the catalyst for the development of a new museum facility. The Crimson Cube, where the new museum opened on April 6, 2018, features 10,000 square feet of exhibition space, six galleries, and a breathtaking façade created from hundreds of mirrored, crimson-glass panels hung to 1/16 inch precision.

With careful intention, Jim Olson, co-founder of Olson Kundig in Seattle, along with principal Steven Rainville, envisioned the museum building as a beacon for the arts on the WSU Pullman campus, catering to students and visitors alike.

