

While the coronavirus pandemic caused businesses, public buildings and attractions to close down across Little Rock, with some still closed, one institution is continuing the building of its new location, even while its current doors remain shuttered to the public.

The Arkansas Arts Center closed its Riverdale location back in the spring and has since moved many of its classes and even some of its exhibitions online. Something that is still happening in-person is the construction of its reconceptualized center in MacArthur Park.

Dr. Victoria Ramirez is the executive director of the Arts Center. She says despite the virus, construction of the center continues to stay on schedule.

NEWS06**:22****“...look like”**

“We still have construction workers on sight and we’re making actually some pretty impressive progress. If anybody is in the Little Rock area and they’re able to drive by MacArthur Park, they’ll be able to really start to see what the new arts center is going to look like,” Ramirez said.

According to a news release from the Arts Center, close to 150 people are working daily on the center’s construction, with other subcontractors also being employed on various parts of the building. Since this project is still occurring in a time when other businesses or projects are closed or delayed, Ramirez thinks some people are paying more attention to center’s construction.

NEWS07**:11****“...story too”**

“I think that people are, they’re looking for good news and this is definitely a good news story and it’s a tangible story too,” Ramierz said.

Construction on the center is slated to finish by early 2022.