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THE SMITH CENTER: DOING IT ALL

IF YOU AREN'T AS EXCITED as we are about The Smith Center For the Performing Arts opening, you probably haven't been sitting at your desk researching it. Never mind its beautiful design plans and major role in downtown revitalization. The Smith Center will be the new arts epicenter in Las Vegas. Not only will the 379,000-square-foot facility hold Broadway touring shows – the

heavily anticipated *Wicked* is already on the calendar for a six-week run – but international orchestras, ballets, comedy and pop concerts, as well as adding a new place to play for all the local equivalents, and housing the Lied Discovery Children's Museum. It should probably be called The Smith Center for All the Culture You Ever Wanted, Ever.

But the part – at least, the one that gives President and CEO Martin Myron a charge – is the days The Smith Center is surrounded by a caravan of Clark County school buses. "I

was inspired to do what I do today by a fourth grade field trip," Myron says. "My daughter's going to be in fourth grade, and I want her to get goosebumps the way I did."

Myron's ideal environment for The Smith Center, besides hosting everything under the arts umbrella, will promote learning and cultural immersion that's accessible to everyone. "That's what makes this so great," he says. "It's not about commercialism and making money. It's about engaging the community and making this a better place to live." **MAX PLENKE**