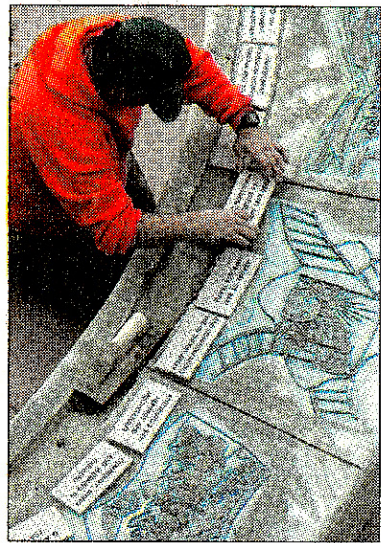


COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS sponsored by residents, service groups and businesses are placed by Ken Gianti, top, and Miguel Ruiz at Pittsburg's Civic Center Community Plaza. Ruiz, pictured on the left, lays the granite bricks inscribed with the name of the sponsor. Proceeds from the sale of bricks benefit the Pittsburg Historical Society.



City's new civic center grand opening will be Saturday

STAFF REPORT

PITTSBURG — The city's new civic center will truly live up to its name Saturday as residents join city officials and staff in celebrating the official opening of the \$22 million building with entertainment and tours.

City staffers began settling into their new home in November. Since then, they've been dodging construction workers and talking over the occasional whine of power tools as the finishing touches were being applied to the 71,000 square-foot

glass and steel structure.

Construction workers were out in the building's south plaza Wednesday laying the first 200 commemorative bricks bought by local families, organizations and businesses.

More bricks are expected to follow, with all the proceeds benefiting the Pittsburg Historical Society.

Saturday's festivities will include entertainment in the form of a youth choir from St. Peter Martyr

School, local folk dance groups and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony. There also will be tours, refreshments, lots of officials — including U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, and Contra Costa County Supervisor Joe Canciamilla — and lots of official speeches.

The new heart of Pittsburg government, admirers of the popular Civic Center say it also has a soul, with its spiral staircase, glass elevators, marble rotunda, outdoor walkways and vibrant murals chronicling the city's history.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Grand opening of the new Pittsburg Civic Center

WHEN: 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: 65 Civic Ave., Pittsburg

HIGHLIGHTS: The Contra Costa Wind Symphony will perform, as will a youth choir and several local folk dance troupes