

# Endicott College names arts center for Rockport resident

By [Wendy Killeen](#)

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**A GIFT OF ART:** Endicott College in Beverly recently named its center for the arts in honor of **Walter J. Manninen** of Rockport.

In making the announcement, college president **Richard E. Wylie** thanked Manninen for his generous commitment to the college.

“Walter has donated his renowned art collection to the college, consisting of more than 200 works by important American artists with connections to Cape Ann and Massachusetts, including many pieces by acclaimed artist **Theresa Bernstein**,” Wylie said. “His deferred gift, including the art collection, is valued in the millions of dollars. To honor Walter’s vision, his generosity, and his passion for the arts, Endicott is both pleased and proud to name the college’s new art center the Walter J. Manninen Center for the Arts, and endow a chair in the fine arts in his name.”

The arts center opened in January 2009, and has since received thousands of visitors each year for theater, music, art exhibitions, gallery talks, and a variety of events and programs.

Wylie said the collection donated by Manninen “elevates our increased desire to be a major source of art on the North Shore and to be a resource to the community and region. Mr. Manninen’s generosity demonstrates his commitment to education and the arts.”

An entrepreneur, Manninen first served as chief financial officer and then as president and chief executive officer of CXO Media Inc., a company that published magazines for senior managers in the fields of marketing, technology, and security. He also has 10 years of experience in banking as a treasurer and loan officer.

In 2004, Manninen was nominated for an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He is also the recipient of the International Data Group’s Chairman’s Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership. He joined the staff of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center’s Northeast office in 2005. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Salem State and a master’s degree in business administration from Suffolk University.

Manninen has served as treasurer of the Rockport Art Association, and remains an active contributing member for its major exhibitions.

The Walter J. Manninen Center for the Arts is a 62,000-square-foot building that supports a variety of arts studies and performance venues with facilities that include a 250-seat recital hall; a 100-seat black box theater; galleries for visiting art exhibitions, gallery talks, and community shows; a student art gallery; separate painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, and woodshop studios; computer labs for graphic design and visual communications; music and drama practice and rehearsal rooms; a photography studio; and offices and student and faculty lounges with facilities for public receptions.