



Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation Chooses Architectural Team

SAN ANTONIO, May 18, 2009 – The Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation has chosen the team of Seattle-based LMN Architects and San Antonio-based Marmon Mok Architects to redesign the Municipal Auditorium into San Antonio’s premiere performing arts center. The team also includes nine additional specialist firms, five of which are San Antonio based.

LMN Architects enjoys an international reputation for design of cultural arts venues, higher education facilities, and a wide range of other civic projects that celebrate urban environments. LMN projects include Seattle Symphony’s Benaroya Hall; the Seattle Opera and Pacific Northwest Ballet’s Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and the recently opened Vancouver Convention Centre in British Columbia.

Marmon Mok LLP is the 2008 recipient of the “Firm of the Year” from the Texas Society of Architects. The firm has a reputation for providing outstanding service and has been involved in many of San Antonio’s most significant projects, including the San Antonio International Airport Terminal One, Alamodome and the Texas A&M University - San Antonio, Master Plan.

The team also includes George Shaw, AIA, LEED AP and Mark Reddington, FAIA. Shaw, who will lead project management for the design team, is recognized throughout the industry for integration of design with technical developments and environmental sustainability. Reddington, who is an award-winning designer of music buildings and engaging civic places, will serve as the lead project designer. Sussman Prejza of Culver City, Calif. will be responsible for interior design and environmental graphics. San Antonio-based Pape Dawson will serve as the civil engineering team with Dallas-based Walter P. Moore and San Antonio’s Alpha Consulting Engineers serving as the structural engineering team. The MEP Engineering team consists of San Francisco’s Timmons Engineering and San Antonio’s Goetting & Associates. Lighting design for both interior and exterior will be by HLB of Culver City, Calif., and Fisher Heck of San Antonio will provide local historic renovation expertise.

“The Building Committee strongly considered each of the finalists’ ability to meet the Foundation’s goals and providing a unique, creative plan for designing an inspiring and iconic signature for San Antonio’s Performing Arts Center,” said J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. Chairman and President of the Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation.

“We felt that every one of the finalist proponents was highly qualified,” said Steven Lee, Chairman of the Building Committee, “but LMN / Marmon MOK, in addition to presenting very impressive team credentials, demonstrated extraordinary interest in and commitment to our project”. “We are very excited about this team and about moving forward with what we expect to be a landmark Performing Arts Center for San Antonio.”

Shaw said, "We are very excited to be part of building a magnificent home for San Antonio's performing arts organizations, as well as enriching the culture and urban experience of the city."

"We followed a very rigorous and thorough process in selecting an architecture team that understood our needs and the complexities of historic redevelopment," said Rodney J. Smith, CFE, Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation Managing Director. "The Foundation's building committee established a 12-point selection criteria that focused on everything from artistic vision, experience and chemistry to LEED certification and budget. A principal component in the selection process was identifying a team that shared the Foundation's commitment to local participation and to a 20 percent participation from minority and women-owned businesses. Eighteen possible architectural groups were asked to submit qualifications. Four firms were chosen from the initial 18, and the Building Committee interviewed the finalists in early May," said Smith.

The Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization that is undertaking the renovation of the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium to build a world-class performing arts center for the citizens of South Texas. It currently owns the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium and the old San Antonio Fire Headquarters building to serve as the heart for San Antonio's cultural arts organizations. Upon completion of the renovations of the Municipal Auditorium, the Foundation will continue to own and operate the Municipal Auditorium and Fire Headquarters Building as the newly transformed Performing Arts Center.

On May 10, 2008, the voters of Bexar County approved the extension of the Venue Tax that will provide \$100 million in funding for the Bexar County Performing Arts Center. With this public mandate, the Foundation will seek to raise an additional \$32 million in private funding to renovate the historic auditorium and adjacent fire headquarters building.

The new performing arts center will celebrate the unique character of an historic property while offering state-of-the-art acoustical interior design. With access to the San Antonio River, the Bexar County Performing Arts Center will be a gateway to cultural arts for residents and visitors alike.

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