



NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITECTS SELECTED FOR PERFORMING ARTS FACILITY

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As the next step in planning the UT Permian Basin performing arts facility, the combined team of BOORA Architects and Rhotenberry Wellen Architects (RWA) has been selected to develop a program for the project.

“BOORA and RWA have assembled an outstanding team of theater planning, design and operations professionals, and I am certain they will lead our community and academic committees through an efficient and productive planning process,” said David Watts, UTPB president.

The UTPB Arts, Convocation and Classroom Facility will serve the needs of the university as well as the needs of the West Texas community. A performing arts center with classroom spaces, the facility will be the only one of its kind in the area. It will serve as a convocation center for UTPB and the 2,000-plus seat auditorium will be constructed to host live performances.

As the programming team, BOORA and RWA will work closely with the community advisory committee appointed by the UT System Board of Regents and other groups in developing concepts and plans for the new facility. Issues relating to general building design, administration, shared use requirements and analysis of commercial marketing feasibilities will be included in a report that is scheduled to be delivered after the first of the year.

The BOORA/RWA team is expected to begin working with the community and academic planning committees in work sessions during the week of Sept. 18. Also during that period, the team of consultants will meet with representatives of area performing arts organizations and with interested members of the public.

BOORA Architects of Portland, Ore., will lead project programming and design efforts. BOORA has programmed, planned and designed more than 29 cultural arts centers and 25 arts education buildings throughout the country. Their recent work includes the new Mondavi Center at the University of California, Davis and

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the new Mesa Arts Center outside Phoenix. BOORA is currently working on two other Texas projects: the renovation of the 3,000-seat Bass Concert Hall at the University of Texas at Austin, and the design of the new Collin County Arts Center in Allen.

RWA will provide local architectural support to the project team. RWA has completed many projects on the UTPB campus including the Campus Master Plan and the Presidential Museum and Leadership Library. RWA designed and oversaw construction of UTPB's Center for Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED) that will be adjacent to the new performing arts venue.

Integral to the BOORA/RWA team will be the commercial performance market expertise of Bud Franks, the former executive director of the Hobby Center in Houston. Franks will help develop an operational pro forma for the new facility based on the local market, potential utilization, expected rental rates and projected operations. The project team also includes theater consultant Auerbach Pollock Friedlander from San Francisco and acoustical consultant Jaffe Holden Acoustics from Norwalk, Conn., firms with experience working on hundreds of performing arts projects nationally and internationally. Civil engineering firm Landgraf, Crutcher & Associates, and cost consultant Apex Cost Consultants will complete the project team.

"We are also extremely fortunate to be assisted by the UT System's Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, which has years of experience in successfully designing and constructing complex multi-use facilities around the state," said Grant Billingsley, manager of public affairs for Wagner & Brown, Ltd, in Midland, and chairman of the community advisory committee assisting with the project.

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