



SMITH CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OPENING MARCH 2012

When one thinks about Las Vegas performances, few have world-class performing arts like ballet and classical music in mind. That will all change in March of 2012 with the opening of The Smith Center.



Located in the heart of Symphony Park on the former Union Pacific rail yard, a former brownfield site, The Smith Center is an “arts campus” in which a series of three individual buildings are organized around an exterior courtyard. Reynolds Hall, the centerpiece of the campus, features a 2,050 seat multi-purpose hall for Broadway, theatre, orchestra, opera, dance and many other types of performances. Prominently marking the northeast corner of the building is the 170 foot tall carillon which houses 46 bells (almost four full octaves), each sponsored by members of the design team, board and supporters of The Smith Center. DMSAS and the firm’s charitable foundation contributed to the purchase of the C3 bell. The Boman Pavilion, the educational home at The Smith Center, will feature the 258 seat Cabaret Jazz theatre and the 250 seat Troesh Studio Theatre as well as offices, classrooms and multipurpose event rooms. The Donald W. Reynolds Discovery Children’s Museum completes the block and forms The Courtyard, a 6,200 square foot outdoor living room lined with a vine-clad pergola for both private and public events. Each of the buildings was designed to target LEED Silver certification.

In 2006, David M. Schwarz Architects received the commission to design an appropriate setting to house Las Vegas’s own symphony and ballet companies and an appropriate facility to host the world’s best artistic performers and performing arts groups. It is from these goals that the design was formed - from the master plan to the scale and massing of the buildings and their interior spaces, all the way down to the details of decorative friezes, carpet patterns, custom furniture, and even auditorium cup-holders. Our office takes great pride in providing comprehensive design services for all our clients and their communities; our work for The Smith Center is a shining example of the holistic nature of those services.

The design team began their thorough process with tours of some of the most renowned opera houses, concert halls and performance venues in Europe, Mexico and the United States. With visits to the likes of the Theatre des Champs





United States, with visits to the likes of the Theatre des Champs Elysees in Paris, the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and the [Schmerhorn Symphony Center](#) in Nashville, the team was able to create a shared language of images and words to discuss issues of program, function and aesthetics as well as their individual likes and dislikes. Similarly, images of Nevada's iconic buildings and features, from the Hoover Dam to even vegetation, were collected to help guide the buildings' ornamentation to reinforce its sense of place and community connection. Pulling from the best aspects of each, DMSAS began the process of sculpting the exterior massing and architectural appearance while simultaneously configuring the interior volumes with particular attention to the auditorium space, its seating and sight-lines, circulation, and front-of-house spaces. As the interior and exterior forms each affect the sound and ultimate function of the performance spaces, a free-flowing and continuous dialogue was created between DMSAS, the acoustician (Akustiks) and theatre planner (Fisher Dachs Associates). It is through this collaboration of design team and client that ensures that the project not only meets, but exceeds its mission.



DMSAS was intimately involved with the design and selection of the materials and details used on and within each of the buildings. From the limestone facades and stainless steel railings at overlooks and stairways, to the Venetian plaster and paint colors used throughout the buildings, materials were selected with the intention of lasting over a century. The decorative details were designed utilizing a rich palette of iconography; imagery of the state of Nevada, the arts, and also the favorite flower of the major donor. To enhance the details while maintaining Reynolds Hall's quality sound, at least 25 shades of "white", brown, and terra cotta paint were custom-developed, many of them hand-mixed within our Washington, DC office.



Working in collaboration with other highly talented design team consultants, we oversaw the design of everything that would be seen and felt by the patrons to maintain the overall design vision and the quality and consistency of design elements. In collaboration with Susan Brady Lighting Designs, our team designed all of the custom light fixtures seen throughout the buildings. With Two Twelve Associates, we oversaw the design of the signage and donor recognition for the project. With Lifescapes, we reviewed the design of the exterior landscape, including an internal courtyard and loggia. For the finishing touches, we assisted the owner in selecting the front-of-house furniture and their fabrics, including designing several unique pieces exclusively for the facility.

As The Smith Center nears completion, we remain actively involved monitoring the development of the construction to ensure the project's aesthetic design intent is maintained. Thus it is with great pride and excitement that DMSAS looks forward to the Grand Opening of The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in March 2012. We hope to see you there!

GINGERTOWN 2011 SETS RECORDS



PROJECT UPDATES



Principal Craig Williams speaks at AIA Dallas Event
Craig Williams joined AIA Dallas Young Associates and representatives from HKS, WDG Architecture and



More than 200 architects, engineers, builders and others gathered Monday November, 28th to build DC's version of the sweetest downtown in America—Gingertown. The 2011 city - Elf Vegas - was the largest in Gingertown DC's history, with more than 45 individual structures built by teams ranging from two to ten members. The teams constructed civic and retail buildings including a replica of The Smith Center, a new performing arts center designed by David M. Schwarz Architects that opens in March 2012, a city hall, a jail, a bakery, a golf course and, in homage to Las Vegas, several casinos, a wedding chapel and a pawn shop.



Participants in this year's Gingertown included David M. Schwarz Architects, Walter P. Moore, PageSoutherlandPage, Davis Construction, Bowie Gridley Architects, Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ), SmithGroupJJR, Cunningham|Quill Architects, Esocoff & Associates, Hickok Cole Architects, Perkins + Will, Tishman Construction, Torti Gallas and Partners, Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF), and many others.

The hand-crafted structures were donated to local community organizations including St. Elizabeth's Hospital, So Others Might Eat (SOME), Wendt Center for Loss and Healing, Children's National Medical Center, the Washington Home and Community Hospices, and Martha's Table. All sponsorships and contributions raised by Gingertown were also donated to the recipients of the structures. This year, the DC build was proud to raise a record \$12,000.

For the second year in a row, Gingertown build-outs were also held in [Dallas](#) and [Nashville](#). The Dallas event was hosted by the NorthPark Center and benefited the Children's Craniofacial Association. The Nashville event was hosted by Earl Swensson Associates (who worked with DMSAS on the [Schermershorn Symphony Center](#) and is currently teamed with us on the Gaillard Center project) at the Lowe's Vanderbilt Hotel. Gingertown Nashville beneficiaries included Hospital Hospitality House, Ronald McDonald House, The Cumberland at Green Hills and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.



More images from all three Gingertown builds are available in the [Photo Gallery](#) of the new website.



ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT: JOE RAPAZZO



Why did you become an architect?

BOKA Powell to discuss the design and development of Victory Park, home of the DMSAS designed American Airlines Center. On the 10 year anniversary of Victory Park, the panel led an open discussion on what worked well, what was less successful and why, and what opportunities exist for the future.



Sid Richardson Museum Wins Trailblazer Award

On September 16th, DMSAS Principal Craig Williams accepted on behalf of the firm a Downtown Fort Worth Trailblazers Award for Preservation and Adaptive Reuse for our work on the Sid Richardson Museum in Sundance Square. The awards were presented during a luncheon at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel. More information on the award program and videos of the winning projects are available [here](#).



CCMC President Nany Cychol with LEGO Master Builders

Cook Children's Medical Center LEGO Build-Out

On October 19th, Cook Children's Medical Center (CCMC) representatives and a team of Master Builders from LEGO put the final touches on a 13 foot by 9 foot scale model of the CCMC campus. The idea for the model came from 13-year



After receiving my BA in Art in the early 70's, I realized I would need to deal with the real world some day and support myself. I needed to do something that fit with my interests and abilities. Architecture wasn't a bad fit.

Where did you study architecture and what was the most important thing you learned there?

I received a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Virginia. As far as design goes, I learned to identify the big idea and keep asking myself whether I'm being true to the intentions.

What's your favorite thing about being an architect?

I get to design and draw a lot.

How long have you worked for David M. Schwarz Architects?

I started in 1987 as a summer intern and, except for a five year hiatus (at other firms), I've worked here since.

What projects have you worked on at the firm? What are you working on now?

It's a long list, but the ones I feel I contributed to significantly are: Sundance West, Bass Performance Hall, The Ballpark in Arlington, The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Frisco Square, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, a private residence in a high desert location, and currently, the Sundance Square project.

What is your favorite firm project?

I have two at the moment, The Smith Center and a private residence. Out of the office's body of work, these are two of which I'm especially proud of our work.

What are your "must have" office supplies?

A marker pen, trace and a computer.

What would your dream project be?

A beach house for my family with my own private surfing spot. Well, I can dream, can't I?!

FAMILY NEWS

Associate Sean Nohelty Elected AIA DC Treasurer

DMSAS Associate Sean Nohelty has been elected Treasurer of the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Sean has previously served two terms as an at-Large member of the DC Chapter Board and will serve a one year term as Treasurer.

Intern Architect Timothy So Elected to Regional Forum

DMSAS Intern Architect Timothy So has been appointed Young Architects Forum Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic. Timothy will be serving a two year term beginning in January, representing the Mid-Atlantic Region on issues facing and concerns of newly licensed "young" architects (defined as those licensed less than 10 years) and serving as an ambassador from our firm.



Intern Architect Jenn Heller Weds

On September 17th, after 8.5 years of courting, Jennifer Heller wed Brandon Sumpter at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The bride is originally from Toronto and groom hails from Vienna, Virginia. The couple first met in an after-school program in the 6th grade shortly after the bride moved to Virginia. The newlyweds enjoyed a honeymoon in (mostly) sunny St. Lucia.



Intern Architect Monica Regnier Weds

On October 1st, DMSAS Intern Architect Monica Regnier wed John Henry at St. Therese Church in Deephaven, MN. John is a Senior Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton. Monica and John honeymooned in North Carolina at Grandfather Mountain and Asheville.

old, former CCMC patient Thomas Park who assisted with the build. The model, made from over 800,000 LEGO pieces, is now on permanent display at the hospital. CCMC is only the second hospital in the country to have a LEGO model of its facility. DMSAS Associate Sean Nohelty was present for the completion of the model which you can view [here](#) on our YouTube channel.



Sundance Square Building Designs Unanimously Approved

On November 3rd, DMSAS Principal Gregory Hoss presented the designs of three new buildings to the Downtown Design Review Board in Fort Worth, Texas. The new buildings will contribute additional retail, office, and residential space to the vibrant downtown development, with two of the buildings framing a large public square intended to be the heart of Sundance Square. All three buildings were well received and unanimously approved by the board. Construction will begin in Spring 2012.



Crown Farm Neighborhood 1 Submitted to City

The Final Site Plan for Neighborhood 1 of Crown Farm was submitted to the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland for approval on December 7th. The submission included DMSAS designs for the exteriors of three stand-alone retail and restaurant buildings and one multi-facade commercial block that will contribute to the



Intern Architect Will Seath Weds

DMSAS Intern Architect Will Seath married Annalee Janke on October 15th at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. Annalee is an attorney, formerly with Catholic Charities of Dallas, Immigration and Legal Services. She is a native of Fort Worth, TX who, two years ago, encouraged Will to find out more about the architects who did all the buildings she loves in her hometown. The couple honeymooned in Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC.

mixed-use fabric of "Downtown Crown." Pending approval by the city, construction is expected to start in 2012.

CONTACT

Dear Readers,

We welcome your feedback and comments to our newsletter. Submissions can be sent to newsletter@dmsas.com for potential inclusion in our next edition!

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