

**Tempe Center for the Arts Receives a 2008 Merit Award
from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)**

For Immediate Release

LOS ANGELES, CA, February 13, 2008 – The **United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)** has awarded the **Tempe Center for the Arts**, Tempe, Arizona with a **2008 Merit Award** for architectural excellence.

The award will be presented at the **Awards Banquet** on **Saturday, March 22nd** at the **USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo** in Houston, Texas.

The **mission of USITT** is to actively promote the **advancement of the knowledge and skills** of those involved in the design, management, and technical areas of the **performing arts and entertainment industry**.

The **2008 selection panel** included **Thomas Payne**, a founding partner of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects, **Christopher Hume**, noted architect critic and columnist for the Toronto Star, and **Richard Talaske**, founder of TALASKE, a consulting firm.

This is the **fourth USITT award received by a Barton Myers Associates** designed performing arts center project. Previously, the USITT honored the **New Jersey Performing Arts Center**, **Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts** and the **Portland Center for the Performing Arts**.

This is the first USITT award for architectural partners **Architekton** of Tempe, Arizona who collaborated in a 50/50 partnership with Barton Myers Associates, Inc.

The **Tempe Center for the Arts** (TCA) forms a crossroads for performing arts and park activities. The **90,000 sf** facility is sited on **25.5 acres** and includes a **600-seat proscenium theater**, **200-seat studio theater**, **3,400 sf art gallery**, **3,000 sf multipurpose room** and **arts park**.

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The Center's character reflects its function as a civic meeting place and a symbol of Tempe's desert landscape and history. Its design draws upon significant historic, climatic, and contextual traditions for inspiration. TCA's design team has created a **state-of-the-art facility** with outstanding performance spaces that promote flexible use and allow **intimate connections between performer and audience**.

TCA is **owned by the City of Tempe** and the **award-winning design team** includes consultants: **Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.** (theater design/planning); **Arup** (building engineers); **Arup Acoustics** (acoustical consultant); **Arup Lighting** (lighting consultant); **Landscape Design** (Design Workshop); **Davis Langdon Adamson** (cost consultant); **Kitchell CEM** (project management); **Okland Construction** (contractor). A complete listing of project team members and suppliers is available upon request.

Barton Myers Associates is currently the **design architect** for the new **Dr. Phillips Orlando Performing Arts Center (DPAC)** in Florida. DPAC is currently in the schematic design phase and is a key component of the downtown Orlando revitalization project. Previously, Barton Myers' New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark received a **Rudy Bruner Award** for "urban excellence".

Barton Myers, FAIA is a professor of architecture at UCLA, and a fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

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