

Press Release

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Skanska Completes State-of-the-art Arts Facility for Texas Southmost College

New Center Will Serve 17,000 Students and Faculty

HARLINGEN, TX – Skanska USA announced today that its building unit has completed construction on the new Texas Southmost College Arts Center Building in Brownsville, Texas. The \$21 million construction project brought together leaders in construction and design to deliver a state-of-the-art facility for higher education students in music and theater across the region.

The new arts center is slated to officially open to more than 17,000 students and faculty members in February. Shaped like a nautilus shell, the approximately 55,000-square-foot building was built in accordance with the university's standards to reflect Fort Brown's historic architectural details.

"This is one of the university's larger projects and it will be very rewarding to see our students and faculty enjoy its beauty as well as its functionality," said Veronica Mendez, assistant vice president of Construction, UTB/Texas Southmost College.

The new arts center is comprised of three rehearsal halls and six teaching studios, along with dressing rooms for performers and concession spaces off the lobby. The two-story proscenium theater seats 800. The building provides spaces that are acoustically separate for eight musical groups, including a string orchestra, jazz and concert bands, wind and percussion ensembles, a brass choir and opera programs.

Skanska worked closely with an acoustician to enhance the overall sound quality and ensure optimal tuning of the building. In addition, theatrical consultants worked to perfect the production aspects of the theater, including the stage curtains and inserts, as well as the orchestra shell, towers and pits.

"Our local employees and contractors are proud to have played a role in not only offering a place where students of music and the theater can hone their craft, but also bringing a beautiful new facility to the Harlingen community," said Marty Massey, vice president of Operations, Skanska.

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Skanska USA is one of the largest, most financially sound construction networks in the country consisting of four business units: Skanska USA Building, which specializes in building construction; Skanska USA Civil, which is focused on building civil infrastructure; Skanska Infrastructure Development, which develops public-private partnerships; and, Skanska Commercial Development, which pursues commercial development initiatives in select U.S. markets. Headquartered in New York with 33 offices across the country, Skanska USA has approximately 7,000 employees and its 2008 revenues were \$6.3 billion, representing 27 percent of Skanska's global revenues. Skanska's Texas operations are based in San Antonio with local offices in San Antonio, Houston and Harlingen.

Skanska is one of the world's leading project development and construction groups with expertise in construction, development of commercial and residential projects and public-private partnerships. The Group currently has 55,000 employees in selected home markets in Europe, in the U.S. and Latin America. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, Skanska's sales in 2008 totaled \$21.8 billion.