Kauffman Center
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Fact Sheet

Overview:

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is a major center for music, opera, theater, and dance. Designed by Moshe Safdie, the Kauffman Center presents a wide range of entertainers and performers from around the world. The Center serves as the performance home of three of the region's leading performing arts organizations – Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

The Kauffman Center's two performance venues – Muriel Kauffman Theatre and Helzberg Hall – are distinct structures, each existing in their own acoustical envelope and housed within a dramatic architectural shell. This shell features a glass roof and glass walls, providing sweeping views of Kansas City to the south. The north façade features arched walls sheathed in stainless steel that rise from the ground like a wave. Five acres of green space surround the Kauffman Center; the land is available to be used for outdoor performances and as a public gathering space.

Opening Date:

September 16, 2011

Location:

1601 Broadway Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts bridges three of Kansas City's most dynamic neighborhoods—the urban core of downtown, the Crossroads Arts District, and the Power & Light District.

Architect:

Moshe Safdie / Safdie Architects

Total Square Footage:

285,000 square feet

Principal Spaces:

Muriel Kauffman Theatre: 18,900-square-foot house
Helzberg Hall: 16,800-square-foot house
Brandmeyer Great Hall: 15,000 square feet
Arts District Terrace: 113,000 square feet
Offices for the Kauffman Center staff: 7,000 square feet
1,000-car garage, owned and operated by the City of Kansas City, MO
Shared backstage facilities:

- Dressing accommodations for over 250 performers
- 11 rehearsal and warm-up rooms
- Meet-and-greet lounge

Materials:

40,000 square feet of glass
10.8 million pounds of structural steel 25,000 cubic yards of concrete
1.93 million pounds of plaster
27 steel cables, each holding up to 500,000 pounds of force

Project Funding: The $413 million project includes $326 million for the creation of the performing arts center, a $40 million endowment, and a $47 million, 1,000-car underground parking garage funded by the City of Kansas City, MO. The Kauffman Center's construction and endowment costs are funded wholly from private sources.

Design Team:
Associate Architect: BNIM Architects
Acoustics: Nagata Acoustics
Theatre Design: Theatre Projects Consultants
Structural Engineer: Arup USA, Inc.
Local Structural Engineer: Structural Engineering Associates, Inc.
MEP/Fire Protection Engineers: Arup USA, Inc.
Local MEP Engineers: WL Cassell & Associates, Inc.
Project Manager: Land Capital Corporation
General Contractor: J.E. Dunn Construction
Civil Engineer: Taliaferro and Browne, Inc.
Security: M-E Engineers, Inc.
Landscape Architect: Reed Hilderbrand Associates, Inc.
Sound: Engineering Harmonics, Inc.
Lighting: Lam Partners, Inc.

Muriel Kauffman Theatre

Theatre Design: Muriel Kauffman Theatre hosts a variety of dance and theatrical performances from around the world, and is the performance home of Kansas City Ballet and Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Inspired by the great opera houses of Europe, Muriel Kauffman Theatre is designed to be visually striking, while providing an intimate experience for both audiences and performers. Audiences are seated around the stage in a variation on the traditional horseshoe configuration – bringing them closer to the performers than in auditorium-style venues.

A flexible orchestra pit configuration and the ability to adjust the stage opening width make the Muriel Kauffman Theatre adaptable, allowing for intimate and large-scale productions.

Square Footage: 18,900-square-foot house

Seating Capacity: 1,800 seats

Stage: 5,000-square-foot stage; width of stage opening may be adjusted from 40'-50'

Orchestra Pit: Up to 1,300 square feet; accommodates as many as 96 musicians

Features & Systems: Features include:

- 73'9" fly tower accommodates scenery up to 2,000 lbs. and 30' tall. Fully walkable rigging grid is accessible by stairs, ladders, and elevator
- Retractable acoustic banner system allows for acoustical adjustments accommodating both small and large-scale productions
- Stage curtain contains motorized counterweight lineset; center and intermediate splits allow for motorized split travel or guillotine opening

Helzberg Hall

Hall Design: From chamber music to full orchestra, from jazz and pop to lectures and recitals, this 1,600-seat dedicated concert hall is the performance home of the Kansas City Symphony as well as host to renowned international soloists and ensembles.

Helzberg Hall is oval in shape, with a vineyard-style seating configuration. The stage extends approximately one-third of the distance into the Hall, placing 40 percent of the seats alongside or behind the orchestra. This creates an intimate and immersive experience for both artists and audiences and allows a portion of the audience to experience the musician's perspective during performance. Helzberg Hall features the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875. The Casavant Frères built 5,548- pipe organ is a visual centerpiece in the concert hall, as well as an integral part of the musical experience.

The Hall is designed to be exceptionally flexible – acoustics can be readily customized for solo concerts, chamber music, and full orchestra, while a mechanical riser system allows the layout of the stage to be altered quickly and easily.

Square Footage: 16,800-square-foot house

Seating Capacity: 1,600 seats

Stage: 2,700 square feet, including six lifts, which form an adjustable riser system

Pipe Organ: 79 stops, 102 ranks, 5,548 pipes; custom-designed mechanical action organ in the French romantic tradition, built by Quebec firm Casavant Frères

Features & Systems: Features include:

- Fixed acoustical canopy above the stage
- Retractable banner system included in side walls and above fixed canopy
- Six 1,000-pound point hoist systems to hang custom curved trusses
- Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875 has 5,548 pipes, 79 stops and 102 ranks
- Five skylights allow natural daylight to filter into Helzberg Hall

Website: www.kauffmancenter.org

Phone: Primary: (816) 994-7200
Box Office: (816) 994-7222

Media Contact: Bess Wallerstein Huff
Director of Marketing
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
bwh@kauffmancenter.org
(816) 994-7229

Updated Oct. 30, 2017
###