



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

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DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

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CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER OPENED TO PUBLIC

Charleston, S.C. – Today, the doors to the new Charleston Gaillard Center were opened to the public to view the renovated public building. Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. and Martha Rivers Ingram cut the apricot ribbon during a dedication ceremony and then welcomed the public to go inside for an open house to view the \$142 million renovation.

The idea for the renovation came from Martha Rivers Ingram, a former chair of the Spoleto Festival USA board. Her terms as leader of the festival served as the catalyst for reconceiving, renovating and reviving the Gaillard for the twenty-first century. Her vision was for a world class, acoustically-superior performing arts facility worthy of the city that Charleston had become under the leadership of Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

Ingram proposed her idea to Mayor Riley, and they agreed that the Gaillard needed a dramatic renovation. The two leaders soon launched an ambitious plan to give the Gaillard new life through a public/private partnership, provide a platform for the arts to thrive, to engage children, and to give the citizens of Charleston world-class performing arts. Ingram made a lead gift, enabling design architects, acousticians, and theatre designers to begin work with the City on the re-design of the Gaillard and she created the Gaillard Performance Hall Foundation, which launched a capital campaign to raise \$71 million in private funding.

In July 2012, the Council unanimously approved a \$142 million contract to construct a completely remade Gaillard Performance Hall, exhibit hall and co-located municipal office building, with the City contributing half of the cost, with public funding coming from hospitality and tourism taxes, a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district and other funds.

Ingram and Riley agreed that the new facility should retain the name of the building's original champion, Mayor J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr., while re-christening it "Charleston Gaillard Center." The Washington, D.C.-based design firm of David M. Schwarz Architects led the design team, and in the summer of 2012 international construction firm Skanska and Charleston-based Trident Construction began the re-construction of the Gaillard.

Reminiscent of Charleston's classical architectural legacy, the 260,000 square foot neo-classical building earned LEED certification due to its environmentally sustainable design.

The Gaillard Center's Calhoun and George Street entrances lead to a grand, two-story lobby with a stone-clad concourse, columns and sweeping stairways. The performance hall echoes the design of Europe's great opera houses, featuring three tiers of horseshoe-shaped balconies that enhance near-perfect acoustics and bring audiences closer to the stage. The 1800-seat audience chamber, to be named Martha & John M.

Rivers Performance Hall (for Martha Ingram’s parents), creates an intimate experience for performers and patrons. The exhibition hall space to the west has nearly 18,000 square feet of flexible event and meeting space. The Gaillard Park and Gardens along Calhoun Street bring together newly renovated public space and artistic infrastructure, demonstrating how the arts can advance livability and strengthen communities.

The Gaillard Center performance and exhibition halls are managed by the newly created Gaillard Management Corporation, which will produce and present performances in the hall in partnership with local arts organizations and will welcome national and regional touring performances.

In the city’s tradition of great public buildings, the original George Street façade was expanded to make room for a city office building designed for practical applications to serve residents and businesses. A kiosk-style permit center includes one location to efficiently assist citizens with obtaining permits, and the city’s state of the art emergency operations center is also housed there.

Mayor Riley said, “Entering our new Gaillard Center will be an awe inspiring experience. Our citizens will feel the grandeur and quality of the beautiful building and its world class performance hall. The Gaillard Center meets the goal of excellence which we should always strive for in our civic projects.”

Ms. Ingram added, “It is a great privilege to have worked with Mayor Joe Riley and members of Charleston City Council to help bring about the new Gaillard for the people of the Tri-County area. New opportunities for both entertainment and education will be readily available in this beautiful, new Gaillard.”

Design Team

Design Architect:	David M. Schwarz Architects
Architect of Record (Prime):	Earl Swensson Associates, Inc.
Architect of Record (Local):	Evans & Schmidt Architects
Theater Consultant:	Fisher Dachs Associates
Acoustic Consultant:	Akustiks
Landscape Architect:	Hawkins Partners, Inc.
Structural Engineer:	Walter P. Moore
MEP Consultant:	I.C. Thomasson Associates
Civil Engineer:	Forsberg Engineering & Surveying
Architectural Lighting Consultant:	Coventry Lighting
Consulting Landscape Architect:	Wertimer & Associates
Code/ADA Consultant:	Code Consulting Inc.
Food Service Consultant:	I Group, LLC
LEED Consultant/Commissioning:	SSRCx
Wayfinding/Graphics:	FMG Design, Inc.
Geotechnical Engineer:	Soil Consultants Inc.
Building Envelope Consultant:	Curtainwall Design Consultants
Project Management Consultant:	The Projects Group

Construction Manager

Skanska USA Building in partnership with Trident Construction

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