



TEAMWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

**P L A N O**  
Independent School District

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## **Plano ISD selects architects Perkins+Will and BORA to design new Fine Arts Center**

*New Fine Arts Center will emphasize the importance of fine and performing arts for secondary students*

**PLANO, Texas – February 27, 2017.** Following a rigorous selection process, Plano Independent School District announces the selection of a two-firm team to design the District’s new Fine Arts Center. Dallas-based Perkins+Will will collaborate with Portland, Oregon-based BORA Architects to deliver the project, which is the largest project in the district’s 2016 bond program ([www.pisd.edu/2016bond](http://www.pisd.edu/2016bond)).

Approved by the community with a 79% pass rate, Plano ISD’s \$481 million bond program was established to fund multiple initiatives recommended by a community-based task force. The design and construction of the Fine Arts Center will support the educational development of the more than 60% of Plano ISD secondary students who participate in fine arts programs. The building will include a large performance hall, studio theater and rehearsal space, black box theater, visual arts spaces and an art gallery.

“Our Fine Arts Center is expected to be a state-of-the-art, 1,500 seat performance hall capable of supporting our district’s flourishing musical, theatrical and visual arts programs,” said Tony Pearson, assistant director for facility services in Plano ISD. “With Perkins+Will and BORA, we have two great firms providing a complementary blend of performing arts, school and Plano ISD experience. Their team, process and knowledge will help channel our creative vision for this project, and will ultimately provide for a creative, custom and altogether inviting venue.”

The selection of Perkins+Will and BORA Architects is the result of a multi-step competitive process undertaken by the district. In September 2016, Plano ISD accepted proposals from 16 architecture firms, the majority of which had partnered with a design firm specializing in fine arts centers. An evaluation committee composed of members from Plano ISD’s fine arts, purchasing and construction departments reviewed the proposals and shortlisted six qualified candidates for interviews, where each finalist was allowed one hour to introduce their team’s qualifications and vision for the project. After ranking and careful consideration, the committee recommended Perkins+Will and BORA Architects to the school board.

Programming and planning for the new fine arts center began this month. Workshops will be hosted over the next two months, including architects from both design firms, consultants, members of the community and staff members of the Plano ISD facility services and fine arts departments.

“We are extremely excited to begin the formal design process on the Fine Arts Center that will serve our award-winning fine arts programs,” said Kathy Kuddes, director for fine arts and special programs. “We believe that the creative power of the Perkins+Will/BORA team and the creative arts education team from Plano ISD will be able to realize a vision for a space that is both functional yet beautiful, educational yet professional, and a place by which students, parents, staff and our community will be inspired.”

### **About Plano ISD**

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for each student. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas, and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,500 staff members who serve more than 55,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Plano ISD schools empower students to be able to adapt to new learning and career opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be disciplined and creative in their thinking.

**About Perkins+Will**

Perkins+Will is an interdisciplinary, research-based architecture and design firm established in 1935 and founded on the belief that design has the power to transform lives and enhance communities. Each of the firm's 24 offices focuses on local, regional and global work in a variety of practice areas. With hundreds of award-winning projects annually, Perkins+Will is highly ranked among top global design firms. Perkins+Will is recognized as one of the industry's preeminent sustainable design firms due to its innovative research, design tools and expertise. The firm's 1,900 professionals are thought leaders in developing 21st century solutions to inspire the creation of spaces in which clients and their communities work, heal, live and learn. In 2015, Fast Company ranked Perkins+Will among "The World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Architecture."

The Dallas office of Perkins+Will was established in 1988 and is one of the largest in the firm, harnessing the expertise of more than 180 architects, interior designers, and planners. The office's multi-disciplinary work spans nearly every sector, including healthcare, higher education, corporate, commercial, civic and K-12 education. The K-12 Texas Practice of Perkins+Will was established in 2003 and is comprised of 26 studio members dedicated to the planning and design of K-12 education facilities. The K-12 Practice has worked with all major school districts in Texas, including five completed projects for Plano ISD. Over the last 14 years, the K-12 Texas Practice has completed or started work on more than 115 projects, representing over 5.5M square feet and \$865 million dollars in new construction, addition and renovation projects of all types and sizes.

For more information, visit [www.perkinswill.com](http://www.perkinswill.com).

**About BORA Architects**

BORA is an architectural practice guided by core values of design, sustainability, innovation, and positive social impact. From a single office in downtown Portland, their practice spans the country, and their work has been recognized regionally, nationally and globally for its beauty, craft, and stewardship. Committed to involving their clients in the creative process, BORA believes meaningful architecture can transform the lives of everyone it touches. Exploring the intersection of education, the arts, and design, BORA's work includes the UTPB Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, as well as the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis. The firm is currently working on the 342,000 sf South Cooper Mountain High School in Beaverton, OR, and a new performance hall for the Texas Christian University School of Music. BORA was recently named "Firm of the Year" for the AIA Northwest and Pacific region.

For more information, visit <http://bora.co/>.

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