

PRESS RELEASE

THE WINSPEAR PROJECT BY ANDREW BROMBERG AT AEDAS SECURES FEDERAL FUNDING

August 27th 2019



Aerial view of the new building from the southeastern corner

The Francis Winspear Centre for Music, located at the heart of downtown Edmonton, Canada, has secured further funding from the Government of Canada in support of the Winspear Project. The announcement was made on August 27th 2019.

The Winspear Centre has now received the combined governmental contribution of \$48.6 million, enough to kick-start the project. It aims to raise additional \$17 million through a public fundraising campaign beginning in 2020 to meet the proposed fee of \$65.5-million.

The Centre, which opened in 1997, is the home of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. It is also the home for community programming offered through the Tommy Banks Centre for Musical Creativity, which aims to make musical discovery accessible for everyone, regardless of age or background.

Transforming what is now a car park, the project, designed by Andrew Bromberg at Aedas, will add 3,809-square metres of mixed-use new cultural space. The facilities within the existing building will be renovated and made to flow into the expansion via the 'North Link'. It will complete the long term vision of the Centre to

expand its performance capabilities as well as fulfill its desire to further integrate with the surrounding community by expanding and providing music related facilities, studios and classrooms.

The multi-purpose scheme will accommodate community gathering spaces, including a café and outdoor terrace, interactive musical discovery zones, and a smaller performance hall called the ‘Music Box’. The Music Box, with 550 seats, is much smaller than the Centre’s existing 1932-seater music hall. The automated retractable seating system will allow the room to be used in multifunctional ways. An operable wall opens up to the foyer, which is glazed to allow for a strong connection to the outdoor environment.

The smaller music venue will enhance the richness of the Centre with a more relaxed and inviting atmosphere than the larger venue, but it will be one that meets the world-class acoustical quality for which the Centre is renowned.

Additionally, the newly expanded Winspear Centre will be open to the public throughout the day to welcome guests to attend events, enjoy the community and provide access to musical discovery. The central foyer known as the ‘Living Room’ will make the Centre truly an active hub for music. It will be open and accessible in every way.

Other facilities include a not-for-profit childcare centre, a music library and an underground carpark.

This project has many of the hallmarks of Bromberg’s design. It is green and sustainable, with mature trees aligning the raised platforms that are accessible. The project also uses as much local material as possible. For instance, the roof, whose long eave offers partial shading for the outdoor green terrace and natural cooling for the glazed foyer in the summer, will be clad in local stone shell. The state-of-the-art acoustic wall inside the Music Box will be constructed using local timber. The building’s sinuous form enhances the seamless connection with the surrounding streets outside, ultimately enlivening the entire neighborhood.



View of the garden terrace on Level 2



View of the 'Living Room'. The garden terrace is visible on the left. The new Winspear Centre will be open and accessible.

The Winspear Project is due to go on site in January 2020, to complete in 2022 - just in time to mark the 25th anniversary of the Winspear Centre.

Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton, says: "This doesn't just complete the Winspear, this completes this part of downtown. So this is a huge occasion."

Annemarie Petrov, the president and CEO of the Winspear Centre and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, says: "We are living our purpose. We are fulfilling the human need to make and share music."



Interior view of the 'Music Box' – the 550-seater hall will offer an intimate atmosphere.

Notes to Editors

Project Data

Project name: The Winspear Project

Location: Edmonton, Canada

Site area: 3,485 sqm

Gross floor area: 4,500 sqm

Building Height: 30 m

Project Team

Client: The Francis Winspear Centre for Music

Design architect - Andrew Bromberg at Aedas

Executive architect – Stantec

Structural engineer – Stantec

Mechanical engineer – Arrow Engineering

Electrical engineer – ECCOM consulting Inc

Civil engineer – Invistec Consulting Ltd

Acoustical consultant - Arup

Theatre consultant - Arup

Landscape – Design North Landscape Architecture Inc

About Andrew Bromberg at Aedas

Andrew Bromberg (RIBA, Assoc. AIA) is Global Design Principal at the international architectural practice, Aedas.

Andrew Bromberg, originally from the United States, has been steadily gaining recognition for his groundbreaking architectural design projects in China, the Far East, the Middle East, Europe and North America, ranging from smaller cultural venues to larger mixed-use commercial developments, as well as significant infrastructure and transport schemes.

The most recently completed project by Bromberg is Hong Kong West Kowloon Station. His dynamic design allows people to walk up the station's rooftop aligned with mature trees to enjoy great new views of the famous Hong Kong skyline. The project opened to the public in September 2018.

The architect's other notable projects include The Star in Singapore - a mixed-used development with a 5,000-seat concert hall dramatically perched atop publically accessible forecourt and retail areas, completed in 2012, Sandcrawler - the regional headquarters for Lucasfilm also in Singapore, which is elegantly clad in energy-saving luminous facades, completed in 2014, and the place-making Nanfung Commercial, Hospitality and Exhibition Complex in Guangzhou, built on the bank of the Pearl River estuary, completed in 2013.

A keen hiker and traveler since young age, Bromberg draws inspiration from nature and his interest in how people live in different cultures to create meaningful, people-centric architectural works.

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Andrew Bromberg at Aedas is on Instagram and Twitter with following handle names:

Instagram: [@andrewbromberg_aedas](https://www.instagram.com/andrewbromberg_aedas) | Twitter: [@abromberg_aedas](https://twitter.com/abromberg_aedas)

About Aedas

Aedas is the world's only local and global architecture and design practice driven by global sharing of research, local knowledge and international practice. Our 1,400 creative minds with design studios across the globe create world-class design solutions with deep social and cultural understanding of the communities we design for.

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About The Francis Winspear Centre for Music

The Francis Winspear Centre for Music has been the home of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) since its doors were opened in 1997. In the last 65 years, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra has taken its place as one of Canada's foremost orchestral ensembles. In addition to being the home of the ESO, the Centre is the home of the Tommy Banks Centre for Musical Creativity. From its beginning in 2012 and with over 20 permanent programs, the Tommy Banks Centre has encouraged people from all walks of life to discover the joy of musical exploration, creation, and connection.

<https://www.winspearcentre.com/about/about-winspear/history/>

<https://www.winspearcentre.com/about/about-eso/>

<https://www.winspearcentre.com/tommy-banks-centre/>

FOR IMAGES AND FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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