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ACG Congratulates The Burlington Performing Arts Centre On its Grand Opening



Arts Consulting Group, Inc. (ACG) congratulates The Burlington Performing Arts Centre in Burlington, Ontario on its recent grand opening. The Centre celebrated a series of special events during the first week of December 2011, including a visit from Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, and a Red Carpet Concert by Sarah McLachlan.

"Our Government is proud to be contributing to this world-class cultural venue that will create local jobs and stimulate economic growth," said Prime Minister Harper. "The Burlington Performing Arts Centre will also contribute to a stronger community by fostering artistic creativity and cultural participation."

Designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects and funded in part through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the new year-round 62,000-square-foot performing arts centre features a 730-seat Main Theatre, a community studio theatre, and a large lobby for the presentation of live theatre and music, as well as the hosting of community events.

ACG Vice President Willem Brans was involved with the project from its earliest concept stages. While with Artec Consultants in New York, he was part of the master planning consultant team that included Keith Loffler McAlpine Architects in Toronto that studied the feasibility of designing and building a new performing arts venue for the City of Burlington.

Mr. Brans led the team that advised the City on the needs assessment, utilization analysis, programming matrix, site selection, and financial operating estimates. After joining ACG, he continued to provide facilities planning services, preparing updated financial operating analyses for the project.

"Having worked on the beginning stages of The Burlington Performing Arts Centre, I am delighted to see that the years of planning by City leaders and staff and the citizens of Burlington have culminated with this magnificent facility," said Mr. Brans. "The Centre is a model of what a community can accomplish by conducting a thoughtful, comprehensive, and integrated planning, design, and funding process that addresses the specific local and regional needs for arts, cultural, and entertainment programming and the facilities that support them. Bravo, Burlington!"

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