

## Foundation For The Carolinas Announces Gensler as Local Architect for Carolina Theatre at Belk Place Renovation

**April 20, 2015** – Foundation For The Carolinas has announced the selection of Gensler as associate architect for the renovation of the Carolina Theatre at Belk Place.

“We are so pleased to be partnering with Gensler on the Carolina Theatre project. The process for selecting our local design firm was extremely competitive. The strength of their team and their extensive design experience made them the ideal partner,” said Laura Smith, executive vice president at FFTC.

Gensler is a top-ranked global design firm with local offices in uptown Charlotte. With a network of 4,800 professionals, Gensler partners with clients to create more livable cities and smarter workplaces. The experienced team of Ernie Munoz, James Hatley, Holly Christian, Jack Ossa and Jennifer Williams will be responsible for the design of FFTC’s expanded workspace, which will rise above the theatre lobby, as well as construction administration for the theatre itself.

“We are thrilled to be selected as part of the design team on this incredible project that is so important to the city we all love,” said Ernie Munoz, managing director at Gensler and principal-in-charge for Gensler’s scope of the project.

Gensler will be paired with lead design team on the theatre project, Westlake Reed Leskosky, an Ohio-based firm with deep expertise in the restoration of historic theatres.

FFTC is restoring the 36,000-square-foot historic theatre, located adjacent to its headquarters, to create Charlotte’s premier civic engagement space. The community foundation has raised \$27 million toward its \$35 million fundraising goal for the project.

The newly renovated Carolina Theatre at Belk Place will provide a unique convening space for town halls, symposiums and debates. In addition to civic initiatives and learning opportunities, the theatre will also host films and artistic performances.

The theatre will be a catalyst for the North Tryon Vision Plan, FFTC’s broader effort to revitalize uptown Charlotte’s North Tryon Street corridor, in partnership with Charlotte Center City Partners and other stakeholders.

Munoz continued, “We applaud the Foundation for making this bold commitment to the future of the North Tryon corridor. This project is an opportunity to pay homage to the past, while building an energetic public platform for philanthropy in the Carolinas.”

The Carolina Theatre was built in 1927 and was once a major performance venue for the Charlotte region, hosting such talent as Bob Hope, Katharine Hepburn and Elvis Presley. The City of Charlotte gifted the theatre, which has stood vacant since 1978, to FFTC in 2013.

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### About Foundation For The Carolinas

Foundation For The Carolinas is a nonprofit community foundation serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of more than \$1.7 billion, the foundation encourages and makes possible philanthropic giving by individuals of all means to benefit their communities. Visit [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org).

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## About Gensler

[Gensler](#) is a global design firm grounded in the belief that great design optimizes business performance and human potential. Our 4,800 practitioners networked across 46 offices use global perspective and local presence to innovate at every scale. Whether we are refreshing a retailer's brand, planning a new urban district or designing a super tall building, we strive to make the everyday places people occupy more inspiring, more resilient, and more impactful.

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