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## **THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ICONIC STAGE CENTER BUILDING**

(Oklahoma City) The American Institute of Architects Central Oklahoma Chapter just announced the release of the Request for Proposals for the iconic Stage Center building located in downtown Oklahoma City. The American Institute of Architects, Central Oklahoma Chapter with the assistance of the Oklahoma District Council of the Urban Land Institute, along with members of the community, have joined together to reach out to potential developers in an effort to save the architecturally significant building. The group is working on behalf of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the current owner of the building.

The internationally significant piece of architecture was designed by John M. Johansen, a student of Walter Gropius and Frank Lloyd Wright, and is considered to be one of Johansen's most influential buildings. It received the prestigious American Institute of Architects National Honor Award in 1972. That same year, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City accepted the building model into its permanent collection.

Stage Center is located in Oklahoma City on approximately 2.7 acres on Sheridan Avenue between Hudson Avenue and Walker Avenue. The performing arts building contains both an arena theater (capacity 240) and a thrust-stage theater (capacity 592), as well as offices, lobbies, storage, rehearsal, and other performing support spaces. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, currently owns the Stage Center property.

The redevelopment of the building may include rehabilitation as a theater or other economically viable use or mix of uses. The redeveloper, however, must ensure that the significant characteristics of the building and property are retained and maintained.

All written proposals for the redevelopment, rehabilitation and operation of Stage Center will be received by the AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, 3535 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 by 4:00 p.m. on February 29, 2011. For more information and a complete copy of the Request for Proposals, interested parties can visit the AIA web site at [www.aiacoc.org/stagecenter](http://www.aiacoc.org/stagecenter).

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