



## Fine Arts Department

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To Whom It May Concern,  
A Letter of Recommendation for:  
Zeidler Partnerships Inc.

I am writing this letter to recommend to you the Zeidler Architectural firm as an exemplary team of experts in the field of architecture. My name is Alora Haynes. I am the chair of Fine Arts at Santa Fe College (SF) in Gainesville, Florida, where recently, we completed a 35,000 square foot, 17.2 million dollar performance/ learning laboratory, with this firm. I was fortunate enough to be in a position to be on the team that selected the architectural firm, and then had input to the concept and ultimately the design for our new Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall in Gainesville, Florida. In the current economic climate, this project was highly sought after by many successful architectural groups. Of the many firms that competed, I was focused, from start to finish, on the selection of the Zeidler firm for a facility that I knew was going to be a game changer for the Fine Arts programs and the college as a whole at Santa Fe. Zeidler had successfully created the Nadine Maguire Pavilion, on the campus of the University of Florida, and I had witnessed the growth and development of the School of Theatre and Dance through this Zeidler facility. Recognizing their success with theatrical needs, I saw no other firm that could compete with Zeidler for what we at SF needed. I was further comforted by the knowledge of my peer, Joan Frosch, a director of Dance from the UF, who gave me specific details of the ease and confidence she felt working with professionals like Mike Nelson, Gino De Santis and Ed Le Blanc on the Maguire project.

Watching the SF project come to fruition has been the highlight of my career. The mission of this college is to inspire and to educate all students equally. Our new theater has been the single most inspiring aspect of this campus. Our new Fine Arts Hall has brought a level of recognition and a new community visibility to represent the quality of an education at Santa Fe College. This project has become the signature of all of our success on our campus, a flagship worthy of this distinction that no other program or building has had in my 24 year tenure at Santa Fe College.

Most importantly, I must comment on the individuals who make up the success that is the Zeidler team. Mike Nelson, Gino De Santis and Ed LeBlanc are the best with regard to listening, experiencing your needs, and then generating the value from the budget given – above and beyond your expectations. The Fine Arts faculty and the SF Facilities agents who came together to create this facility would agree with my assessment. We were never disappointed, never short changed, never under communicated with on every aspect of every detail of our building. The way in which the Zeidler group culled through our wish list that had been created over a 15 -year time frame, was impressive to say the least. No details were missed. In fact we were given more options than we knew were available.

I highly recommend the Zeidler Partnerships Inc. to you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Alora Haynes*

Alora Haynes

“Adding value to the lives of our students and enriching our community”