



# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

College of Fine Arts

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To Whom It May Concern:

April, 2010

I am pleased to provide this recommendation for Zeidler Partnership, Inc., the architectural firm that designed two major performing arts facilities during my tenure as Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Florida (UF).

The first was a major addition to the Constans Theatre that incorporates teaching, research, and performance space for our School of Theatre and Dance. The design created by Mike Nelson and Gino DeSantis, which is visually stunning, provides an exemplary environment for the teaching, scholarly, and creative endeavors of our faculty and students. It was clear from their initial presentation for the UF architect selection committee that Zeidler deserves the international acclaim the firm has received for the many facilities they have designed, including those in the performing arts, such as the spectacular Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Throughout the design and construction process, I was very pleased with the way Mike and Gino listened to and interacted with the faculty. When confronted with budgetary and other challenges, such as the University's extensive internal review process, they demonstrated patience, perseverance, and vision in providing creative solutions that never compromised the overall goals of the building. The result is the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion, a wonderful facility of which any university could be justifiably proud.

Given the success of the McGuire Pavilion, I was not surprised when Zeidler was selected by UF to design a new facility for our Band program. (The preliminary concept sketches provided by Mike and Gino helped us obtain a major gift from George Steinbrenner for the band facility.)

The positive experiences we had working with the firm on the theatre/dance building were repeated on the band facility....careful attention to details including sophisticated acoustical demands ( in this case a rehearsal room that would be used by numerous bands, ranging in size from the 350 piece "Gator" Marching Band to the 60 piece Symphonic Wind Ensemble), thoughtful consideration of the suggestions and concerns of the band faculty, and the need to complement the design of the adjacent Music Building. The result is a facility that has drawn national attention for its acoustic excellence, dramatic architectural interior and exterior, and overall functionality as a band hall that can also be used for non-music events.

Although programmed/budgeted to reflect the Silver LEED standard, the Steinbrenner Band Hall actually achieved LEED Gold and has become an example for other new facilities being planned at UF. It is my understanding that Zeidler's success with both the McGuire Theatre/Dance Pavilion and Steinbrenner Band Hall led to the firm being subsequently selected for another major project at UF, the new Veterinary Education and Clinical Research Center.

In summary, Zeidler Partnership, Inc. exceeded my expectations and measured up to the international reputation the firm has achieved. We were very fortunate to benefit from the talent and expertise of this world-class firm.

I am pleased to recommend Zeidler enthusiastically and without reservation to any institution and/or community planning a performing arts facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald E. McGlothlin".

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