



For Release: June 8, 2007  
Contact: Becky Biegelsen: (619) 231-1941, x2352  
[www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org)

## **THE OLD GLOBE UNVEILS CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FACILITIES EXPANSION PROGRAM**

### **LEADERSHIP GIFTS FROM DONALD AND DARLENE SHILEY, CONRAD PREBYS HELP MAKE PLANS POSSIBLE**

San Diego – The Old Globe is pleased to unveil detailed plans for the rejuvenation of its Balboa Park campus. The plans were first outlined as part of the Globe's 2004 Strategic Plan which called for improved facilities by 2010 to better serve Globe patrons, artists and the community. They were then made public last year with the announcement of the Theatre's \$75 million Campaign, which designated \$20 million to support the facilities project, highlighted by the newly-named **Conrad Prebys Theatre Center**. The centerpiece of the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, which also encompasses the Old Globe Theatre, include a **new second stage theatre complex**, a **new education center**, as well as a **complete redesign of the Globe's Copley Plaza**. Construction is targeted to begin in June 2008.

The facilities plans are supported by The Old Globe Capital and Endowment Campaign, "**Securing a San Diego Landmark**," which was announced in March, 2006. This major five-year fundraising campaign is projected to raise \$75 million by the Globe's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010 and seeks to ensure the Theatre's unparalleled level of artistic quality and secure its long-term stability through an increased endowment, new facilities and enhanced levels of contributed operating funds needed to provide a reliable source of support for annual programs as the endowment grows. The Campaign was kicked off by a **\$10 million gift, earmarked for facilities, from Conrad Prebys, followed by a \$20 million gift from Donald and Darlene Shiley for operating and endowment support**. To date the Campaign has raised \$52 million.

"We are very excited to make public our construction plans for the new Conrad Prebys Theatre Center and Copley Plaza," said Executive Director Lou Spisto. "This much-needed re-imagining of our facilities will help us ensure the long-term vitality of the Globe, which has stood as San Diego's flagship theatre and a cultural landmark in this community for over 70 years."

-- more --

The new complex is a dynamic four-level facility (two below grade), housing a new 250-seat arena-style theatre that will retain the same intimate feel as the current second stage while achieving state-of-the-art technical capabilities for producing a wider variety of work and improved comfort and safety for audiences and artists. The new education center, which “wraps” the theatre on the uppermost level, will provide an exciting centralized space for the Globe’s education and outreach programs. Additionally, the new building will feature three stories for much-needed additional and improved dressing rooms and artistic support spaces that will serve all three theatres on The Old Globe campus. The construction plans also provide for new public spaces, upgrades to the pub, additional restrooms, and a completely rebuilt Copley Plaza. The new 14,000-square-foot plaza will serve as a beautiful outdoor gathering area for all three theatre venues while providing spaces for a variety of Globe and community functions. The new building and plaza will remain compatible with the Elizabethan architectural style of the historic Old Globe campus, while blending seamlessly with the enchanting surroundings in Balboa Park.

“The design will be both extroverted by integrating with the existing buildings and enlivening the redesigned plaza with a large upper level balcony from the new education center, and introverted by creating an intensely intimate experience in the new performance space,” commented Mark Reddington of LMN Architects.

### **New Second Stage Arena Theatre**

The new second stage will retain the engaging theatrical environment and size of the Globe’s current second stage – an intimate arena space – while offering enhanced, state-of-the-art technical and staging capabilities. The renovations for the current space, which has remained unimproved for nearly 40 years, will feature artistic support spaces both backstage and on a separate level from audience entrance and circulation, as well as a new technical center highlighted by a state-of-the-art control room and sound equipment, trap room, and a full-height lighting grid. Artistic support spaces include a new green room and new dressing rooms for both the arena theatre and the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. These changes, along with a new lobby, entrances and seating will improve theatre access, as well as enhance the comfort and safety of patrons and performers. The new theatre has been named for major Globe donors **Sheryl and Harvey White** in recognition of their \$6 million gift.

“In designing the new theatre, we have worked hard to hold onto the Current Cassius Carter Centre Stage’s best qualities, while making some key changes that will overcome it’s limitations,” said Joshua Dachs of Fisher Dachs Associates, the project’s Theatre Consultant. There will be new actor entrances at stage level, improved rigging and lighting capabilities, and accessible seating for wheelchair users. At the same time we think everyone will find the space very familiar, with its superior intimacy intact.”

-- more --

### **Education Center**

The new education center will give the Globe a dynamic, centralized space on the Balboa Park campus to house the Theatre's on-site education programs that since 1947 have been held in rehearsal spaces as available, or on stage when not in use. This 6,200-square-foot center will be situated on the second floor of the new arena theatre, wrapping around the upper-level technical areas to create a unique synergy with the main stage productions and artists working in the theatre. The center includes an 2070-square-foot multi-purpose performance and training space and a 600-square-foot classroom, which will create enormous opportunities for the Globe's on-site performances for students, after-school and weekend programs for young people, MFA training and workshops, adult acting classes, professional development opportunities for teachers, Insights Seminars and pre-performance lectures, family programming, as well as new play development. The center has been named for longtime Globe patrons **Karen and Donald Cohn** in recognition of their \$5 million campaign gift.

### **Redesigned Copley Plaza**

The Globe's Copley Plaza serves as the collective outdoor lobby for all three venues while providing a beautiful space for a variety of public functions. The new plaza – a 14,000-square-foot public gathering area – will become a showplace of its own, restoring the original spirit of the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition for which it was created. Visually and physically connecting the Globe's buildings, this inviting outdoor lobby will welcome the community to the three performance venues, box office, dining area, education center and administrative offices. The new Plaza will provide more comfortable accommodations for guests, including a new dining pavilion and outdoor seating throughout the plaza. Designed for optimal flexibility and a variety of uses for the public, the new Plaza will more easily accommodate Globe programs, such as outdoor pre-performance lectures, fund raising receptions, and "Nights at the Globe" events, as well as such major public celebrations as San Diego's annual "December Nights" community festival, the Globe's *Grinch* Tree Lighting ceremony, and the Summer Shakespeare Festival. The Copley Plaza will continue to serve as a central gathering place for not only the 300,000 annual theatre attendees but for all Balboa Park patrons, offering a delightful central area for dining and relaxation.

### **Construction Time Frame**

The construction phase for the new facilities is scheduled for June 2008 through September 2009, pending plan approval. The Globe's plans have been presented to the Mayor, City Councilwoman Toni Atkins and key city staff, the Balboa Park Committee, the Design Assistance Committee of the Historic Resources Board, as well as cultural organizations in the Park, and will be presented to a variety of committees and departments over the coming weeks.

## **Construction Partners**

**Project Management Advisors, Inc.** (PMA) in Solana Beach will serve as the project manager for the facilities plan. PMA will provide overall direction to the project team and manage all planning, design, construction and occupancy activities. Founded in 1993, Project Management Advisors, Inc. has completed and has projects underway that represent more than \$3.0 billion in project value. Ken Richter and Ted Giesing will be the principal advisors on the project.

The architect for the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center will be **LMN Architects** of Seattle, WA. LMN approaches design with a particular focus on their connections to the public realm. LMN's projects range from large scale public assembly facilities including over 30 performing arts center facilities. LMN has been recognized for its ability to deliver outstanding design for civic and public buildings. To that end, the firm's work has been honored with more than 120 design awards and it has won 10 design competitions. Recent public projects include the new UCSD Music Center, the Seattle Symphony's Benaroya Hall, Marion Oliver McCaw Hall (home to the Seattle Opera and the Pacific Northwest Ballet), the City College of San Francisco Performing Arts Center and the Vancouver Convention Centre in British Columbia. LMN Partner Mark Reddington will serve as the lead designer on the project, along with LMN Partner George Shaw and LMN Associate John Petterson.

Joshua Dachs of **Fisher Dachs Associates**, New York, NY, will serve as the project's Theatre Consultant. This leading theatre planning and design consultant with more than 30 years experience will collaborate on the design for the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. The firm has helped create over 400 performing arts projects, including Guthrie Theatre, the Hollywood Bowl and Lincoln Center.

Landscape design for the Copley Plaza will be completed by **David Reed Landscape Architects**, San Diego, CA. A leading designer in San Diego since 1982, the firm has won many awards for design restoration in Balboa Park.

David Marshall of **Heritage Architecture & Planning**, San Diego, CA will serve as a consultant on the project to ensure compliance with the historical requirements of Balboa Park and function as the Associate Architect under LMN Architects. A leading preservation architectural firm, Heritage Architecture & Planning was founded in 1978 and has overseen many projects in Balboa Park, including the House of Hospitality reconstruction.

The project's General Contractor, **DPR Construction, Inc.**, is providing support for cost estimating and construction planning. DPR has ranked in the top 50 general contractors in the U.S. over the last 10 years. Since 1990, the company has specialized in technically challenging projects.

Additional participants in the construction project include **Hope Engineering** to serve as the structural engineer, **RBF Consultants** to serve as civil engineer, **Jaffe Holden Acoustics** to serve as acoustic and audio-visual consultants, **TKG Consulting Engineers** to serve as MEP engineer and **Horton Lees Brogden** to consult on specialty lighting.

-- more --

The internationally-acclaimed, Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for over 70 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Full Monty* and *Damn Yankees*, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.

Highlights of the Globe's 2007 Summer Season include the acclaimed Summer Shakespeare Festival featuring *Hamlet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Measure for Measure* playing in nightly rotation, Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, John Van Druten's *Bell, Book and Candle*, and a special presentation of the hit Broadway musical *Avenue Q* at the Spreckels Theatre. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.

# # #