



STRUCTURA, Inc.

General Contractors



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General Contractor Structura, Inc. wins \$5 million bid for the reconstruction and space addition to acclaimed Austin museum, Arthouse at the Jones Center on Congress Avenue, in the heart of downtown Austin, continuing its commitment to the revitalization of the city's central district.

Austin, Texas, October 15, 2009 ----- Groundbreaking for this exciting project is October 28th @ 2:30 p.m., where Mayor Lee Leffingwell and former Mayor Will Wynn will offer remarks before a ceremonial 'wall-fall' on the Arthouse site.

The project is headed by Austin general construction and design firm, Structura, Inc. and New York architectural design firm Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis. Structura President Rusty Morgan will strike the first hammer for the demolition event, free and open to media and the public.

Redesign and updates to the original 1911 building will triple the museum's performance, teaching and exhibit space. "The organization [of Arthouse] is now positioned to take advantage of favorable conditions in the construction economy and begin an extensive renovation and expansion of its Austin-based headquarters," says Sue Graze, Arthouse Executive Director.

The museum's total space will go from 7,000 square feet to 20,830 square feet. The renovation calls for changes to the façade and both floors, adding new galleries, two studios, a 90-seat community/screening room as well as the addition of a unique a 5,500 square-foot roof top venue for art, film, and special events.

Stephen M. Jones, Chair, Arthouse Capital Campaign and treasurer of the board of directors says that “despite the global economic challenges of the past year, local and national conditions have gotten stronger and a confluence of circumstances have given Arthouse a unique opportunity to leverage today's highly favorable construction costs and financing rates. We owe special thanks to our architects Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis, general contractor Structura, lender Prosperity Bank, and Zydeco Development.”

Structura's Arthouse Project Manager

Bruce Lowe, Project Manager for Structura assigned to head the Arthouse venture, is a former officer for the Army Corps of Engineers. He has an MS from Texas A &M in construction engineering, and led the DPR Construction team that executed a \$135 million addition and renovation to the National Library of Congress, 2003-07.

Lowe describes the Arthouse assignment as “an exciting challenge from a logistics stand point. Since it is a downtown project, we have no lay down area, or place to store material. Our Superintendent Jason Owens will manage the intricate dance of timely deliveries, coordination with our neighbors, and construction and installation by our various, highly qualified craftsmen.” Arthouse is a combination art display space and artist studio, and a center for art and art exhibitions. “Structura is excited to be involved in the renovation and updating of such a venerable downtown structure,” Lowe continued.

Lowe is particularly honored to have the opportunity to work alongside the prestigious architectural design team from LTL Architects. “LTL has created an especially unique space, with high-end finishes requiring significant attention to detail. Notable elements are 170 glass block penetrations uniquely arranged to bring light into the structure at important points in the building. A monumental stair which draws you up to the second floor gallery and roof deck will make a stunning show, and open exhibition spaces designed for maximum flexibility for the presentation of art will further the new museum's contemporary style.”

Lowe continues, noting that “lots of specially designed systems and components are going into an extremely small space and tolerances are tight, so coordination of all systems and trades is critical. No one feature can be looked at in isolation. Rather, all systems and components must be looked at as a part of the complete Arthouse system.”

Construction Team Background

Structura, Inc. is an Austin-based commercial general contracting firm owned and managed by Rusty Morgan, a third generation Austin native and Texas A&M Construction Science graduate, and by Kevin Jones, also a graduate of A&M and a Texas native.

According to the Arthouse board of directors, Structura was selected based on the firm's experience with similar renovation projects in downtown Austin.

Structura has recently completed notable downtown projects including the revitalization of the historic Perry-Brooks building, Lance Armstrong's Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop and multiple projects in AMLI's 2nd Street District. Structura also counts Zach Scott Theater, Dell Children's Medical Center, Freescale and the Hotel Galvez among its prestigious clientele.

"Having worked in the construction industry all over Texas for the last 25 years," says Morgan, "I am accustomed to working on a variety of projects. But the Arthouse project is one the team at Structura is particularly excited about, as it will allow us to showcase our creative as well as practical and engineering skills. We are also thrilled to be involved in yet more of the downtown revitalization of my hometown!"

For more information on Structura, Inc., please visit our website and media room @ <http://www.structurainc.com> .

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