

GRIMSHAW

Press Release

Grimshaw and Little appointed to design landmark Arts Complex for Santa Monica College

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Grimshaw and Little Diversified Architectural Consulting (Little) are pleased to announce the successful proposal of a new Arts Complex for Santa Monica College (SMC) in Santa Monica, California. The new complex signifies the opportunity to create an iconic landmark building along Pico Boulevard that will celebrate and bolster the reputation of Santa Monica College's Art Department as 'one of the best foundational art programs in California.' Fostering human connection and inspiring opportunities for a diverse student body, the building will send a welcoming message of inclusivity that will make a positive contribution to the culture of the SMC campus and the broader Santa Monica community.

SMC offers an Associate Degree in Art, as well as Associate in Arts for Transfer degrees in Studio Arts and Art History. The college's graduates are recruited and given scholarships by the best art and art history programs in the country including: UCLA, Berkeley, California Institute of the Arts, Art Center College of Art and Design, San Francisco Art Institute, the Chicago Art Institute, & Rhode Island College of Art and Design.

Andrew Byrne, partner in charge of the Grimshaw Los Angeles studio states, "We are honored to be selected to deliver a new Arts Complex for Santa Monica College. This is an amazing opportunity to build upon and expand the reach of such a highly-regarded arts institution. We share SMC's ambitions to create a flexible, adaptable community-minded space that facilitates collaboration and most importantly, makes people feel inspired and welcome."

Grimshaw, appointed by Santa Monica College as lead architect and designer, and Little, appointed as architect of record, will work in collaboration for the new Arts Complex. Little brings a wide portfolio of architecture in higher education nationally and vast experience working with California's Division of the State Architect (DSA). Grimshaw offers nationally and internationally recognized progressive design leadership and a portfolio of innovative buildings for higher education and arts clients such as the Queens Museum of Art and Bath Spa University School of Art and Design. The Little and Grimshaw team will provide Santa Monica Community College District with world-class design and assurance of delivery.

Rita S. Carter, Principal of the Higher Education Studio at Little says, "We strive to reach beyond architecture and into the heart of campuses and communities to create thriving environments that support student success, and we are thrilled to be working collaboratively with Grimshaw to provide Santa Monica College with a decisive, thorough and bold design approach to achieve the school's aspirations."

The original SMC Arts Complex first opened in 1950 and the program has steadily grown in numbers and reputation over the years. The current art education programs are at maximum capacity necessitating that the program operate across two separate buildings. The new Arts Complex is an opportunity to consolidate the curriculum and forge together the disparate functions of the two buildings. The complex will be a dynamic and flexible space that strives to reinforce the campus identity culminating in a landmark intervention that makes a positive contribution to the public realm.

SMC's Art Department Chair, Walter Meyer states, "We are grateful for this incredible opportunity to create a dynamic art space for our students, the college, and wider community."

Grimshaw and Little's winning proposal focused on emergent thinking in pedagogy and spaces that can facilitate new modes of learning. Transparency and inclusivity characterize a nexus of campus life, bringing together students, faculty and staff in modern and versatile spaces for conferencing, studying, creating or simply hanging out. Sustainable thinking was a key objective for the design team and integrated appropriate understanding of the environmental context and climate of the site to develop specific architectural solutions. Grimshaw seeks to provide a world-renowned space that will draw students to its doors for its fresh response to what it means to be a creative in contemporary society. The introduction of the new Arts Complex for Santa Monica College will mark a significant architectural expansion that aspires to connect, commune, create and sustain.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Images can be downloaded via: <https://we.tl/t-VtGBvOZOjS>

Image Caption: Current Santa Monica Art Department courtyard, which opened in 1950 and has steadily grown in numbers and reputation over the years, now operating at maximum capacity. Photography by Amy Williams.

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About Grimshaw

Grimshaw was founded by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw in 1980. The practice operates worldwide, across all major sectors, with offices in London, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Dubai, Melbourne and Sydney, employing over 650 staff.

Committed to providing architecture of the highest calibre, the company's work is characterized by strong conceptual legibility, innovation and a rigorous approach to detailing, underpinned by the principles of enduring and sustainable design.

Grimshaw has been honored with over 200 awards for its commitment to excellence and innovation, including 'Practice of the Year' and 'Building of the Year' at the 2019

AJ100. In 2019, Founder Sir Nicholas Grimshaw was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

www.grimshaw.global

About Little

Little, an national architecture and design firm, is recognized for developing exceptional design solutions that generate business results in the community, retail, workplace and healthcare industries. With over 400 professionals, Little delivers results beyond architecture by combining expertise in traditional architectural services (architecture, engineering, interior architecture) with proficiency in additional diversified architectural consulting services (land development services, facilities planning and space management consulting, graphic design, building technology applications, and computer animation and internet application services). For more information, visit www.littleonline.com.

About Santa Monica College

Founded in 1929, Santa Monica College is a California Community College accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In addition to being California's leader in transfers to the University of California system, the University of Southern California, and Loyola Marymount University, SMC also offers more than 110 career training degrees and certificates. SMC provides news and cultural enrichment through its NPR radio station KCRW (89.9 FM) and The Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center as well as lifelong learning through distinctive programs such as its Emeritus Program for older adults. SMC has one of the most comprehensive student support networks which include counseling, academic & career support services, and a robust food security program for students.