



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Arts Exchange Begins Design Phase with Selection of Architects

## *Gilchrist Ross Crowe Selected*

“Gilchrist Ross Crowe earns the selection as lead architects for the Arts Exchange project,” announced Peggy Brady, Executive Director of the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA). “Many fine architectural firms responded to our national RFQ. We were able to winnow the candidates to four outstanding firms—three of which were local. And, in the end, Gilchrist Ross Crowe rose to the top and is a perfect match for this exciting project. The Arts Exchange will be an important catalyst for the Gaines Street development and change how citizens and visitors interact with the arts.

“Gilchrist Ross Crowe demonstrated both a depth of experience in the design of the multi-faceted project, as well as a commitment to the arts, that make them an ideal addition to the Arts Exchange team. We are confident that their skills and knowledge will combine with those of COCA and Artspace to bring the vision of the Arts Exchange to reality,” says Andrew Michaelson, Artspace Project Manager. Artspace, Inc., is COCA’s partner in developing the Arts Exchange project.

GRC is currently involved in the \$32 million Ruby Diamond Performance Hall renovation and expansion at FSU. Other projects bearing the GRC name include: FAMU School of Pharmacy; Montgomery Hall renovation for FSU School of Dance; Wildwood Halls for FSU Housing; Chautauqua Ritz Theatre; and Challenger Learning Center in downtown Tallahassee.

Under GRC’s leadership, the full team for the Arts Exchange will include: Theatre Consultants Collaborative, LLC, the Genesis Group, Bliss & Nyitray, Inc., H2 Engineers and Creative Acoustics, LLC.

As part of the Tallahassee/Leon County Cultural Plan, a citizens group envisioned the Arts Exchange as a mixed-use arts village, designed to provide creative work spaces for arts organizations, affordable loft live-work spaces for artists, a flexible black box theatre and a retail-café destination. COCA took the lead on the project, working closely with the City and the County, and formed a partnership with Artspace, Inc., the nation’s leading non-profit arts developer.

To learn more about the Arts Exchange Project, go to [www.the-arts-exchange.com](http://www.the-arts-exchange.com) or [www.cocanet.org](http://www.cocanet.org).