



Hathaway Dinwiddie got a key part of SFJAZZ's project to build a jazz center in the Hayes Valley area of San Francisco.

Hathaway Dinwiddie gets \$50M SFJAZZ Center job

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Hathaway Dinwiddie has landed one of the prize construction jobs of 2011: the \$50 million SFJAZZ Center.

The 35,000-square-foot building, at 205 Franklin St. in Hayes Valley, will be the first stand-alone institutional-quality jazz center in the United States. It is being designed by San Francisco architect Mark Cavagnero.

“With its extensive roots in the local community and its outstanding track record of building facilities with specific requirements like those of the SFJAZZ Center, we’re certain we have the ideal general contractor for our project,” said Felice Swapp, executive operating director for SFJAZZ.

Building permits have been pulled for the project and the SFJAZZ Center would like to break ground in spring of this year, depending on the capital campaign. Thus far, \$32 million has been raised, including a \$20 million anonymous donation. Hathaway Dinwiddie Vice President Ed Conlon said his company is “jazzed” to build the project.

“This is a jewel-box of a building,” said Conlon. “There are numerous technical aspects of the building that make this project as challenging as it is exciting. Hathaway Dinwiddie has helped build several of San Francisco’s landmark buildings, and we’re proud to be involved with what is undoubtedly another in the SFJAZZ Center.”

Cavagnero’s design features an auditorium with flexible seating for 350 to 700; advanced technology for performance recording and digital-age broadcasts to global audiences; an 80-seat multi-purpose Ensemble Room; three rehearsal spaces; a digital learning lab; and a sidewalk-level restaurant/café.

“The technology in this building is very impressive. It’s truly state-of-the-art and will require us to think innovatively about how to build it,” says Conlon. “Every aspect of it will present specific challenges, from a design specific to its planned use, to the tight corner we have to build it in while minimizing impact to the surrounding neighborhood. There’s a great team in place, and we’re excited to start the project.”

Other firms working on the project include theatre designer Len Auerbach of Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, Performing Arts/Media Facilities Planning and Design, and the renowned acoustician, Sam Berkow of SIA Acoustics. The Hathaway Dinwiddie team will oversee the construction.

“We knew from the start that this building would be special on numerous fronts, and we have assembled the best representatives from their respective disciplines to help us achieve our goal. Hathaway Dinwiddie is a valuable piece of that puzzle,” said Swapp.
