March 30, 2012

MacEwan University selects architectural firms

Edmonton - MacEwan University has chosen Bing Thom Architects, Vancouver (BTA), and Manasc Isaac Architects, Edmonton to design its new Cultural Arts and Communications Centre. The facility will house the programs currently housed at its Centre for the Arts and Communications campus.

In November of 2011, the university Board of Governors approved $5 million for design and planning of the facility. The Request for Proposals was issued, closed and evaluated between January and March. Of the 11 firms that submitted proposals, four were short-listed by the evaluation committee. All four finalists were partnerships between Edmonton firms and firms from across Canada.

Bing Thom is the principal of BTA, which he founded in 1982. Bing is a dedicated and artful city-builder with a global reputation. His commitment to using architecture to improve the urban context has been recognized by a range of honours, including the Order of Canada.

Vivian Manasc is one of Canada's top integrated design facilitators. Over a 25-year period, she has delivered and refined a facilitation method that brings out the best in people. Vivian has been on the leading edge of inclusive participation and integrated design; her firm's leadership role in the field was recognized with an Innovation Award from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

"BTA’s collaboration with Manasc Isaac extends back several years," said David Atkinson, President, MacEwan University. “BTA’s design reputation and extensive skills with large-scale arts and post-secondary projects is well complemented by Manasc Isaac’s intimate knowledge of downtown Edmonton,” he added.

During the design phase, there will be a variety of consultations with faculty, staff, students and members of the community. The university expects the architectural plans to be ready by March 2013.

President David Atkinson will be available to speak to the media at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30 at City Centre Campus.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is proudly celebrating its 40th anniversary. As a comprehensive university, MacEwan offers more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, providing career opportunities and opening the doors to academic excellence, continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.

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