

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

Fact Sheet

Complex spaces:

- Ron Burkle Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation Auditorium with 2,265 seats and 360 degree seating
- Sprawling public lobbies
- Ernest Fleischmann Gallery
- Two restaurants; Patina and Walt Disney Concert Hall Café
- The LA Phil Store
- BP Hall
- Edythe and Eli Broad and Nancy and Richard J. Riordan Founders Room
- Walt Disney Concert Hall Community Park and Blue Ribbon Garden
- Capital Group Companies Choral Hall
- Nadine and Ed Carson Amphitheatre
- W.M. Keck Foundation Children's Amphitheatre
- Box office
- Underground parking garage with 7 levels and 2,191 parking spaces for public access
- Alfred E. Mann Los Angeles Philharmonic Association Center administrative offices building, housing Los Angeles Philharmonic Association staff
- Backstage facilities, including rehearsal/practice rooms for musicians, two lounges, orchestra library, dressing rooms, and instrument storage space
- Roy and Edna Disney Cal Arts Theatre (REDCAT)

Materials used in complex:

- Steel
- Stainless steel
- High-polished stainless steel
- Woods: plywood, Douglas fir, oak, Alaskan yellow cedar
- Polished brass
- Travertine (from Italy)
- Limestone (from Iowa; used in Alfred E. Mann Los Angeles Philharmonic Association Center only)
- Concrete

About the complex:

- Walt Disney Concert Hall is the fourth venue of the Music Center for Los Angeles County
- **Function of Facility:** Concert hall for resident orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic
- **Owner:** County of Los Angeles
- **Operator:** Music Center of Los Angeles County
- **Primary tenant:** Los Angeles Philharmonic Association
- **Complex Square Footage:** 293,000
- **Funding for complex:** Various public funds and private donations
- **Total cost of complex:** \$274 million
- **Timetable:** 16 years (initial gift granted in 1987; architect selected in 1988; design announced in 1991; construction on hall started in 1999; project completed on October 23, 2003)
- **Architect:** Gehry Partners, LLP (Frank Gehry)
- **Acoustician/sound designer:** Nagata Acoustics, Inc. (Yasuhisa Toyota, project manager)

Ron Burkle Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation Auditorium

Uses:

- The presentation of over 165 concert performances of classical, jazz and world music each year
- Recording

Materials:

- Red oak (floor)
- Alaskan yellow cedar (stage)
- Douglas fir (walls)
- Fabric and high density foam (seats)
- High-polished brass (rails)
- Glass (skylights/pane window)

Key Features:

- 2,265 seats with 360 degree seating about the stage
- Vibrant, colorful seat covering in a custom pattern called "Lillian" (Named after the principal benefactor Lillian Disney) designed by the project architect Frank Gehry
- Seats designed by Poltrona Frau, the designer of seats for Mercedes Benz and Ferarri
- 30 foot tall plate glass window referred to as the "kimono window" because of its geometric form, equipped with an electronic shade to allow closure
- Eight 30x30 skylights in the four corners of the hall, allowing in natural light, equipped with electronic shades allowing for closure
- A striking 72-stop pipe organ containing 6,125 pipes, ranging in size from a pencil to a telephone pole

- Concentric ring risers on stage set on a complex system of hydraulic lifts underneath the stage, allowing the stage to be flat or arranged in stepped-riser format (risers increase in six-inch increments, with the highest rising 32 inches above the stage); the risers were designed by both Frank Gehry and former LA Phil Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen
- Choral benches set on hydraulic lifts, allowing section to be used as seats in non-choral performances or lowered onto stage level
- Angled walls clad with 133,000 square feet of Douglas fir sculpted millwork wood acoustic paneling to provide optimal, maximal sound reflection to all seating areas of the hall

Dimensions:

- Approx. length of hall: 195 feet
- Approx width of hall: 119 feet
- Approx. height of hall (measured from center stage to ceiling): 51 feet
- Approx. square footage of hall's interior: 44,000 square feet
- Approx. building square footage: 293,000 square feet

Acoustics:

- 133,000 square feet of Douglas fir sculpted millwork wood used for the walls/ceilings because of its acoustic properties
- The stage is made of Alaskan yellow cedar, a very soft, resonant wood, used because of its superior acoustic properties

Walt Disney Concert Hall Community Park and Blue Ribbon Garden

Design:

- Landscape designer: Melinda Taylor Garden Design, Los Angeles, California
- Landscape architect: Lawrence Reed Moline, Limited, Culver City, California

Uses:

- An urban garden for public gathering, featuring extensive plantings of varied and colorful trees, shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses
- Pre-concert and post-concert social space
- Event space

Lobby Spaces

Uses:

- Central public spaces
- Includes 2 bars with rose marble countertops for beverages and cocktails before and during performances and at intermission

Materials:

- Woods: Douglas fir
- Carpet: design called “Lillian” in honor of the hall’s principal benefactor Lillian Disney, and designed by architect Frank Gehry; a derivative of the fabric used for the seats in the hall’s interior
- Glass
- Steel
- Rose marble (countertops for concession/bar spaces)
- Travertine (stone for floors) from Italy

History

- In May 1987, Lillian Disney gave \$50 million to build Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- By December 1988, from a field of 72 competitors, world-renowned architect Frank Gehry was selected to design the world-class concert hall. The final design was announced in September 1991, and included 2,265 seats and plans for an underground parking garage to supplement downtown parking.
- Several years of complex negotiations between affected agencies, as well as negotiations at various times for a hotel and a chamber music hall (both later deleted), delayed the start of the project.
- By 1992, construction moved forward on the garage, which would be used by jurors reporting to nearby courtrooms, office workers and the general public, as well as by patrons attending performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall. A county bond issue funded the garage.
- In July 1994, a new cost estimate from subcontractors added to the concert hall price tag. Continued delays and uncertain schedules prohibited efforts to obtain highly competitive cost proposals.
- In March 1995, Hines Interests, the country’s largest privately owned real estate development firm, completed project cost estimates which added contingencies to make the total of the core project \$224.5 million. The core project included all the areas within the concert hall superstructure, including the main auditorium, public, patron, backstage areas, a public park and outdoor amphitheatre.

- In May 1995, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the Walt Disney Concert Hall lease, which provided a construction start date extension of up to four years to allow time for additional fundraising.
- In December 1995, the County accepted the fundraising plan proposed by Walt Disney Concert Hall I (Disney I) the legal entity responsible for constructing the hall. A capital campaign to complete the hall was launched under the leadership of Performing Arts Center Chairman Andrea L. Van de Kamp, SunAmerica CEO Eli Broad and Los Angeles Mayor Richard J. Riordan.
- In March 1996, the concert hall parking garage opened at the future site of Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- In December 1996, the Walt Disney Concert Hall Campaign received its first corporate donation from the Times Mirror Foundation in the amount of \$5 million.
- 1997 brought several other donations to the Walt Disney Concert Hall Campaign, including a \$25 million challenge grant from The Walt Disney Company; \$15 million from Ron Burkle & the Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation; \$10 million from ARCO; \$5 million each from Mayor Richard Riordan, businessman Eli Broad, Roy E. and Patty Disney, Bank of America Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation; and \$1 million from Toyota Motor Sales USA.
- Early 1997 also brought the addition of two new project components: the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association Center, which provides administrative offices for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (nicknamed "REDCAT"), a 220-seat multi-functional performance space for the California Institute of the Arts. The Los Angeles Philharmonic and CalArts made firm commitments to fund their respective project components.
- In August 1997, the construction planning for the Walt Disney Concert Hall was reinitiated. Frank O. Gehry & Associates was contracted to complete the working drawings for Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- Also in August 1997, Disney I formed a volunteer Oversight Board to oversee fundraising and establish a timeline and budget for the hall. Eli Broad was selected as chairman of the board, with Diane Disney Miller as vice chair.
- In February 1998, Disney I established a development management organization to manage the planning, design and construction management for the concert hall project, lead by President Edward J. Burnell.
- In early 1998, the Ahmanson and Weingart Foundations and an anonymous donor each contributed \$5 million, bringing the funding for the core project to \$175.6 million. In addition, the Ahmanson Foundation announced a gift of \$2.5 million for the beautification of the Music Center of Los Angeles County.
- In July 1998, \$20 million in new donations from 17 corporations, foundations and individuals was announced, bringing the total funds raised to \$196 million.

- In August 1998, the State of California joined the partnership of donors by making a \$5 million allocation for Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- Also in August 1998, Disney I transferred full authority and responsibility for completing Walt Disney Concert Hall to its newly formed Board of Directors (formerly the Disney Hall Oversight Board.) At the same time, William E.B. Siart was selected to succeed Eli Broad as the board's chairman and chief executive officer.
- In February 1999, fundraising efforts received a major boost with \$12 million in new donations, \$4 million of which was designated to completely fund a new component of the complex, the 300-seat Children's Amphitheatre, and \$1 million to endow programming in the amphitheatre. Core project funding totals \$208.2 million.
- In September 1999, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved amendments to pre-existing agreements between Los Angeles County and Walt Disney Concert Hall I, as well as agreements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and CalArts, allowing final details of construction planning to proceed.
- In November 1999, construction contracts with M.A. Mortenson were executed for the core Disney Hall project, the W.M. Keck Foundation Children's Amphitheatre, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association Center and the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater. The cost to complete the core project totals \$224.5 million.
- Also in November 1999, commitments for the core project totaled \$224.5 million, covering 100 percent of the core project's cost. Fundraising efforts, however, continue to secure funds for high-profile project enhancements, such as partial stone cladding and paving on the exterior, and improvements to the interior finishes.
- On November 15, 1999, all of the required construction commencement conditions had been satisfied. This allowed construction on the hall to begin immediately.
- On December 8, 1999, a Construction Commencement Celebration was held to mark the official start of construction on the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex.
- Walt Disney Concert Hall was inaugurated on October 23, 2003.