

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is both an acclaimed arts institution and as a multi-disciplinary cultural campus. The Center is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages, offering unsurpassed experiences, and engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring programs.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization. It owns and operates the 3,000-seat opera house-style Segerstrom Hall, the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, the 500-seat multi-functional Samueli Theater, 250-seat Judy Morr Theater and a 46,000-square-foot Arts Plaza. The Center's Lawrence and Kristina Dodge Education Center includes a studio performance space and Boeing Education Lab as well as the offices for the Center's education department. The performance venues, enclosed in architecturally stunning, award-winning buildings, feature impeccable acoustics.

## History

Segerstrom Center for the Arts, originally named the Orange County Performing Arts Center, traces its roots back to the late 1960s when a dedicated group of community leaders decided Orange County should have its own world-class performing arts venue. In the mid-1970s, the local Segerstrom family donated a five-acre site for the original facility. It was determined that the new performing arts complex would be built entirely through private funding. Government funding would be neither solicited nor accepted. Then named the Orange County Performing Arts Center, the organization held the distinction of being the first of its scope in the country to hold this distinction. Charles Lawrence served as lead architect. An international team of Dr. A. Harold Marshall, Dennis Paoletti and Jerald R. Hyde designed the acoustics.

The vision of the Center's founders became reality on September 29, 1986, when Segerstrom Hall – one of the nation's most innovative and technically advanced homes for the performing arts – opened its doors to the public for the first time. Soprano Leontyne Price inaugurated the venue by singing the "Star Spangled Banner" with Zubin Mehta conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

The Center has achieved consistent artistic success and has established itself as a valuable cultural resource for the entire community. The Center is also proponent of new works and artistic development. Its International Dance Series has earned the Center a reputation as one of the leading presenters and producers of dance in the country. The Center is an important stop for national tours of award-winning Broadway shows. Its annual music series bring the world's greatest classical, jazz and cabaret artists to Orange County. And its innovative arts education programs are lauded by educators and school districts throughout California and beyond.

In 1998, the Segerstrom family made another commitment to the Center. An additional parcel of land was deeded to the Center for the purpose of constructing a concert hall, a multi-use theater, an education center, public restaurant and community plaza. The creative team of architect Cesar Pelli, acousticians Russell Johnson and Damian Doria of Artec Consultants, Inc. and landscape architect Peter Walker and Partners was engaged for this new project.

Another major step towards the completion of the original dream of the Center's founders came when, in August 2000, Henry Segerstrom provided the lead gift of \$40 million to the Center's \$200 million capital campaign. This was the largest charitable cash gift in the history of Orange County. In recognition of this cornerstone gift, the new concert hall was named the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall after the

Center's founding chairman and his late wife. The 500-seat theater was designated Samueli Theater in recognition of the \$10 million gift from the Henry Samueli family.

The year 2006 was a watermark year for the Center and the community. September 15, 2006 was the highlight, when the Center inaugurated its new Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall with a spectacular concert by Center resident company Pacific Symphony led by its music director Carl St. Clair. The opening night starred Plácido Domingo singing the world premiere of *Canciones de Lorca*, commissioned by the Center from composer William Bolcom. The evening also included performances by another Center resident company, Pacific Chorale.

On January 12, 2011, the Center changed its name to Segerstrom Center for the Arts. The new name honors the extraordinary contributions of the Segerstrom family, whose unwavering commitment has been at the core of the Center's success. In addition to the presenting institution Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the entire 14-acre multidisciplinary campus on which its venues stand is also designated with the same name. Segerstrom Center encompasses the producing-presenting institution itself and two other major arts organizations. These include the Tony® Award-winning South Coast Repertory and the future site of the new Orange County Museum of Art.

In addition to offering a broad spectrum of quality regional, national and international programming, the Center has one of the nation's most respected departments of education and community programs and has affected the lives of more than 8 million young people and educators. Each year, more than 300,000 elementary, middle and high school, college students and educators have their lives enhanced by attending a Center arts-in-education program such as the Center's Arts Teach, ArtsConnect, Summer at the Center and Masters at the Center. Founders Plus, one of the Center's many support groups, helps to distribute thousands of free tickets to students and the underserved each year.

Since opening, Segerstrom Center for the Arts has established a record of artistic excellence and fiscal stability. It will continue to be driven by its belief in the power and beauty of the performing arts to enrich and enhance the quality of life in the community.