



Our history

Dreams of a Chandler metropolitan arts center began in 1969 with the demolition of the Chandler High School auditorium, which had been an integral part of the school and community since 1922. The 700-seat school facility had served the growing area well for nearly 50 years before the space was converted into needed classrooms and a media center. After 12 years of talking, wishing and dreaming, Mayor James Patterson appointed a Civic Center Task Force to study the city's civic facility needs and make recommendations to the City Council.

By 1982, a final report was prepared by the Task Force, recommending to the Council that a senior citizens center, multi-purpose convention hall, a performing arts center, library and museum be built in the downtown Chandler area. After a series of other committees conducted further studies and evaluated a variety of plans, the City Council and School Board selected RSGS Architects for the project and approved a contract with Sletten Construction Company.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were conducted in December 1987, with a Grand Opening Gala presented on schedule on August 25, 1989.

Today, the Chandler Center for the Arts is a multi-theatre performing and visual arts facility shared between the City of Chandler and the Chandler Unified School District. The facility is used Monday through Thursday primarily for school arts curriculum and other school activities, and Friday through Sunday for City or public performances.

The Center is equipped with three theatres and a 2,000 square foot exhibit hall. With a total seating capacity of 1,536, the unique design of the Center allows for two rear sections of the main auditorium to rotate 180 degrees to become two more intimate performance spaces: the 350-seat Hal Bogle Theatre and the 250-seat Recital Hall. The walls between the separate performance areas prevent sound interference, thus allowing up to three productions to run simultaneously.

In 2008, Chandler voters approved a combined total of \$6.7 million in bond funding in order to update the 20-year-old facility. The renovations, which are currently in progress, will update the Center to meet modern ADA codes and replace the main stage flooring and lobby carpeting. The seats are being refurbished and the HVAC systems upgraded. The main stage rigging infrastructure also will be updated to accommodate a greater range of productions, including Off Broadway-style performances.

For more information about the Chandler Center for the Arts, please visit <http://www.chandlercenter.org>.