

Tucson Symphony Hall
Tucson, Arizona

The Tucson Symphony has performed in multipurpose space within the Tucson Convention Center complex for since that facility was constructed in 1978. While offering patrons a certain level of comfort, easy access, and moderate ticket prices, the facility has always been considered poor acoustically. In addition, technological outfitting including the overall sound and lighting systems are considered antiquated by today's standards. Rehearsal space beyond the main hall is non-existent causing serious scheduling problems with other user groups, the narrow depth of the stage and fly space are problematic as well, and there is very limited dressing room and "Green Room" space for the artists.

Following completion of Tucson's Rio Nuevo Master Plan which utilizes a large-scale (nearly city-wide) tax increment financing district, Strategy 5 Principal Ernest Bleinberger prepared a feasibility study for a new Tucson Symphony Hall to be located within this self-funding district. The feasibility study employed the classic "shoe box" configuration for the facility as favored by the great symphonies of the world, but also employed programming for other revenue generating spaces that could help to minimize the need for subsidies or ongoing philanthropic support.

The project is moving forward as the \$1 billion Rio Nuevo Master Plan is implemented. The plan calls for numerous museums, arts facilities, and other cultural facilities to be built in close proximity within the downtown. The Tucson Symphony Hall has been sited and planning and capital campaign activities are continuing.

