

PRESS RELEASE

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Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center Finalizes Design Team for New Facility

Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center selects LTL Architects as Architect of Record through Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program

Michelle Barnes, Executive Director of the Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center (HWCEC) and Early Childhood Initiatives Center (ECIC) announced today the selection of LTL Architects as their Architect of Record for their model early childhood and training facility.

LTL Architects was selected as the Architect through Walton Family Foundation's Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence program, a pilot project with the goal of elevating the quality of architectural and landscape design in Northwest Arkansas. The inviting and sustainable design of the facility will further cultivate the rich history of architecture in Northwest Arkansas.

"LTL understands that every aspect of the facility should be a learning opportunity for young children and early childhood professionals, alike. They have a remarkable vision and passion for this project that we know will translate to a design that will serve as a model for the early childhood field," said Michelle Barnes, Executive Director of the Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center and the Early Childhood Initiatives Center, "I believe they are going to create something beyond our wildest imagination."



LTL Architects is a design intensive architecture firm founded in 1997 by Paul Lewis, Marc Tsurumaki and David J. Lewis, located in New York City. LTL Architects engages a diverse range of work, from large scale academic and cultural buildings to interiors and speculative research projects. LTL Architects realizes inventive solutions that turn the very constraints of each project into the design trajectory, exploring opportunistic overlaps between space, program, form, budget and materials.

“We are thrilled to be given the opportunity to work in concert with the HWCEC, ECIC, and the excellent team engaged in this important building,” said David J. Lewis, Principal of LTL Architects. “This is an exceptionally interesting and unique project that will have a dramatic impact for years to come in the community. In collaboration with SCAPE Landscape Architecture, we look forward to designing and realizing a dynamic and unprecedented place to nurture children through the integration of architecture and nature at this significant site in Bentonville.”

LTL Architects has completed academic, institutional, residential and hospitality projects throughout the United States. LTL received a 2007 National Design Award, multiple AIA design awards and have been extensively published. LTL was featured in the U.S. Pavilion at the 2004 Venice Architecture Biennale and their work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Carnegie Museum of Art. The principals, Paul Lewis, Marc Tsurumaki and David J. Lewis, are co-authors of the monographs, *Intensities* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2013), *Opportunistic Architecture* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2008) and *Situation Normal....Pamphlet Architecture #21* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1998).

LTL Architects recently completed work on the 70,000 square feet renovation for the Steinhardt School at NYU, the Living and Learning Center for Gallaudet University in Washington, DC and the Administrative Campus Center for the Claremont University Consortium in California. Currently, LTL Architects along with Perkins+Will and Thornton-Tomasetti, are undertaking the 160,000 square feet renovation of Upson Hall and the masterplan of the Engineering Quadrangle at Cornell University. Notable past projects include Arthouse at the Jones Center in Austin, TX, Bornhuetter Hall at the College of Wooster, the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University, Fluff Bakery, and Xing Restaurant (recipient of the 2007 James Beard Award for restaurant design). LTL Architects’ principals are on the faculty at Princeton University, Columbia University, and Parsons School of Design.

LTL Architects is pleased to be working in collaboration with local partners Hight Jackson Associates, Harrison French & Associates and East-Harding Construction. These firms will be the Local Architect, MEP and Civil Engineer, and Construction team, respectively.

“LTL brings design excellence, specialized insight into children’s needs and leadership to ensure that this is the best possible design for the youngest learners in our region. It is a true honor to be working with LTL Architects on such a fulfilling project. When the facility is completed, it will be recognized nationally, not only for what it does, but how it is designed,” said Larry Perkin, Partner at Hight Jackson Associates.

The new facility will be located on NE J Street in Bentonville, adjacent to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and south of Scott Family Amazeum. The ultimate goal of the Early Childhood Initiatives Center is for 100% of centers in Northwest Arkansas to become quality accredited through the State of Arkansas’ Better Beginnings program, ensuring that every young child has the opportunity to have a high-quality early education.

On March 18, 2016, we will be hosting **Kickoff to Excellence: Meet the Design Team** Community Forum from 8:00 am to 9:30 am at Avondale Chapel & Gardens in Bentonville. We invite the community to come meet our design team, learn more about the new facility and ask questions about the project and

design process. Input is pivotal in creating the highest quality learning environment for the Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center and the Early Childhood Initiatives Center. The panelists, each of whom will play a pivotal role in the creation of our new facility, will be from:

- LTL Architects
- Hight Jackson Associates
- Harrison French & Associates
- East Harding Construction
- SCAPE / LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PLLC

While we want the entire community to participate in this discussion, our event space is limited to 200 people. Please RSVP on <https://kickofftoexcellence.eventbrite.com> to secure a seat to this free event.

The team will begin the design process immediately, and expects to complete the project in the fall of 2017. Investment opportunities are still available, ranging from as little as \$500 up to \$1 million plus on-going program support for naming rights of the Early Childhood Initiatives Center.

For more information, contact Sunny Lane or Kristen Herbert at (479) 273-3552 or visit ecicnwa.org.

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About Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center

Children are our first priority at the Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center; our doors opened in 1982. We are a trusted name in both the community and the early childhood industry. Our commitment is to provide families access to the highest quality early childhood education and care. The Center reaches beyond our families served and collaborates with early childhood programs throughout Northwest Arkansas. Visit www.hwcec.org to learn more.

About the Early Childhood Initiatives Center

The ECIC collaborates with the nearly 500 early childhood programs in Northwest Arkansas, to ensure that every child, infant through pre-k, has access to the highest quality of early childhood education and care. High-quality early childhood education benefits the child, workforce and society through increased graduation rates, parental earnings and employee retention, and ensures a talent rich pipeline, leading to a \$9.21 return on investment for every dollar spent in early education. We rely on the generosity of volunteers, advocates and donors in our community. Visit ecicnwa.org to learn more.