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DEVELOPMENT

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Levine Center for the Arts to be recognized tonight at Charlotte City Council meeting

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx is expected to recognize the Levine Center for the Arts at tonight's city council meeting for winning several recent awards.

The cultural arts and business center last month received three honors from two international real estate organizations.

The Urban Land Institute selected the center as one of 14 developments chosen as a winner in the 2012 Global Awards for Excellence competition, recognized among professionals as one of the land use industry's most prestigious programs.

The arts center, located at the southernmost edge of uptown, also won the 2012 Prix d'Excellence in the category of downtown redevelopment projects from the U.S. chapter of the International Real Estate Federation. It has also been named the winner of the group's Grand Prix award for 2012, the group's highest honor.

"This project is one of the most complex and game changing investments this community has ever undertaken," Ron Kimble, Charlotte's deputy city manager, said in a statement released by Wells Fargo & Co., which owns and helped developed the project. Bob Bertges with Wells Fargo's corporate properties group is also expected to attend tonight's meeting.

The center transformed more than four acres of surface parking lots on three separate blocks into an arts district. In announcing the award, the Urban Land Institute, praised the "progressive architecture interwoven with public art and carefully planned spaces" that "provide the opportunity for new retail and restaurants to activate and enhance the street level experience."

The center includes the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, John S. and James L. Knight Theater and the Mint Museum Uptown. There is also an office high-rise, the Duke Energy Center.

Project architects and designers include: tvsdesign, Machado and Silvetti Associates, Mario Botta, Wagner Murray Architects, The Freelon Group/Neighboring Concepts and HGOR Planners and Landscape Architects, according to the land institute.

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ABOUT THIS BLOG

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