

# Pittsburg Civic Center Breaks Ground

PITTSBURG—Lathrop Construction, Benicia, is scheduled to break ground tomorrow on an \$18 million Civic Center for the City of Pittsburg, a unique public structure designed by Hansen Associates Architects and Planners of Tiburon.

The City of Pittsburg recognized the need for the new facility to serve its rapidly growing population nearly 15 years ago. In 1995, the City requested proposals to evaluate needs, prepare a master plan, design and oversee the construction of the Civic Center Complex. After intense competition, the Council unanimously chose Hansen Associates. Architect Fani Hansen led the design of the facility.

Under the leadership of the architect, the City of Pittsburg City Council and the project liaison Lillian Pride, numerous public meetings have been held to define community goals and objectives for the new facility. The project represents an example of a positive collaboration among a number of major public agencies, including Pittsburg Unified School District, Contra Costa County Delta Municipal Court and Library, the State of California National Guard Armory, the State Board of Corrections, CalTrans (Design and Traffic division), Bay Area Rapid Transit, Contra Costa County Fire Prevention, Tri Delta Transit, Historic Society, Youth Awareness Program Pacific Bell, PG&E, Pittsburg's Chamber of Commerce and others.

The efficient and cost conscious design centers on creating a public "one-stop" center, where city services will be available at a single location.

Architect Fani Hansen described the design: "The main lobby is conceived as a cathedral-like space, inspired by Pittsburg's steel mill architecture. Landscape and water features evoke the fishing heritage, paving patterns incorporate ethnic art motives. The steel structure, visible from the exterior and interior, includes exhibit space and murals, elements of local history with color and art work to identify Pittsburg's diversity. It will serve as a catalyst for future development in the surrounding areas and will create strong visual symbol in the community."

The Civic Center design has public circulation in the center of the building, where elements such as art, historic memorabilia, water and plants are carefully woven into the design. Public services most frequently used are located at ground level. Open space leads to the Council and Administration area. The open office layout is designed to foster interaction among city staff and public, Hansen said.

The Pittsburg Civic Center building is situated so it will capture the natural light and views of the surrounding hills to the south and the river to the north. High windows allow for deep daylight penetration, while exterior balconies and light shelves operate as sunshades and as reflectors for bouncing light into the interior ceiling.

Lathrop Construction was awarded the contract to build the project in a public bid competition approved September 22, and the



Lathrop Construction is building the new Pittsburg Civic Center. The facility was designed by Tiburon-based Hansen Associates Architects and Planners.



The Civic Center design has public circulation in the center of the building, where elements such as art, historic memorabilia, water and plants are carefully woven into the design.

contractor expects completion within 18 months, Dan Warren, project manager for Lathrop, said, "I am looking forward to hitting the ground running."

## Daily Pacific Builder