

## **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Gala celebrate the opening of the new Slidell Auditorium**

The City of Slidell, Mayor Freddy Drennan and the Slidell City Council recently hosted the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Slidell Auditorium. The "Arts, Camera, Action!" Gala, hosted by the City of Slidell's Friends of the Arts organization marked the grand opening of the facility.

During the ribbon cutting, Mayor of Slidell Freddy Drennan stated "Is there any other word to describe this facility than "absolutely amazing?"

Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects designed the new 22,166 sf Slidell Auditorium, a multipurpose community facility built to replace the center destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. It accommodates a wide range of activities ranging from Mardi Gras Balls and receptions to trade shows and school graduation ceremonies. The main auditorium seats up to 1,400 for a performance or up to 600 for a banquet. Meeting/Activity Rooms are also provided, and have moveable partitions to allow for a range of functions from meetings to use as dressing rooms.

The facility is designed and sited to form part of the new Slidell Municipal Complex in "Olde Towne" the Historic District of Slidell. Courtyards and plazas were developed as part of the integrated complex to host communal fairs and other activities.

In addition to the Slidell Auditorium, STBA was selected to design an Administration Center and the Slidell Technology and Cultural Arts Center - all in Olde Towne Slidell. Commenting on all these buildings, Mayor Drennan stated, "the firm of Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects designed three magnificent buildings for the City of Slidell."

Ronnie Kole, world famous pianist from Slidell, commented "I have traveled the world doing concerts and shows and I didn't expect the Slidell Auditorium to equal the many performing arts centers that I've performed in...NO WAY...Surprise, surprise, surprise... The acoustics were wonderful and totally unexpected... You and your team get five stars for looks and acoustics!"