Sundance Square
by
David M. Schwarz Architects, Inc.,
Client
Johnny Campbell, President, Sundance Square

Project Statement:

In 1988 the architects were commissioned to create a development plan for downtown Fort Worth, focusing on a 36-block pedestrian core. The downtown area’s grid was littered with pedestrian barriers, multi-block parking garages and unpleasant street edges created by office buildings set back a considerable way from the sidewalk. A central plaza was sited in that original development plan over 25 years ago.

Sundance Square, named after the surrounding neighborhood, was considered a critical element to creating a truly walkable and inviting urban center. The parcel on which the 55,000 SF plaza was constructed was formerly occupied by two surface parking lots on either side of Main Street. The portion of street that bisects the site was permanently closed to accommodate the programmatic demands of the space. The square is book-ended by Class-A office buildings, The Commerce Building and The Westbrook, with ground-level retail and restaurants both on the square and the streets the two buildings face.

The new Sundance Square Plaza is the primary public outdoor gathering space in downtown Fort Worth and one of the most significant public outdoor gathering spaces in the entire region. The design of this space addresses and expresses the shared cultural values and aspirations of the Fort Worth community and fulfills the complex tasks of accommodating large events as well as day-to-day use of the Plaza that calls for a more intimate scale. The Plaza has become an amenity, both functionally and aesthetically, for the entire surrounding Sundance Square neighborhood.