

Tuscaloosa Amphitheater



The Tuscaloosa Amphitheater, billed as the largest outdoor performance venue in west Alabama, has become an anchor on the city's Riverwalk linear park. Its first season began this spring. Photo by Dale Haverkampf

By Philip Morris



The City of Tuscaloosa has recently opened its Tuscaloosa Amphitheater overlooking the Black Warrior River northwest of downtown. Davis Architects of Birmingham placed the proscenium stage, flanking support buildings and seating for 7,470 to create a welcoming compound that will host a wide range of events.

Located on a 15-acre site along the city's Riverwalk developed over the past several years, the amphitheater adds a dynamic new anchor to the linear park with its 3 miles of trails, picnic shelters and other features. A monumental entrance framed by walls of native sandstone, exposed steel structural elements and metal panels leads to the bowl of tiered seating.

The support buildings that house concessions, restrooms and other functions are fronted by steel-framed porticos that shelter pedestrian circulation and dining areas. These also mediate between the stage structure and the lower wings bringing visual coherence to the whole.



This daytime view shows the proscenium stage structure clad in painted metal panels flanked by support buildings. Exposed steel supports the porch-like structures that front these lower buildings. Photo by Lewis Kennedy



Expansive native sandstone walls, exposed steel framing and a metal panel roof topped by metal lettering welcome patrons. Photo by Lewis Kennedy



An aerial photograph shows the layout and setting with the Black Warrior River and the wooded riverfront of Northport beyond. Nimrod Long & Associates were landscape architects on the project. Photo courtesy of Davis Architects