Girls Inc. of Santa Fe Announces Studio Gang as Architect for Visionary New Campus, Pioneering a New Model for Youth Development

Led by internationally renowned architect Jeanne Gang and informed by youth-led engagement, the project will reimagine spaces for learning, mentorship, and connection beyond school and home, setting a new standard for investment in future generations.



Jeanne Gang (Left) and Kim Brown (Right). Jeanne Gang: Photo by Chris Strong. Courtesy of Studio Gang. Kim Brown: Photo courtesy Girls Inc

SANTA FE, NM (November 18, 2026) — **Girls Inc. of Santa Fe** today announced that **Studio Gang**, led by internationally renowned architect **Jeanne Gang,** has been selected to design a visionary new campus dedicated to uplifting young people through innovative learning, mentorship, and youth-development programs. Working alongside Santa Fe-based, architecture, planning, and consulting firm **Autotroph Design Studio**, Studio Gang will bring together ambitious, environmentally conscious architecture and youth-centered design to create an enduring community resource. Envisioned as a third space for learning, mentorship, and connection, the campus aims to redefine how communities invest in and strengthen future generations.

The campus will bring together world-class architecture, youth-informed design, and innovative programming to create an environment that supports young people's development, fosters meaningful connections, and responds to the evolving needs of the Santa Fe community. The project is being spearheaded by **Girls Inc. of Santa Fe CEO Kim Brown**, who joined the organization in 2013. Informed by three years of community engagement, youth-led workshops, and listening sessions conducted in collaboration with Autotroph, the new campus reflects the vision for an ambitious investment in the next generation, placing young people's ideas, experiences, and aspirations at the center of its design.

“We put so much thought, creativity, and investment into the museums and civic institutions that shape our communities for generations. Why wouldn't we bring that same level of care and imagination to the places where young people grow, discover who they are, and begin to imagine what's possible for their futures?” said **Kim Brown, CEO of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe.** “At

a time of increasing uncertainty for young people, I believe we have a responsibility to create spaces where they feel valued, where their voices matter, and where they have the freedom and support to explore, take risks, and discover what they're capable of. Our partnership with Studio Gang gives us an opportunity to think differently about what a youth development center can be. Together, we're creating something deeply rooted in Santa Fe, but with the potential to inspire how communities across the country invest in their young people."

"It's hard to imagine a more energizing design assignment than creating a new home in Santa Fe for Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, an affiliate of the nation's longest-running girls' leadership program," said **Jeanne Gang, Founding Partner of Studio Gang.** "Seeing the positive impact their organization has made in the lives of so many young women, and the greater communities they are part of, is inspiring. Our studio is proud to partner with them and our talented team of collaborators to create a place where girls can follow their curiosity, learn new skills, and build the self-confidence they need to keep moving our world forward."

The new campus, located in the Siler-Rufina District in Santa Fe, responds to demand that has outgrown Girls Inc. of Santa Fe's current facilities. The organization serves more than 1,300 young people each year and plans to triple its program capacity at the new campus. It also projects that the campus's outdoor spaces will serve more than 5,000 community members annually. The work will unfold in two phases. The first phase creates outdoor spaces for recreation and community gathering. The second phase adds indoor facilities for education and hands-on programs. Planning is in its early stages, and Girls Inc. of Santa Fe will share more details as the design develops.

Through ambitious architecture and intentional investment in young people, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe seeks to expand access to the spaces, resources, and experiences that help young people thrive, while strengthening Santa Fe's long-term social and economic vitality. By creating new opportunities for young people and families to learn, grow, and connect, the project aims to demonstrate how investing in the next generation can help build a more just and equitable future, offering a replicable model for communities nationwide to reimagine the environments and opportunities they dedicate to young people.

About Studio Gang

Studio Gang is an internationally recognized architecture and urban design practice founded and led by MacArthur Fellow Jeanne Gang. Based in Chicago with offices in New York, San Francisco, and Paris, the Studio works as a collective of over 100 architects, designers, and planners who use an iterative, research-based design process to create places that strengthen relationships between people, communities, and the natural world.

Studio Gang's portfolio includes cultural centers, public spaces, high-rise towers, and strategic framework plans. Notable among these are the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History in New York; an expansion of the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock; and the David Rubenstein Treehouse, Harvard University's first mass timber building.

The Studio has been honored with numerous awards, including AIA Chicago's 2026 Firm Award, AIA California's 2025 Firm of the Year Award, Dezeen Jobs' Top Companies, and Fast Company's Most Innovative Company in Architecture. www.studiogang.com

About Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

Founded in 1955, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building the next generation of strong, smart, and bold leaders through direct service and advocacy. The organization supports intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development through research-based, youth-centered programming, cultivating confidence, independence, leadership, and self-determination. Serving more than 1,300 young people annually through its Hillside Center and partnerships with schools across Santa Fe, Girls Inc. provides year-round opportunities for learning, exploration, mentorship, and connection. As part of the national Girls Inc. network, the longest running girls' leadership program, the organization draws on the distinctive culture, creativity, and innovation of New Mexico to champion young people as they realize their potential and make a meaningful impact on their communities and the world. www.girlsincofsantafe.org

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