

## Building Project of the Year

### Ken Garff Red Zone at Rice-Eccles Stadium

There are many influential people to recognize for the overall success of the once-in-a-generation, 120,000-SF Ken Garff Red Zone at Rice-Eccles Stadium project, the overwhelming choice for UC&D's **2021 Project of the Year**.

This \$85-million, five-level project was a long time coming, and was completed in just under two years—a remarkable feat given that the pandemic hit two months into construction, requiring a yeoman-like effort from general contractor Layton Construction and the many subcontractors on the job. The construction team was tasked with ensuring the project was substantially completed

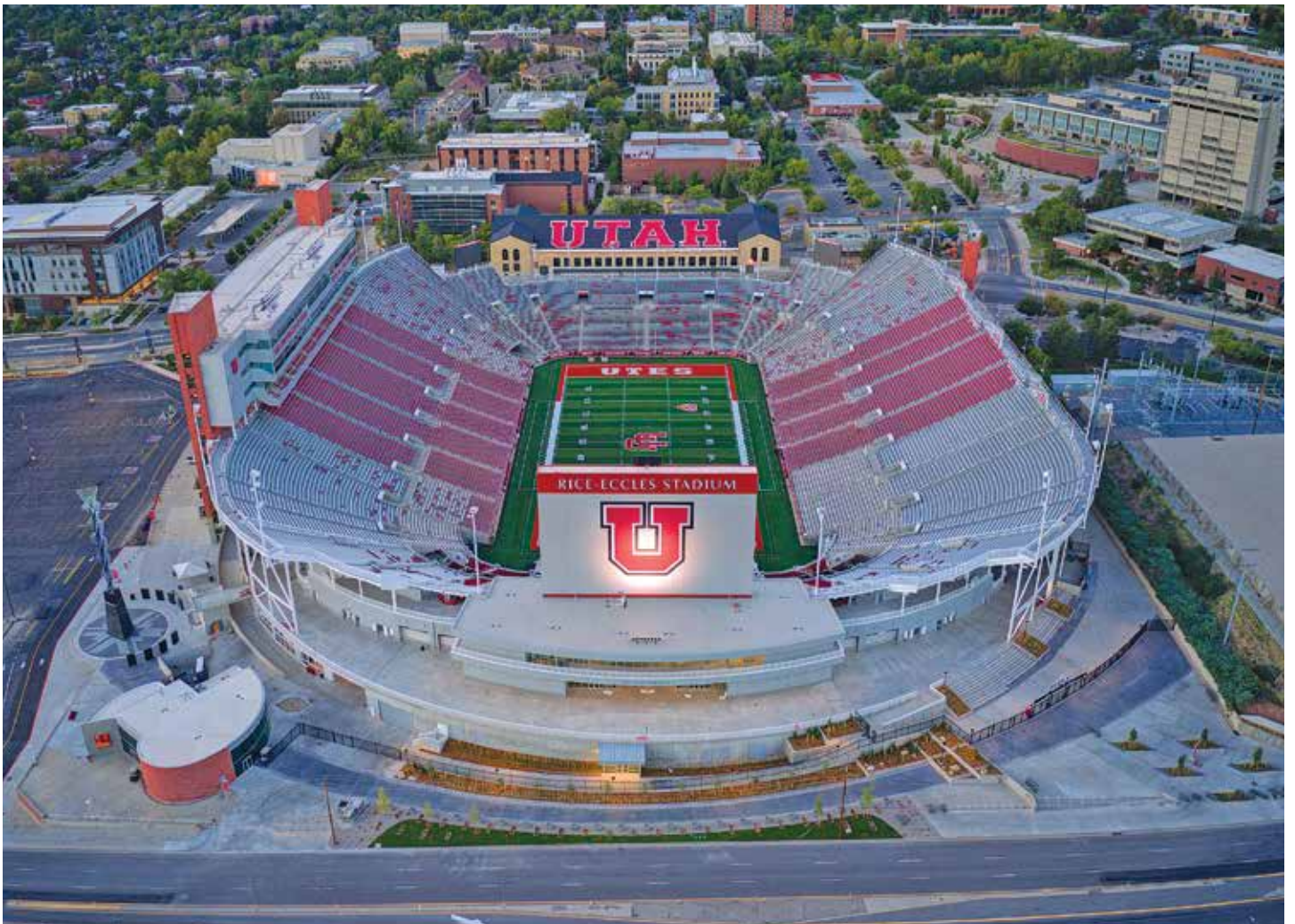
enough to host Utah's first game of 2021 on September 2 vs. Weber State.

Plaudits start with the donors, including the likes of the Ken Garff family, who as a company ponied up more than \$21 million—nearly a quarter of the \$85 million price tag—to fully renovate the stadium's south end zone. That included the relocation of the beloved Olympic Cauldron from the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics and the creation of a dynamic new plaza west of the end zone.

Beyond the many donors that helped fund the project were numerous University of Utah executives, including those from the athletics department as well as the design,

construction, and facilities management offices that pushed the project forward. Then you had the design and construction team members—literally dozens of talented A/E/C professionals who poured out their blood, sweat and tears in making this project a world-class facility in every sense of the word, and one of the finest facilities in the entire NCAA college football nation.

But perhaps the person who stands out the most as responsible for making this project worthwhile is a man who didn't scratch out a single line of design or pound any nails into the structure. For the past 17 years, Head Coach Kyle Whittingham has been the architect and builder of the Utes football program. Indeed, you could say with a definite degree of certainty that this renovation be considered the "Section that Coach Whitt Built," given his success as the Utes' gridiron leader since 2005. »









Speaking of sections, the Ken Garff Red Zone added more than 5,600 seats that boosted capacity to 51,444, the project included new state-of-the-art locker rooms, a restaurant, premium suites, club seats, loge box seating, and impressive common areas. Navigating a maze of complex utilities and relocating the cauldron were herculean efforts by construction workers.

To heat the new stadium expansion, Layton tapped into a geothermal well just off the building. This is a relatively unique process in Utah, especially when it comes to commercial building of this size and stature, and it means that there are no water heaters throughout the new building.

The team also built a 650-ft by 45-ft long shoring wall, which required 406 soil nails that ranged from 15–25 ft. The wall pins back thousands of cubic feet of dirt, making room for the lower area of the expansion that contains the locker rooms and common areas.

The aesthetics of this project are innovative and dynamic, with each space within the new facility unique with its own style and design, including the Layton Field Club, the Hype Tunnel, comfortable lounges for donors and recruits, awesome club and suite levels, and the home team locker room, which is on par with any college or even professional football team in the country.

As part of the overall aesthetics throughout the space, geometric metal paneling was utilized to enhance the feel and environment with LED lights, creating a warm and vibrant function and feeling. These lights can be sequenced to play along with music and videos. In the locker room, red LED lights and black metal geometric panels extend across the entire space, and the LED light strips blend down into the lockers to create one cohesive product.

Whittingham and his staff even have their own cozy digs, replete with the coach's famed Peloton bike, which he rides religiously when not hunkered down scheming for the next big game. Go Utes!



**Owner:** DFCM/University of Utah  
**Architect of Record:** VCBO Architecture  
**Design Architect:** Populous  
**General Contractor:** Layton Construction  
**Civil:** Psomas  
**Electrical:** Envision Engineering  
**Mechanical:** Colvin Engineering  
**Structural:** BHB Structural  
**Geotech:** WC3; Earthtec  
**Concrete:** Layton Concrete  
**Plumbing:** Archer Mechanical  
**HVAC:** B2 Air Systems  
**Electrical:** Wasatch Electric  
**Masonry:** Allens Masonry  
**Framing/Drywall:** Daw Construction Group  
**Acoustical Ceiling / Specialty Ceilings:** K&L Acoustics & Drywall  
**Painting:** Fisher Painting  
**Tile/Stone:** Dowland Tile  
**Carpentry:** Associated Fixture Manufacturing  
**Flooring:** Design Team  
**Roofing:** Superior Roofing  
**Glass/Curtain Wall:** Mollerup  
**Air Barrier & Metal Panel:** Southam & Associates  
**Waterproofing:** Guaranteed Waterproofing  
**Steel Fabrication & Erection:** SME Steel  
**Excavation:** Siri Contracting  
**Demolition:** Reynolds (Staker Parson Cos.); Siri Contracting  
**Precast:** Olympus Precast  
**Landscaping:** Stratton and Bratt



