

Ronald G. Jerit was born and raised in Chicago and graduated from Morgan Park Military Academy in 1952. While attending the University of Illinois he became interested in theatre design and directing and after completing an undergraduate degree stayed on to complete a M.A. in theatre. There followed 12 years of university teaching and work on a PhD at the University of Florida. While at Florida, Jerit received his first commission for theatre design for an outdoor theatre in St. Augustine, FL for the play The Cross and Sword.

Jerit continued to combine university teaching and facility design at The University of Florida, The University of Illinois at Chicago and The University of Memphis. In 1968 he began General Theatre Consulting in Memphis TN and designed full-time until he was hired in 1970 to join Bolt Beranek and Newman in New York City. He would remain with BBN until 1978 when he and Teddy D. Boys formed Jerit/Boys Incorporated in Oak Park, IL. While theirs remained essentially a two-man firm, they consulted on the design of facilities of all sizes ranging from a proposed 300-seat theatre on Kill Devil Hill in North Carolina for a play about the Wright Brothers and the theatre at the original American Girl Place, to The Tulsa Center for the Performing Arts; The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage; The Tennessee Center for the Performing Arts in Nashville; The Peace Center in Greenville South Carolina; and The Washington Pavilion and Science Center in Sioux Falls SD. Additionally, Jerit, as President and Principal of JBI took the lead on the design of dozens of high school, community college, university, and community theatres.

Professionally, Ron Jerit was a founding member of ASTC and served as its president from 1989 until 1993. He was also a member of the Southern Speech Association and USITT.