

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

FINE ARTS CLASSROOM BUILDING

SBC NO. 166/005-08-2013

PROGRAM CONFIRMATION AND REFINEMENT

SESSION NO. ONE NOTES

Program work sessions were held at ETSU on Monday, August 17 and Tuesday, August 18, 2015 to begin the process of refining the vision of the end users and to aligning program and budget for the new Fine Arts Classroom Building. On the first day, individual sessions were held for Theatre and Dance, Art and Design, Bluegrass and Music. Participants in the sessions were as follows:

All Sessions

Darryl Gibson, TBOR

Jeremy Ross, ETSU

Bill Rasnick, ETSU

Eddie Harkleroad, ETSU

Anita DeAngelis, ETSU/MBM

Gordon Anderson, ETSU

Robert Long, Theatre Consultants Collaborative

Robert Schoneman, Theatre Consultants Collaborative

David Kahn, Acoustic Distinction

Doug McCarty, MHM Architects

Jeff Johnson, MHM Architects

Bluegrass

Daniel Boner, ETSU

Benjamin Bateson, ETSU

Ron Roach, ETSU

Theatre & Dance

Karen Brewster, ETSU

Nate White, ETSU

Cara Harker, ETSU

Amber Kinser, ETSU

Melissa Shafer, ETSU

Art & Design

Karlota Contreras-Koterbay, ETSU

Catherine Murray, ETSU

Mira Gerard, ETSU

Music

Maria Niederberger, ETSU

Christian Zembower, ETSU

Matthew Potterton, ETSU

Chih-Long Hu, ETSU

THEATRE AND DANCE

Notes taken during the session:

1. The larger venue will be used only for a large, collaborative production like a musical.
2. The current program calls for a 300 seat proscenium theatre with a 40' deep x 90' wide stage.
3. The Dance Program needs a stage area of 40' x 40'.
4. The Dance Program hopes to add a degree program.

5. The number of dancers in a performance ranges from 10 to 40.
6. The average number of musicians in an orchestra pit is about 15.
7. The question was posed: Are both proscenium theatres needed?
8. The Theatre Department needs a theatre with a smaller seat count than 750.
9. The number of actors in a performance ranges from 15 to 20.
10. Theatre and Dance usually have 3 performances per semester. (This would keep the smaller venue occupied for 9 out of 15 weeks each semester.)
11. The question was posed: Can the "flexible theatre" space grow so the 300 seat proscenium can be eliminated from the program?
12. Touring companies will be scheduled in the larger venue.
13. Aerial Dance will need daily access to a studio.
14. The minimum seat count for a "flexible theatre" is 250.
15. ETSU has both major and minor degrees in its accredited Theatre Department.
16. To be able to seek accreditation, the Dance Program will need two dedicated studios.
17. A dance performance can be held in the "flexible theatre" but practice needs to happen in the studios.
18. The university needs a venue comfortable for story-telling performances with 150 in the audience and appropriate acoustics.
19. An aerial dance studio needs to be 24 to 30 feet high. A normal dance studio can be just 15 feet high.
20. The dance studios need changing rooms and a shower room.
21. The size of the scene shop in the program is the same as currently exists.
22. The five multi-purpose rooms in the program were put in there as square footage place holders.
23. The Theatre Department will use the programmed recording facility as will Story-telling.
24. The Theatre Department aspires to hold more collaborative musical theatre productions with Dance and Music.
25. The Theatre Department aspires to be able to construct and use much better sets and scenery with the improved facilities. Currently limited by size of the door to the scene shop.
26. The Theatre Department wants to keep the "Bud Franks Theatre" in operation at least for a while after the new facility opens and they can see how it operates.
27. The current program for the Theatre/Dance faculty has five offices (two for Dance) and two administrative spaces. The Theatre/Dance Departments want to add one office space.
28. A dressing room can double as the Make-up Classroom. There will be 30 to 35 students in two sections (15-17 each).
29. The Theatre Department would like the loading dock to be contiguous or adjacent to the scene shop.

## ART AND DESIGN

Notes taken during the session:

1. The gallery space needs to be predominately 20' high.
2. The gallery space shall have visual access to the public even when closed.
3. A mobile lift needs to be provided.
4. The Art and Design department's priorities are the gallery and the gallery storage.
5. The office space in the current program is for the Mary B. Martin staff.
6. The gallery needs an office space of around 150 square feet.
7. Feature galleries (adjacent to the main gallery) are desirable but not essential.
8. The main gallery needs to be 2,000 square feet of clear space for impact.

9. The feature galleries may, for example, display videos as part of an art installation.
10. Polished concrete may be the appropriate finish for the floor.
11. All doors between the dock and the gallery/gallery storage need to be 9' to 10' high and double width with no vertical dividers.
12. The lighting in the gallery and the gallery storage need to be archival and LED.
13. The gallery is to have hard-wired data connectivity as well as Wi-Fi.
14. Windows would be welcome in the gallery but would have to be carefully considered in terms of location (no direct sunlight, just indirect natural light). If windows, minimize mullions.
15. The department would aspire to use the gallery for collaboration with other departments for themed expositions. "Walls are coming down between the arts."
16. The gallery (and other spaces in the facility) might also be used for site-specific art, dance and theatre presentations.
17. Art and Design needs some access to collaborative classroom space.
18. Avoid water pipes over the gallery and gallery storage.

## BLUEGRASS

Notes taken during the session:

1. The recording facility needs four isolation rooms at 150 SF each.
2. The recording facility needs to provide teaching space for up to 15 students in the Engineering Control Room.
3. There needs to be an office for the studio manager of 100 to 120 SF.
4. The studio needs direct feeds from the recital hall and other spaces for recording.
5. The recording studio needs an adjacent machine room/rack room of 200 SF.
6. The Bluegrass department has about 40 ensembles, 80 to 100 performances per year and 8% international students.
7. The studio is a way to get ETSU "out" to the public.
8. At the intense times of the semester, the studio is used 24/7.
9. The new recording studio will be shared by other departments, a more universally used space.
10. Audience sizes for bluegrass performances average as follows:
  - A. Very large audiences once or twice a year.
  - B. Audiences of 250 four to eight times a year.
  - C. Audiences of 120 many time during the year.
11. They could use access to a 900 SF classroom with a raised stage area to teach stage presence.
12. Bluegrass recording usually involves four or five performers; country music usually eight or nine performers.
13. The Bluegrass faculty need to remain with the Appalachian Studies faculty.
14. Bluegrass needs access to a music tech computer lab – 15 seats plus teacher station – can be shared with others.
15. Bluegrass could also use some individual edit rooms.
16. There needs to be a storage space adjacent to the recording studio.

## MUSIC

Notes taken during the session:

1. ETSU Music Department students receive scholarships from the Johnson City symphony which consists of approximately 78 musicians. There is no space for them to rehearse in Johnson City.
2. There is a huge demand for current recital/rehearsal space at the university.

3. Choral rehearsal would prefer a flat floor facility.
4. The current ETSU recital hall is scheduled by the Music Department. Typical audiences for performances run from 45 to 150.
5. The recital hall stage may work for choral rehearsal depending on the size.
6. Is it possible for the percussion studio fit into the new facility?
7. The percussion program needs would include:
  - A. Office—18 x 12
  - B. Ensemble rehearsal – 30 x 26
  - C. Small ensemble / storage – 30 x 19
  - D. Practice / storage – 28 x 11
  - E. Also individual rehearsal practice studios
8. Chamber ensembles would use the new recital hall.
9. Ensembles are typically two to five musicians; chamber music could be much larger.
10. The Concert Band would perform in the large venue.
11. There is a big need for practice studios.
12. There is a need for a rehearsal studio large enough for two grand pianos.
13. The Jazz Band would perform in the large venue.
14. 1,200 SF for the recital hall stage is acceptable.
15. 250 seats in the recital hall is a good size.
16. The orchestra pit needs space for 35 musicians.
17. “Natural” acoustic control is desired.
18. The choir could use an organ in the large venue in the future.
19. All venues need a nearby green room.
20. Consider having a warm up space nearby the venues.

#### FOLLOW-UP SESSION

Following the individual department meetings, the design team held a work session to consider the comments. A revised space list was produced and was presented to the Executive Committee on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The recommended changes to the space list were as follows:

- A. Delete the 300 seat proscenium theatre, reallocating some of the space to the Flexible Theatre.
- B. Add a second dance studio to help meet NASD accreditation requirements.
- C. Add changing rooms and showers for the Dance program.
- D. Add a percussion rehearsal suite improving conditions and use of Mathes Hall.
- E. Add an enhanced orchestra pit and storage for orchestra shell in the 750 seat theatre.
- F. Adjust the shared recording facility to better meet the Bluegrass needs:
  - i. Enlarge the Control Room to better facilitate teaching.
  - ii. Add student mix down rooms.
  - iii. Add recording facility manager’s office.
- G. Reduce the size of the Recital Hall for a more intimate setting (250 to 160).
- H. Add a green room to both the 750-seat and the recital hall venues.
- I. Add an art gallery office.
- J. Add piano/keyboard storage.
- K. Add three dressing rooms.

Some follow-up comments from the Executive Committee were as follows:

1. Include hearing assistance devices in the performance venues.
2. There needs to be a floor sound control position.

3. The main venue and the dance studios need to have a sprung floor for the dancers.
4. A question arose: is it possible to have practice rooms in the Millennium Center?

#### FOLLOW-UP GROUP MEETING

Following the Executive Committee meeting, a similar presentation was made to the participants in the departmental meetings. There were not many comments. The Theatre and Dance department stated that they were having second thoughts about eliminating the 300-seat proscenium theatre and asked if they could give up the Flexible Theatre instead. This will be studied by the Design Team.