

Canada Arts Theatres and Building 3

Background

The theatre building (building 3) was constructed in 1968. The building is 2 stories and contains the 516 seat main stage theatre, the 90 seat flexible theatre and scene shop as well as several classrooms, offices and labs. Currently the building houses the 2D art studio, the Fashion Design program, piano lab, Reading lab, faculty offices, Division Dean office, 3, general classrooms, 6 small practice rooms, Art classroom and various storage areas.

Main Stage: The main stage theatre is a standard proscenium stage seating 516 in a four isle fan shape house with no balcony. The proscenium is 45' wide and overall the stage is of a size that would accommodate a wide range of productions. The theatre lobby was remodeled in fall 2014. Due to the reassigning of space, there are currently no green room or dressing rooms available.

Flexible Stage: The Flexible theatre is a black box theatre seating 90. Dimensions are X'xX' with a grid height of X'. Seating is on stage rite platforms with fixed padded chairs.

Technologies: Lighting for both theatres is fairly current with a range of instruments and control that can accommodate most performances, though there is no intelligent lighting. Lighting positions on the main stage are standard, though there are currently no side trees (either free standing or flown). There is a 200A 3 phase company plug. Sound is sufficient for playback though limited for live sound

Scene shop and loading area: Access from the main stage to the scene shop is through the center of the backstage wall. Access is provided by 20' wide by 20' tall doors with a hallway between the scene shop and the stage. The scene shop directly behind the stage is 80' wide by 20' deep. There is a 10' door on the west side of the scene shop that accesses the Flexible Theatre and on the east side is an additional 30' by 40' of space which has a 10' by 10' door on the south side that accesses the loading dock from the side. So loading materials to the main stage requires a 90 degree turn on exit from the truck to enter the scene shop and then two more 90 degree turns to get to the stage. Scene shop has adequate resources for most production needs.

Usage: Currently the main stage is used only a handful of times a year. Regular uses are from the Redwood Symphony, the Fashion Design department and the Dance department. Currently there are no theatrical productions. The Flexible Stage has two Theatre department productions a year.

Exterior of building: The exterior of the building has the appearance of a standard campus building with nothing to indicate being a performance facility other than directional signage and a block letter sign that says Theater on the front to the left of the box office.

Recommendations:

Planned usage: As stated before, both performance spaces are valuable resources for both the college and surrounding communities. A robust schedule of performances and events would benefit everyone. Since the College is smaller than surrounding colleges and has limited abilities to create large academic programs that would provide the majority of use for both theatres, it is recommended to develop a Performing Arts Center that along with college events and programs, would schedule a variety of outside performances and events and explore partner opportunities with local companies and organizations. (An example of the kind and range of programming for this type of venue would be the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.)

To accomplish this type of use this the building will require renovation and upgrades to accommodate both programs and outside performances.

Community Input: as a necessary part of the process in creating a performing arts center, the community must be engaged in a designed and meaningful way. This would include local arts organizations, governments and agencies, schools, business concerns and the general public at large. It is recommended that a series of workshops/meetings involving key players as well as public workshops, be used to gather ideas and opinions for the development of the center.

Marketing campaign: To connect the public with all the programs, performances, events and creation of a performing arts center, it is recommended that a single central marketing plan be developed with a single branding of the arts at Canada. This will connect programs to the center, consolidate resources and highlight the significance of the arts at Canada for the community and beyond. All programs, facilities and performances would be set to begin/open as a single roll out.

General Building use recommendations: Since the expansion of programs and performances will have increased space requirements, it is recommended all uses not within the Visual and performing Arts would be moved to other buildings. The exceptions would be the Fashion design program and the Division/faculty offices.

1st Floor:

- Room 142 renovated into a rehearsal space that will accommodate performance classes including dance. Room would be fitted with a sprung floor (covered with Masonite) and mirrors (with drapes) along the north wall. The room would also contain 40 stackable chairs. Primary use would be acting classes, rehearsal space for plays, various workshops and dance classes. Secondary use would be alternate dressing space/green room for larger performance groups using the theatre.
- Room 148 refurbished with new furniture and current teaching technologies and would continue to serve as a general classroom for arts classes. The room could also

be used as a choral room for any vocal groups and could also double as an instrumental rehearsal space.

- Room 104 redesigned as an instrumental rehearsal room. It will require appropriate acoustical treatment as well as equipment and technologies for performance group instruction and rehearsal.
- Room 114 upgraded from a piano lab to an electronic music lab. Stations would have keyboards and computers with software to accommodate program requirements, (MIDI, Editing, mixing and recording software).
- Room 117 converted into two group dressing rooms with dressing stations.
- Office spaces 139 with practice rooms 151-154 converted into a single green room.
- Practice rooms 155 and 156 converted into individual dressing rooms.
- Offices 103 and 147 converted for use by the facility staff (e.g. Executive Director, Technical Director, Box Office Manager, Marketing)

2nd Floor:

- 2D studio completely renovated including new lighting and technologies. The photo lab is removed and that footage is folded into the painting lab.
- Room 216 and possibly parts of 236 and/or 244 converted into instrumental practice rooms with appropriate acoustical treatment.
- Follow spot positions in Current art locker storage restored for use on the main stage. Art lockers will be able to remain with reduced hallway.
- Costume shop renovated. Use and equipment will be for production and not as a teaching space.
- Room 254 used as general classroom for VAPA classes
- Room 262 the current photo lab is converted into part of the 2D studio (260)

Exterior:

- Install exterior decorative lighting for building front to create a better performance atmosphere
- Renovate signage for stronger artistic value

Theatre Recommendations

Main Stage Theatre

- Replace/refurbish rigging system
- Upgrade to LED CYC wash lighting, including power and DMX extensions
- Upgrade to LED back lights, including power and DMX extensions
- Upgrade general lighting instruments
- Add intelligent lighting to FOH, including power and DMX extensions
- Install LED in all house cove lights
- Renovate orchestra pit, creating a moveable pit
- Restore followspots and communication in booth above house
- Purchase marley floor for dance productions
- Purchase Orchestra shell for performances
- Purchase side trees for lighting
- Install audio/visual system for stage to lobby

- Provide audio/visual to green room and main dressing rooms
- Upgrade sound system to accommodate programs and outside performances

Flex Theatre

- Upgrade general lighting instruments
- Replace unistrut grid with tension grid
- Purchase motorized lift.

Staffing recommendations

To facilitate a full, year round presenting program as well as coordinate college programs accessing the theatres, the following staff are recommended as a minimum to begin operations:

Full Time salaried:

- Executive Director: Reporting to the Dean, this position will oversee entire operations and will be responsible for scheduling and contracting all use. Will develop and implement budget and grant writing/fundraising activities. Will supervise Technical operations, Box office and Marketing. The Executive Director will need to be hired one year prior to the first year schedule as outside events need to be scheduled a year in advance.
- Administrative Assistant: Will assist Executive Director. This position could also serve in providing assistance for grant writing.
- Box Office manager: Will oversee all box office operations and subscribers. Will also supervise FOH staff and oversee concessions. Could also be responsible for developing a volunteer group (ushers, concessions, and general help).
- Technical Director: responsible for all technical requirements for all performances. Is the main liaison for all outside performers and is responsible implementing all contracts. Will supervise all technical staff. Will hire and work with union laborers.
- Marketing manager: responsible for all marketing, program information and publicity for all performances and programs. Will also be responsible for presence on web site(s) and social media. Will also be responsible for database of patrons and communications.

Hourly personnel (hours and number as needed):

- House manager; responsible for all patrons at each performance. Will supervise ushers.
- Box office staff; to sell tickets and man phones and online. Number to be determined by need. One will need to be an assistant manager to provide oversight when the Box Office Manager is not available.
- Assistant Technical Director. Assists TD and acts as TD for events in the absence of the TD.
- Stage technicians; required for load in and out of some shows and occasionally augment the running crew. Generally, due to contracts, will be union.
- Ushers. Number determined by size of performance. Can often be volunteers

- Concessions: (depending on whether concessions is contracted out or handled in house). Can be staffed with volunteers.
- PR assistant. To help with marketing and PR.

Full time staff may also be directly connected with faculty and program productions and/or classes. In addition, as stated in the program recommendations, it is recommended that a Dean position be created to oversee all facilities, staff, faculty and academic programs.