


MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

October 27, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Trustee Finance Committee
From: Fred L. Poston 
Subject: **Authorization to Plan**
Auditorium - Alterations to Fairchild Theatre

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustee Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to plan for the project entitled Auditorium - Alterations to Fairchild Theatre.

BACKGROUND

Program Need:

The College of Music has had a long standing need for an additional and acoustically appropriate venue to accommodate its numerous rehearsals, performances, classes, and musical productions. The 560-seat Fairchild Theatre provides an adequately sized facility but has limited effectiveness as a music venue due to the lack of an orchestra pit and proper acoustics. Upgrades to Fairchild Theatre would allow the College of Music to accommodate opera, chamber orchestra, choral ensembles, jazz bands, faculty and guest recitals, and other musical productions, many of which are currently performed in inappropriately sized or off-campus facilities. Alterations to Fairchild Theatre and related spaces will enable improved and full use of this currently underutilized facility. The addition of the Fairchild Theatre as a viable music performance space would also provide scheduling relief to the Music Building Auditorium for student rehearsals, recitals, and studio master classes.

This project also includes relocation of the Department of Theatre scene shop that is necessitated by the renovations to Fairchild Theatre. Programmatically, it will allow for the consolidation of Music and Theatre scene shop needs and provide increased opportunities for students. It will also improve the scene shop working environment.

This project represents a coordinated effort between the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Music, and University Outreach and Engagement/Wharton Center to meet the various performance needs of each unit and improve the overall use and quality of the performance facility resources on campus.



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General Description of the Project:

The planning of this project is anticipated to include installation of an orchestra pit with lift system, an orchestra shell and acoustical upgrades; relocation of the scene shop dressing room and prop storage room impacted by installation of the orchestra pit; and renovation of existing, and construction of additional, restrooms.

Barrier free accessibility is included and will expand access to the lower level of the building, including the Arena Theatre, upper balcony seating of the Auditorium, and second and third floor offices, as well as improve access to the first floor of the building. Installation of an elevator will also be planned.

The Fairchild Theatre is located within the Auditorium on Farm Lane and Auditorium Road in the North Academic District. The location of this project is consistent with the Campus Master Plan and Planning Principles.

Communication Plan:

During the planning phase, the campus community will be given opportunities to provide feedback on the project as it is being designed. Input from the project planning team will be solicited during the design phase.

Preliminary Project Cost Information:

Based on cost experience for similar projects and current pricing information, the preliminary project cost estimate is \$11,500,000. This estimate may change as planning progresses and the project scope is further defined.

The source of funds for this project is expected to be from tax-exempt financing with debt repayment from the general fund.

cc: D. Brower, R. Flinn, J. Kacos, G. Klein, B. Kranz, K. Lindahl, M. McCabe,
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