

Recommendations  
Of The  
Ad Hoc Performing Arts Center Committee

*Convened by: Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester*

Committee Chair: David J. Burns, Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester  
Sarah Lentini, Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester  
Susan Robertson, Eastman School of Music  
Ruby Lockhart, Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.  
Deborah Ronnen, Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.  
Nan Hildebrandt, Geva Theatre Center  
John Quinlivan, Geva Theatre Center  
Linda Glosser, Rochester Broadway Theatre League  
John Parkhurst, Rochester Broadway Theatre League  
Rick Nowlin, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

April 8, 2004

## **Ad Hoc Performing Arts Center Committee**

### Committee Charge:

In January 2004, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and Rochester Mayor William Johnson charged the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester with convening a committee to make recommendations regarding:

- 1) requirements for potential users of large and mid-sized performing arts theaters
- 2) requirements for the multi-theatre downtown performing arts project overall
- 3) possible performing arts configurations, users and uses at the Renaissance Square site
- 4) the path forward

## Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Performing Arts Center Committee

The Ad Hoc Performing Arts Center Committee, convened by the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester, has been meeting for several weeks. The following recommendations have emerged from those meetings, relative to the potential construction of new performing arts venues in Rochester.

We are very excited about the prospective construction of new performing arts space in our city. We believe that this construction can help to catalyze renewal within the downtown area of Rochester and can assist in regional economic development. We applaud the efforts of our local elected officials, especially the City and County Administrations, for their efforts in this regard.

We are equally pleased that representatives of the arts community in Rochester were asked to assist in the front-end planning of these new venues. That requested assistance has resulted in a level of consensus that should allow the planning process to move to the next stage.

Our consensus recommendations should be viewed in an appropriate context. Our group has not evaluated potential construction costs, potential operating budgets or potential governance structures. Further analysis in all of these areas will ultimately determine the feasibility of constructing any new performing venues. Our recommendations are being made for the purpose of allowing subsequent analytical steps to take place.

We recommend:

- that we construct a new large-sized theater. This theater would seat an audience of 2,800 and would largely (but not exclusively) be used for Broadway-style shows and musical performances requiring large capacity seating.
- that we construct a new mid-sized theater. This theater would seat an audience of 1,800 and would largely (but not exclusively) be used for philharmonic, dance, and other musical performances.
- that we construct a new small-sized theater. This theater would largely (but not exclusively) be used for theater, opera, and dance performances.

In considering the potential locations of these theaters, we are prepared to offer two concepts:

- In one concept, the new large-sized and small-sized theaters would be housed within the Renaissance Square site (Main and Clinton), while the mid-sized theater would be built at the Rascal site (Main and Gibbs).
- The alternative concept would house all of the new theaters within the Renaissance Square site at Main and Clinton.

The ultimate process of choosing between these alternatives will depend upon the completion of the analysis that was referred to previously.

Finally, there are various technical specifications and other project requirements that need to be recognized. These specifications and requirements are summarized and attached.

Once again, we are delighted that our community has this extraordinary opportunity to pursue such a visionary undertaking. We look forward to being part of this dynamic process, as it moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

David Burns; Chair; Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester  
Sarah Lentini; Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester  
Susan Robertson; Eastman School of Music  
Ruby Lockhart; Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.  
Deborah Ronnen; Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.  
Nan Hildebrandt; Geva Theatre Center  
John Quinlivan; Geva Theatre Center  
Linda Glosser; Rochester Broadway Theatre League  
John Parkhurst; Rochester Broadway Theatre League  
Rick Nowlin; Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

April 8, 2004

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Performing Arts Center Committee  
Additional Requirements and Notes

The committee has created this general list of additional requirements that need to be considered in any design configuration and construction plan. This list is not intended to be "all-inclusive", but is intended to provide general direction for initial design concepts. Design specifications are currently available (in much more detail) and can be supplied at the appropriate time.

1. Parking
  - Adequate number of spaces, estimated to be 2,000
  - Covered garage and walkways to venues
  - Parking should be adjacent to venues
2. Performing space design must address/mitigate noise and fumes from Transit Center
3. Require adequate reception/social spaces
4. Require adequate and adjacent availability of office space for primary tenants
5. Require adequate storage and scene shop space
6. Mid-sized theater needs performance space with sprung floor and two identical rehearsal spaces with sprung floor - one for professional dance rehearsal and one for instruction
7. Mid-sized theater needs to consider sight line issues for dance performances and incremental wing space for dance
8. Pending discussions with smaller performing arts organizations, size, configuration, and requirements of the smaller theater will need to be revisited
9. A study will need to be done to determine the impact that opening new performing arts venues will have on existing performance spaces

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER REQUIREMENTS

8-Apr-04

	OPERA	GARTH	GEVA	RPO	RBTL
SEATING	900 - 1,200	1,400 - 1,500	1,500	1,800	2,700 - 2,800
STAGE SIZE	60 ft x 60 ft	65 ft x 39 ft	60 ft x 50 ft	60 ft x 60 ft	120 ft x 55 ft
PROSCENIUM	60 ft	45 ft	50 - 60 ft	60 ft	60 ft
SUPPORT SPACE	13 - 15 rooms	10 - 12 rooms	12 - 14 rooms	16 - 20 rooms	25 - 30 rooms
PIT	yes	yes		yes	yes
FLY SPACE	50 - 60 linesets	40 linesets mini. 55 - 60 ft grid	yes	if available	80 linesets 75 ft grid
ADMIN SPACE	n/a	Yes	n/a	yes	yes
USEAGE	3 Weeks	10 weeks ?	10 weeks	39 weeks	40 weeks
	6 perf	?	40 perf	100 perf	120 perf
SCHEDULING REQ.	2 Years	Priority	flexible	2 years	18 months
OTHER		Sprung floor Studio, Rehearsal Sight Lines	Wardrobe facility	Orchestra Shell Superior accoustics	Large loading dock Trucks, power

Both GEVA and ESM do not have the need to be primary tenant

ESM has represented Rochester's opera organizations

Every organization requires lobbies, box office, restrooms, reception, concessions, storage, etc

Every organization requires State of the Art lighting & sound

Reasonable rates are everyone's concern

Geva, RBTL & RPO require bus parking

SQUARE FOOTAGE BREAKDOWN (ESTIMATE)

SEATING	1,800	2,800
LOBBIES	14,000 sq ft	19,000 sq ft
STAGE	13,000 sq ft	18,000 sq ft
	65 x 60	120 x 55
	3,900 sq ft	6,600 sq ft
SUPPORT	9,000 sq ft	12,000 sq ft
ADMIN.	3,000 - 10,000 for each organization	