

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

Agenda Item Title: University of Nevada, Reno - New School of the Arts Building

Meeting Date: December 3 - 4, 2015

1. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Summary

The University of Nevada, Reno proposes to construct a new School of the Arts building to be located on its main campus. University enrollment has been increasing and faculty positions in the School of the Arts are increasing as well. Facilities in the existing Church Fine Arts Building are insufficient in quantity and quality to accommodate current and expanding arts programs. The performance schedule on the existing 600-seat Nightingale Concert Hall is at capacity and additional instructional and performance spaces are necessary to address enrollment and faculty growth, as well as to provide additional spaces for performances and exhibitions for the public. The new fine arts building will add 35,000 square feet of space for arts education, performance, and public performances and exhibitions, as well as expand capacity for classrooms and performance spaces in other facilities (i.e., Church Fine Arts Building).

The Project

The following is a summary of the major features associated with the proposed fine arts building project:

Size: A three-story, 35,000 square foot fine arts building (See Exhibit 1) that will be reflective of the current “modern Jeffersonian” campus architectural style.

Location: The University plans to construct the new fine arts building on University property east of the current Church Fine Arts Building (See Exhibit 2) with a bridge connecting the two fine arts buildings.

Estimated Cost: Based upon preliminary pre-design estimate the total project costs for the new fine arts building is currently \$20 million (in 2018 dollars).

Financing Plan: The financing plan is wholly dependent on donor gifts and pledges, with loan financing to bridge pledge commitments. At the March 2016 meeting of the Board of Regents, a detailed Financing Plan and Reimbursement Resolution will be presented to the Business and Finance Committee for approval.

Schedule: The pre-design work for the proposed fine arts building has been completed. Final design through construction documents can be completed during calendar year 2016 and construction can be completed by late 2017/early 2018.

The proposed fine arts building will address several key institutional goals, including accommodating increased student enrollment in the arts, accommodating increased numbers of arts faculty, creating more space for public arts performances and exhibitions, and reducing scheduling pressures on existing arts classrooms and performance spaces. This building is on the Board of Regents approved Master Plan for the University of Nevada, Reno.

2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

University of Nevada, Reno President Marc Johnson requests approval to proceed with the proposed project to develop a new fine arts building.

3. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Existing fine arts facilities do not provide the capacity necessary to provide education, faculty development and public performance and exhibition spaces necessary to accommodate enrollment and faculty growth. To address these capacity needs, it is important to proceed as soon as possible to design and construct the additional fine arts building.

4. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The existing 600-seat Nightingale Concert Hall is fully scheduled, limiting additional events despite increased demand. The 300-seat recital hall in the new fine arts building will make it possible to remove smaller events from Nightingale Hall, increasing opportunities to schedule more performance events for the public. The smaller recital hall would also be a higher quality performance experience for student and faculty recitals.
- The proposed art museum space is more than twice the size of the current Sheppard Gallery and will have quality environmental controls and security to permit access to traveling art pieces, a provision not currently possible in the current Gallery.
- The small number and quality of student practice rooms has been a deterrent to graduate recruiting in the music department. More practice rooms with acoustical separation are planned in the new fine arts building.
- Innovative music and art production facilities are planned in the new building, including an electroacoustic laboratory and maker space to permit instruction and experiential learning for art and music production.
- Acoustically separated rehearsal facilities for orchestra/band and choral/opera ensembles are planned, allowing former rehearsal spaces to be converted to smart classrooms.
- The new fine arts building will be connected to the Church Fine Arts Building with a bridge over an existing campus street, which will provide cohesion of arts activities on campus.
- The new recital hall and art museum are on the same level with the Redfield Proscenium Theater and Nightingale Concert Hall, and on the same level as the Virginia Street entrance to Church Fine Arts, making access to all public performance venues connected on a single floor. A catering kitchen is planned which will service all of the public performance venues.
- The exterior design is consistent with other “modern Jeffersonian” treatments throughout the campus. The space between the William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center and the new fine arts building will provide another landscaped, open, green space to enhance the beauty of the campus.

On October 23, 2015, the date of this submission, \$19.3 million in pledges and cash have been secured for this project of the \$20 million goal.

5. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Given the need for a loan to finance to bridge pledge commitments, this request would result in additional short-term indebtedness to the financial position of the University. The full \$20 million fundraising goal is likely to be reached before further design work is done.

6. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Do not construct the new fine arts building and program within existing space limits.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
 - Amends Current Board Policy: Title #__ Chapter #__ Section #____
 - Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
 - Other:_____
 - Fiscal Impact: Yes X No_____
- Explain: Project will require a fund-raising goal of \$20 million and a loan to bridge pledges.

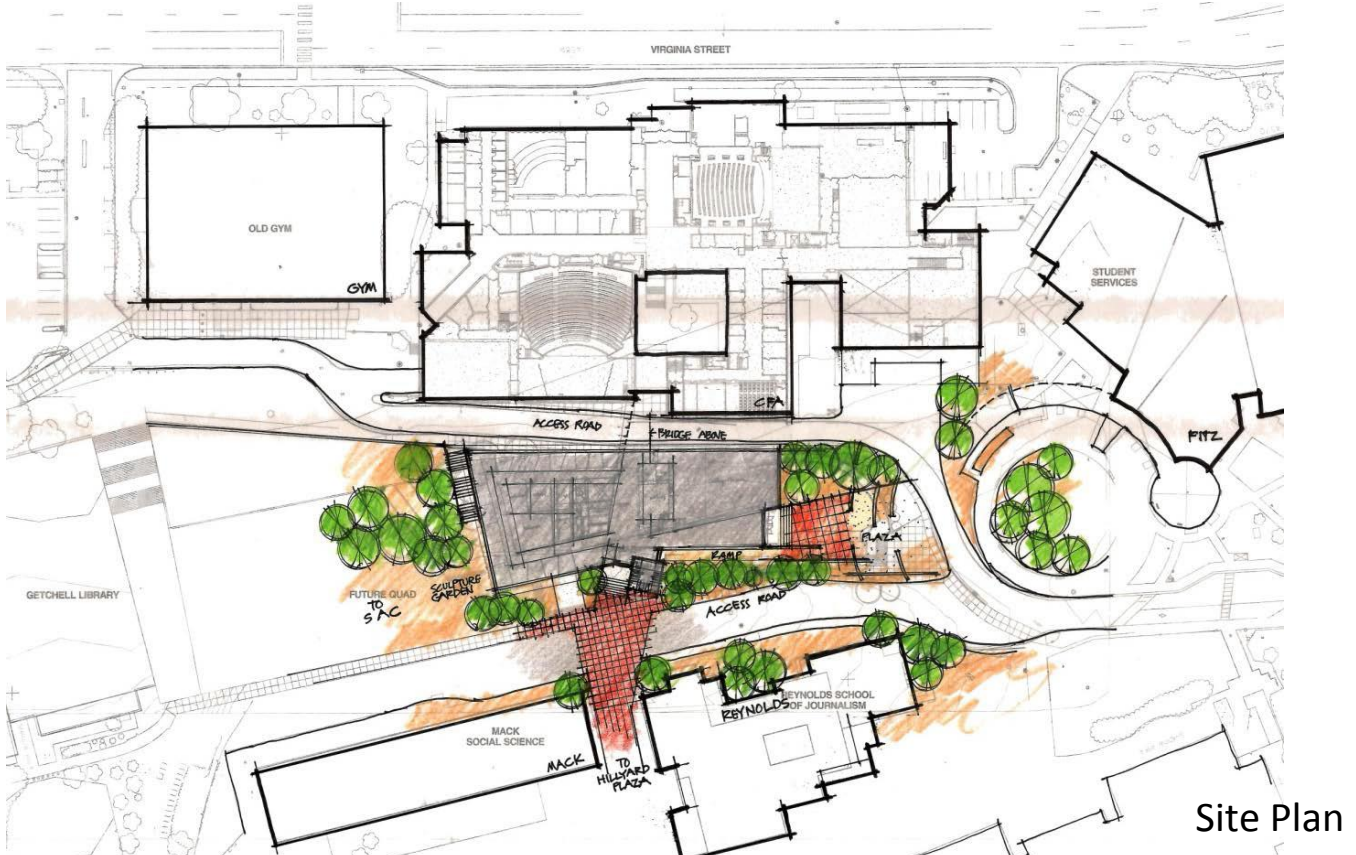
Exhibit 1



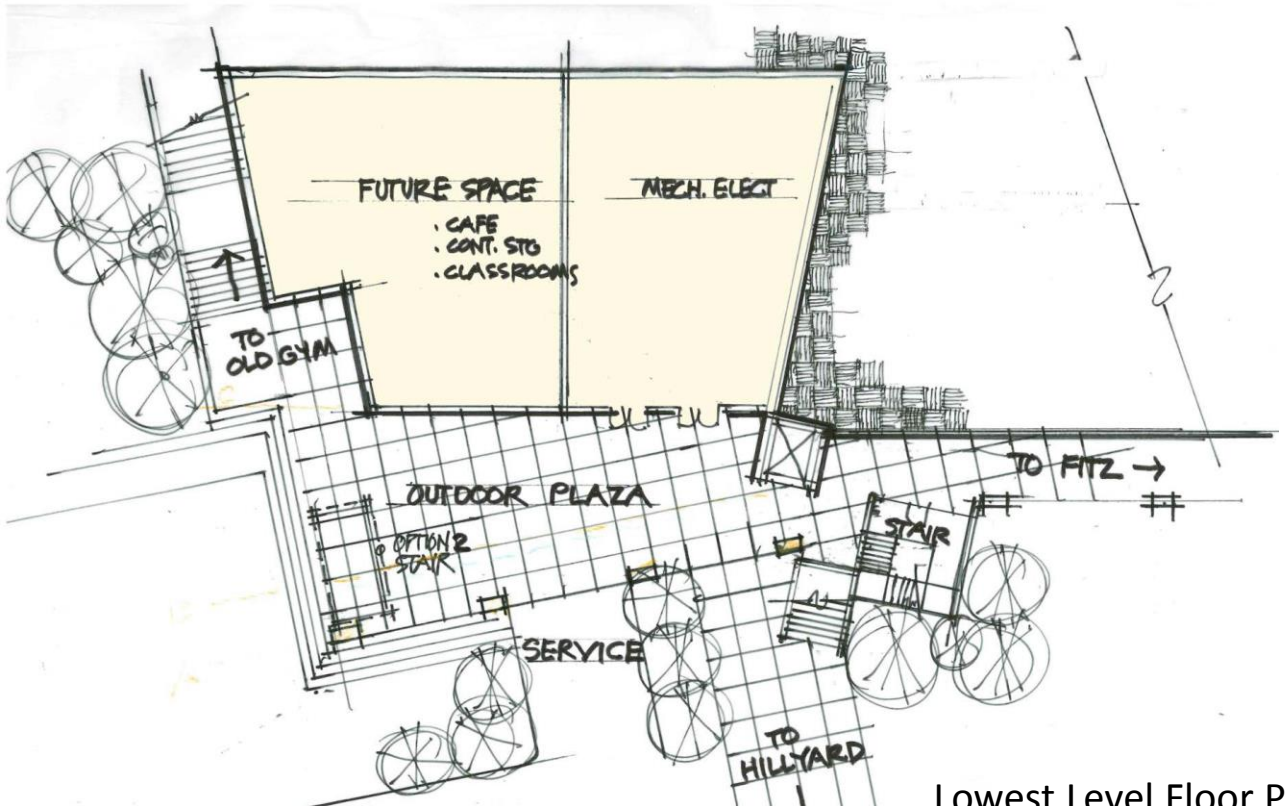
Exhibit 1 (Cont.)



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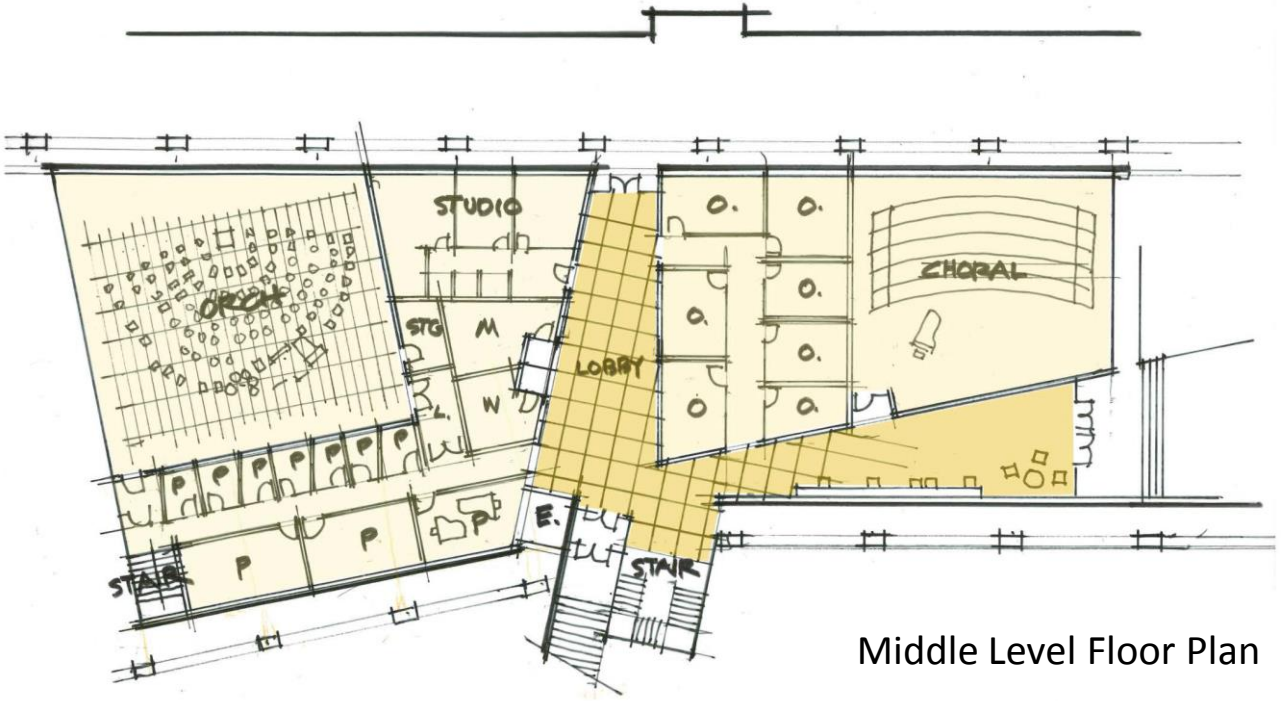


Site Plan

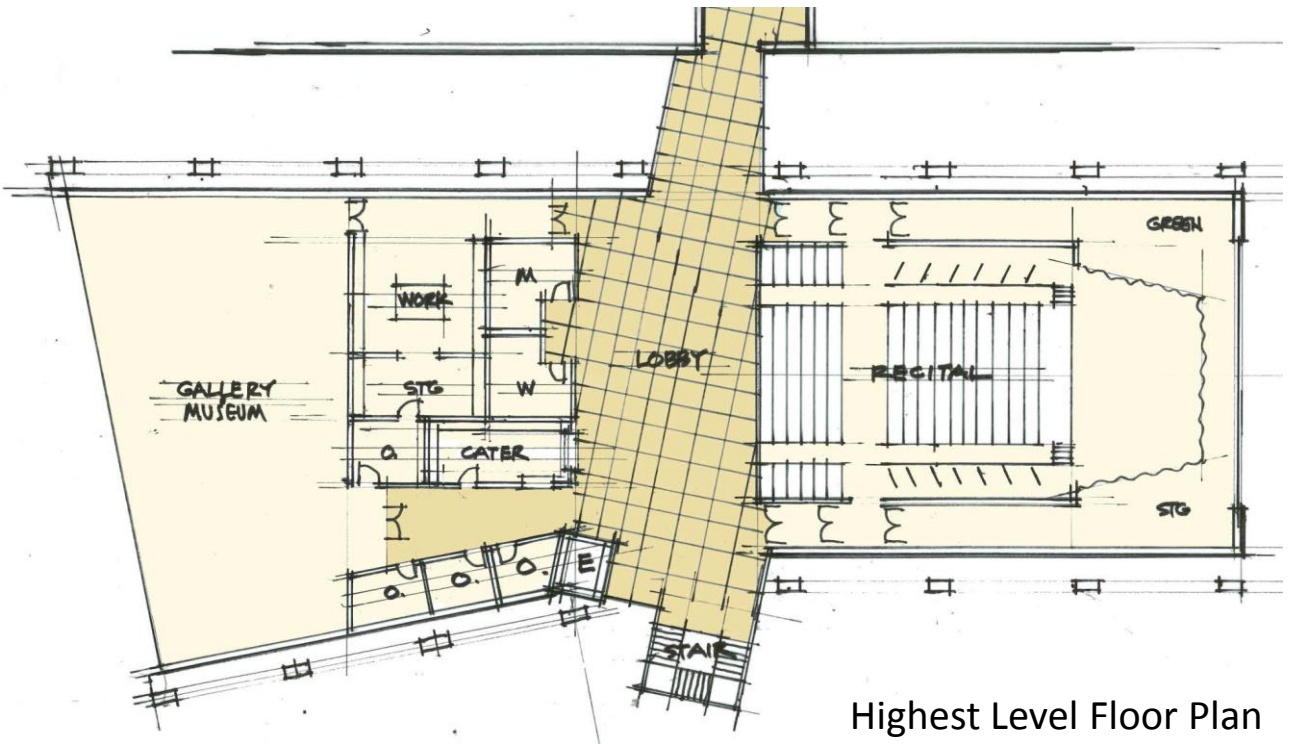


Lowest Level Floor Plan

Exhibit 1 (Cont.)



Middle Level Floor Plan



Highest Level Floor Plan

Exhibit 2



**Proposed Location
Of New Fine Arts
Building**

Exhibit 2

