

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE ARTS FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
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PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION: that the Board of Trustees authorize, and the College provide a budget for a feasibility study of options for the renovation and construction of adequate facilities for the arts at Hamilton College.

We have identified the following needs:

Theatre:

- 1) Fully-equipped primary theatre (250 seats)
- 2) Experimental theatre (100 seats)
- 3) Two performance studios
- 4) Adequate dressing rooms

Dance:

- 1) Drop curtain for Wellin Hall
- 2) Two dance studios (with sprung floors, etc.), with adequate dressing rooms

Theatre and Dance (shared facilities):

- Adequate scene shop
- Adequate storage for costumes, sets, props
- Costume shop
- Classroom for visual design classes
- Classroom for sound design classes

Art History:

- 1) Seminar/Proseminar room
- 2) Study room (adjacent to Seminar room and slide library)
- 3) Lecture classroom (with soundproofed projectors, large screens, room-darkening curtains, etc.)
- 4) Larger offices

Art slide library:

- 1) Main room
- 2) Curator office

- 3) Work room
- 4) Required appropriate climate control and ventilation

Gallery:

- 1) Temporary exhibition space
- 2) Two permanent exhibition galleries
- 3) "Works on paper" study gallery
- 4) Lecture hall
- 5) Permanent collection storage space
- 6) Preparatory space and storage space for exhibition materials
- 7) Staff offices

Studio Art:

- 1) Faculty office/studios
- 2) Student exhibition space
- 3) Lecture/Crit room
- 4) Digital Imaging Classroom (including senior project space)
- 5) Photo Studio (including senior project space)
- 6) Sculpture Studio (including senior project space)
- 7) Ceramics Studio (including senior project space)
- 8) Drawing Studio
- 9) Painting Studio (including senior project space)
- 10) Printmaking Studio (including senior project space)

Studio for Transmedia and Related Arts (Studio Art, Music, and others):

- 1) Presentation/performance area
- 2) Shop for technical assistant
- 3) Video Studio (including senior project space)
- 4) Seminar Room
- 5) Production space (with controlled lighting) for studio set-up work

Music:

- 1) Replacement of practice room and classroom pianos
- 2) Hydraulic lift for Wellin Hall stage extension
- 3) Usable elevator for List/Schambach
- 4) Larger space for gamelan
- 5) Adequately sized choral rehearsal room
- 6) Small recital hall

Jazz Archive:

- 1) Reading and viewing room
- 2) Display room
- 3) Climate controlled storage facility
- 4) Archive director's office
- 5) Seminar room

In the process of developing this list we have assembled an extensive set of documentation (memoranda, consultants' reports, external departmental reviews, etc.). From this documentation and from other sources we can rather quickly prepare more detailed specifications (room sizes, special materials requirements, support space requirements, etc.) that can be shared with the architect selected to assist us with the feasibility study. We are also prepared to request funding for travel by small teams to visit similar facilities at comparable institutions.

A recent draft of the Strategic Plan states that "our first priority . . . is creating or sustaining excellence across the curriculum." The feasibility study that we recommend would be a significant first step toward addressing the fundamental inadequacies of facilities and other resources that impede the sustenance of excellence by the College's programs in the arts.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We recommend that the First Objective of the Strategic Plan be expanded to include other forms of communication (e.g., the artistic communication through gestures, images, sounds, etc.) in addition to written and spoken forms of communication. Hamilton College certainly has traditional strengths in the teaching of the latter two forms, but it also has traditional strengths (via Kirkland College) in the teaching of the former.
- We recommend that language be incorporated into the Strategic Plan that recognizes the distinctive forms of faculty-student interaction in the arts. Senior projects and independent studies have, for decades, been crucial components of studies in the arts on the Hill. Also, as abundant alumni testimony makes clear, the distinctive interactions of conductors and ensembles, of directors, casts and crews, and of art collectors and their associates have provided significant depth to the experiences of Hamilton students throughout much of the twentieth century. The legacy of the arts at Hamilton is a demonstrated asset to the College and will provide a strong foundation for further development in the twenty-first century.