

Dear All:

I found the renderings encouraging for the most part, although I find this process frustrating because we are supposed to respond to concepts that we are also told have little to do with the actual projects. Each of the designs seem to have taken the theatre seriously as a component and had come up with reasonable and interesting ways to make the theatre visible and viable.

However: I was unable to understand the "phasing" concepts of some of these designs. Any proposal that puts the theatre down the list in terms of building priority is a RED flag that erases the otherwise encouraging concepts that those architects are putting forward. I think we should push back if the theatre is only part of phase 2 or 3 of construction.

The other problem I have is envisioning specifics (I know, I know; those will all come later), but I remain interested in bathrooms. Are there adequate facilities for audience in near and obvious places? If a child of ten or an old guy with a walker can't easily find and get to the toilet during intermission, then I don't care how pretty the concept is or how integrated it is with Dooley Life blah, blah, blah, it is going to make us crazy in the future.

I'm not sure I understand the levels indicated in the renderings.

No I'm not a tech person but I would be wary of a shop that is underground. Relying on the air exchange system that is part of the overall air conditioning for a huge building like this one WON'T work. When architects reassure you that it will all be good, I would have massive doubts about that. I'd be way happier if there was a clear and obvious place to exhale bad air and exchange it with fresh (in other words somewhere in direct proximity to the exterior). I know I'm not a costume expert, but most costume shop folks I've known want to have available natural light. Is this important to y'all? It seems like a big deal to me.

Nevertheless, as I said at the top of this letter, the designs are all encouraging, have exciting ideas, and most importantly take the theatre seriously as a component of the building and life at the University.

Best,

--Donald

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