UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | Office of Campus Planning

February 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Eleni Tsivitzi
Campus Planning, Design and Construction (CPDC)

Subject: **Record** of the February 11, 2016 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Rob Thallon (chair), Jane Brubaker, Sue Eveland, Hilary Gerdes, George Hecht, Ken Kato, Amy Keene, Dean Livelybrooks, Ron Lovinger, Jeff Madsen, Brian McBeth, Josh McCoy, Peter Obermeyer, Nancy Pierce, Daniel Rosenbery, Christine Thompson

Staff: Eleni Tsivitzi (CPDC)

Guests: David Amundson (CPDC), Mike Anderson (OBF), Mark Butler (LCL), Becca Cavell (Hacker Architects), Melissa Clark (Hacker Architects), Larry Gilbert (Cameron McCarthy), Amy Grainger (Knight Library), Corey Martin (Hacker Architects), Janelle McCoy (OBF), Jen Miley (CPDC), Pamela Miller (SUNA), Martina Oxoby (CPDC), Lorri Nelson (Rowell Brokaw), Nancy Slight-Gibney (Knight Library)

Agenda:

1. Oregon Bach Festival (OBF) Music Building Addition Project – Schematic Design Approval

Background: Staff introduced the purpose of this agenda item, reviewed prior committee comments as presented in the meeting mailing, and summarized requested Campus Planning Committee actions as described in the meeting mailing.

Larry Gilbert (Cameron McCarthy) presented the schematic design of the Oregon Bach Festival (OBF) Music Building Addition Project. He presented an overall site plan showing a series of connected terraces throughout the site. Campus standard light fixtures will light the pedestrian pathways. Existing lights will be salvaged and reused and some new fixtures will be added. The existing driveway on the site must be retained because it is in alignment with the intersection.

One HVAC unit is located on the site, the other is on the roof of the administration building. The HVAC unit on the ground is sunken 3 feet below the adjacent pathway. The equipment

will be about 8 feet tall. There is a low concrete retaining wall around the unit, with a decorative metal fence on top of it, and all this is surrounded by arborvitae plantings. A main transformer and backup transformer are located in a small court to the west of the building with a decorative metal fence and hedge surrounding it

Corey Martin from Hacker Architects presented the exterior materials the team is considering for the OBF: brick (the same mix as at HEDCO) and resin-impregnated plywood. The latter is a preferred material because it is warm and is reminiscent of a musical instrument. Wood is not a good durable material however, and is therefore not preferred from a maintenance standpoint on campus. The material presented seems to be the most durable wood product available.

He described the team's concept of treating the building as an instrument - both in form and in structure. He explained the system of proportion and rhythm of the facade, arcade and trees that relates to the SOMD. There will be a similar vertical rhythm, punctuated with areas that break that rhythm to create visual interest. The team has not yet decided on a patterning for the panels on the exterior of the rehearsal room. They would like to incorporate a musical notation into the reveals of the facade.

The design team is proposing to paint the rooftop mechanical equipment a homogeneous gray color instead of screening the rooftop mechanical equipment because the required enclosure would be much bigger and more intrusive than the equipment itself.

Discussion: A member expressed concern about the visual and acoustic impact of the HVAC units and asked if the team had considered using a chilled beam system for the building. Michelle from Hacker Architects responded that the option had been considered, but that connecting this building to the system of campus utility tunnels was found to be cost prohibitive. Members suggested various alternative sites for the HVAC units. Another member urged careful consideration of the plantings used to screen the HVAC unit on the site, because of the implications for ongoing maintenance of that area.

A member voiced his appreciation for the discussion of rhythm represented in the architecture and suggested looking into an architectural equivalent for pitch.

Becca responded to questions and concerns about the longevity of the wood material presented by saying that the product has been on the market for 25 years but has only been in use in the United States for 10 years. It comes with a 10-year warranty which is fairly standard for exterior materials. The initial release of the product was recalled and the manufacturers released an improved product. It is the most durable real wood product the team could find. They would like the building to feel like a musical instrument with an exterior material that has the character, color and differentiation of wood.

A member expressed concern about the landscape design and its sense of discontinuity along 18th Avenue. In an effort to enhance the pedestrian experience, he recommended extending the concrete paving pattern across the driveway. Larry mentioned that the driveway had not been emphasized as a pedestrian realm in an effort to give precedence to the pedestrian hardscapes on the east part of the site. He agreed however, that extending the line of concrete paving to create a more continuous pedestrian experience from the entrance of the OBF to the oak tree on the east of the driveway, would be a great improvement. A guest suggested reconsidering the paving material to improve the aesthetics of the parking lot.

A member suggested thickening the cornice-line to match the parapet of the adjacent building. This might also help in the screening of the mechanical equipment on the roof of the administration building.

A member noted that the N-S pathway through the site is a primary pedestrian gateway to campus. He was concerned that the 6-foot arborvitae hedge which borders the pedestrian path and provides screening for the mechanical equipment might detract from the experience.

In response to a member's concern, Larry mentioned that the crosswalk across 18th Avenue is being moved from the east to the west side of Harris Street to align with the proposed pedestrian path. The intent is to create a clear pedestrian path leading into campus.

A member was worried about the lack of a service area for musicians who are trying to enter the building with heavy instruments. Mike Anderson (with the Oregon Bach Festival) responded that the design of the building and site are adequate to accommodate the needs of the musicians.

Another member discussed the potential of eliminating one redundant stair so that people who are entering the courtyard from the east could avoid going up and down unnecessarily.

The courtyard is generously sized, but one member noted that its effective area is reduced by the position of the ramp and the plantings around the ramp. He remarked that if the ramp were placed along the western edge of the administration building, the benches could be moved further to the north and the terrace would receive more sunshine (out of the shadow of the building). The transformers would have to move to the east of the pedestrian path in order to allow this to happen.

For the sake of continuity of the campus environment and ease of maintenance, a member urged the design team to consider using campus standard benches. Another member added that the benches shown in the renderings do not have backs and are likely not designed for comfort.

A member asked the team to continue to assess the safety of the colonnade and check in with users about the design of this space. She reiterated that it is a great opportunity to have a sunny, south-facing porch.

In response to a question about direct solar heat gain through the large, south-facing windows, Corey said there would not be any horizontal cantilevered shades for the windows. The team is proposing to manage direct sun by the type of glazing used in the windows and some louvers which are shown in parts of the windows.

The committee would like to review the landscape design again during design development.

Action: The committee agreed unanimously that the proposed schematic design for the **Oregon Bach Festival (OBF) Music Building Addition Project** is consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that it be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Carefully consider and vet the choice of the proposed wood veneer exterior material, especially with regards to longevity.
2. Assess the cornice line of the building in relation to the building massing, screening of the mechanical system, and its relationship with the adjacent School of Music and Dance.
3. Consider extending the concrete paving across the driveway to emphasize the pedestrian experience.
4. Consider simplifying the route from the east to the courtyard so that pedestrians are not going up and down stairs unnecessarily.
5. Attempt to maximize the effective size of the courtyard by reconsidering the position of the ramp. Take into consideration the need to move instruments through the courtyard.
6. Pay close attention to the quality of the pedestrian experience on the north-south pathway through the site.
7. Consider the use of campus standard benches in the courtyard for ease of maintenance, or carefully consider the form of the proposed benches to maximize comfort.
8. Continue to assess the safety of the arcade and the nature of the space as a desirable, sunny, south-facing porch.
9. Carefully consider how to address direct solar gain through the large, south-facing windows.
10. Bear in mind the on-going maintenance of the HVAC unit when selecting plants for screening.
11. Continue to look for ways to diminish the visual and acoustic impact of the HVAC units - for example explore alternate locations such as a basement.
12. Bring the landscape design back to the CPC for review.

2. Main Library Terrace Enhancements - Shading Device - Schematic Design

Background: Staff introduced the purpose of this agenda item and requested Campus Planning Committee actions as described in the meeting mailing.

Jen Miley described the location of the project on the south terrace of the Knight Library. She mentioned that the only part of the project that will be visible from the ground plane is a portion of the shade structure. Lorri Nelson from Rowell Brokaw gave a brief overview of the program and proposed design of the terrace.

Nancy Slight-Gibney from the Knight Library spoke about the reasons this project was initiated. The comments they receive most frequently from students is that there is a lack of study space in the library, and a lack of study space with access to natural light. The Knight Library staff have also been looking for ways to activate the fourth floor (which is currently underutilized space), and the idea is that the terrace will help to make this an attractive destination.

Discussion: In response to a member's concern about blocking daylight, Lorri responded that the trellis would be held slightly away from the building facade, the top of the structure would not be solid - so allowing some light to pass through, and its height will be such that there is a transom. In this way, light will continue to reach the interior space adjacent to the trellis.

A member remarked on the symmetry of the existing building and urged that the design team reinforce that symmetry in the design and placement of the shading device. He also noted that the current position of the trellis narrows the central portion of the terrace, putting the major gathering spaces on either side. Other members reinforced the idea that symmetry is important in the new design.

Another member suggested careful choice of materials for the shade structure, particularly if the position of the trellis changes and it becomes more visible from the ground plane.

The committee requested that this project come back for review by the full committee later in the design process.

Action: The committee agreed unanimously that the proposed schematic design for the **Main Library Terrace Enhancements - Shading Device** is consistent with the *Campus Plan* and recommended to the president that it be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Consider the position of the trellis to maximize the use of the terrace, relate positively to the entrance, and reinforce the symmetry of the building.
2. Carefully consider the choice of materials for the trellis and how that ties in with the existing building.
3. Bring this project back to the CPC for review at a later date.

Please contact this office if you have questions.

cc. David Amundson, CPDC
Michael Anderson, Oregon Bach Festival
Steven Asbury, Fairmount Neighbors
Bill Aspegren, South University Neighbors
Camilla Bayliss, Fairmount Neighbors
Erik Berg-Johansen, Eugene Planning
Gwen Bolden, Parking and Transportation
Mark Butler, LCL
Phillip Carroll, Campus Operations
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Pamela Miller, South University Neighbors
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