



Conservatory Performing Arts Center

Expansion and Renovation



A NEW VISION

The UMKC Conservatory is seeking support to build a 35,000-square-foot addition on the east side of the Olson Performing Arts Center on the Volker Campus of UMKC. This new addition will add critical rehearsal and performance spaces for our students of music, dance and theatre.

For more than a century, our students and alumni have been celebrated performers and leaders of Kansas City's rich performing arts culture. Despite this creative legacy, our existing facilities do not meet current standards and hamper our ability to attract new talent and grow enrollment. The proposed improvements will be more appealing to prospective students and faculty, allow us to increase enrollment and provide flexibility to provide instruction in new and collaborative ways.

In addition to preparing the next generation of performers and arts educators, Dean Courtney Crappell and the faculty are committed to expanding the vital role the Conservatory plays

in promoting a healthy and vibrant community. One major element of the Conservatory's vision is to be a destination for students seeking community-centered learning opportunities. This means our students are out in our city's neighborhoods, hospitals, libraries, places of worship and parks, leveraging the power of the arts to improve lives every day. Our campus facilities provide the foundation and springboard for that transformative work, and with increased capacity, we will be able to host more of these activities in our state-of-the-art facilities as well.

Times have changed and so have the needs and expectations of our students. In this booklet, we will share our vision for a modernized UMKC Conservatory and demonstrate the ways our needs have changed and why we must adapt to remain relevant and competitive as a world-class institution for the performing arts.



"The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation is proud to be a catalyst for progress, helping drive the Conservatory to new heights with this much needed expansion and improvement of their current location and facilities. The Conservatory is an integral resource for performing arts in the region and we believe that this project will further enhance their significant contribution to the Kansas City music and arts community. We hope that others will join us in supporting this important project."

— Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman

A NEW FACILITY

The Conservatory is poised for transformation. The long-term need for expanded and renovated Conservatory spaces is more acute today than ever.

Since the addition of theatre in 2019, we've worked to ensure adequate space for all classes. However, it has become increasingly apparent that we've outgrown our current facilities and existing spaces are falling short.

Change has become a necessity to maintain critical accreditations that keep UMKC competitive on a national and global scale.

Our vision for the future includes beautiful natural-light spaces and expanded facilities to meet current needs, increase enrollment and enhance connections to the greater Kansas City community.

Benefits of these vital investments include:

- Maintaining accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Dance, which is currently at risk
- Increasing enrollment in dance and theatre by 30-40%
- Creating additional classroom space to support the newly established minor in Integrated Performing Arts which will make performing arts training available to students majoring in other disciplines

This expansion and renovation also delivers many opportunities to provide new and additional benefits to the surrounding community including:

- Increased summer camps and after-school lesson offerings for pre-college students by 33%
- High school credit programs, invitationals and competitions
- Master classes taught by Conservatory faculty
- Expansion of the Conservatory Bridges outreach program, increasing the number of K-12 public school students from 80 to 500
- Professional development for arts educators

The tuition and revenue generated by increased enrollment and offerings will provide a sustainable income stream and enhance the long-term financial stability of the Conservatory.



A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Phase I:

Located on the east side of the Olson Performing Arts Center, plans for Phase I include:

- Providing critical instruction space to grow enrollment and maintain national arts accreditation status
- Expanding community programming
- Establishing a new “theatre district” with a new, more easily accessible black box theatre, located on the same level as White Recital Hall, Spencer Theatre and the McIlrath Lobby

Phase II:

- Reimagining and renovating White Recital Hall
- Renovating administrative offices to create a central hub for student resources and collaboration among Conservatory leadership
- Renovating vacated dance spaces into classroom and rehearsal halls for theatre

THE HEART OF THE KANSAS CITY ARTS COMMUNITY

Through more than 400 student and faculty performances annually, we reach more than 30,000 adults and children in the greater Kansas City community.

The Conservatory has long served as a pipeline for talent and innovation in Kansas City’s performing arts culture. Many of our city’s esteemed arts organizations were founded by Conservatory faculty and alumni, including:

- Kansas City Ballet
- Kansas City Chamber Orchestra
- Kansas City Chorale
- Kansas City Guitar Society
- KC Rep
- Kansas City Symphony
- Lyric Opera of Kansas City
- The Coterie Theatre
- Youth Symphony of Kansas City

Expansion Highlights

Phase 1

- + Large ensemble music rehearsal/ performance space
- + Two dance rehearsal rooms
- + Dancer changing rooms and dance support spaces
- + Black box performance space for integrated arts productions in music, dance and theatre

Efficient, Flexible Spaces

- + Updated spaces will expand opportunities for performance in all areas
- + Large ensemble music rehearsal space can accommodate special events when not in use as a classroom
- + Additional black box theatre will create a flexible rehearsal and performance space for theatre and can also accommodate individual and small ensemble music recitals

