

# SULLIVANT OUTDOOR VENUE RENOVATION

The Ohio State University

Team: Allison Summers, Daqi Bao, Erin Shaw, Jessica Hightower, Yun Yen

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# MEET OUR TEAM



**Allison Summers**  
Master of Architecture



**Daqi Bao**  
Master of Architecture



**Erin Shaw**  
Industrial Design &  
Communication Technology



**Jessica Hightower**  
Master of Fine Arts in  
Theatre, Film & Media Arts:  
Scene Design



**Yun Yen**  
Theatre & Political Science



# MISSION STATEMENT

Squirrel Theatre will function as a co-op space for the arts students of The Ohio State University. Without the ownership of a specific department, this venue encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and provides a home for it to flourish.

An outdoor venue will benefit all of the arts on campus. Students passing by can stop to view performances, which may encourage them to seek out work being produced within any of our departments. The visibility and foot traffic around Squirrel Theatre allows students to exhibit their work and make new connections in ways that are not available in traditional indoor spaces.

Our Theatre seating area will also serve as a study spot for students when performances are not occurring, making this venue more than just a performance space. Squirrel Theatre will become a new campus landmark.

# SECTION 1: EXISTING CONDITIONS



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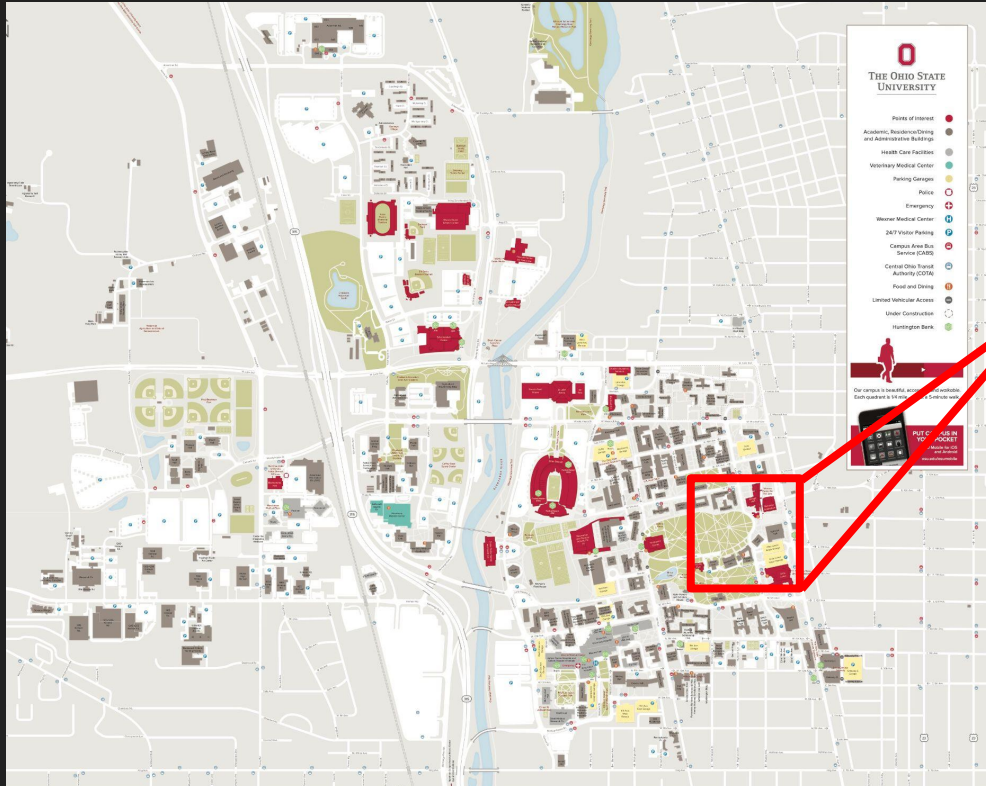


# WHY SULLIVANT AND IT'S COURTYARD?

- The footprint of our proposed venue location is currently underused.
- The student groups on campus do not have easy access to production spaces and equipment. Department schedules, staffing, and complicated relationships between arts departments are a few of their barriers.
- The university wants to see more cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- Close proximity to the arts district will allow easier access for multiple groups of disciplines to use the space.
- Pedestrian traffic from High Street will garner attention towards the venue, allowing potential for more audience members.



# EXISTING SITE PLAN - OSU CAMPUS



Map showing campus and highlighting the area of focus for our site plan.



Closer view of area we will be renovating. We will be focusing on the courtyard area between Mershon Auditorium and Sullivant Hall, and the facade of Sullivant Hall.

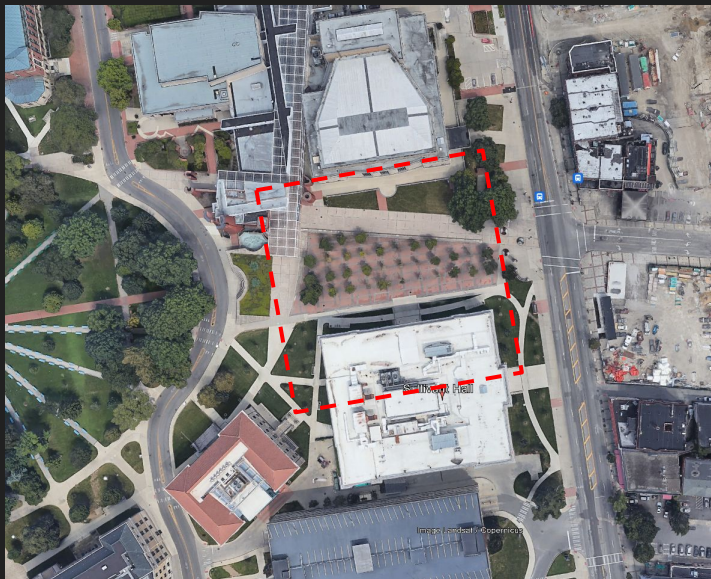


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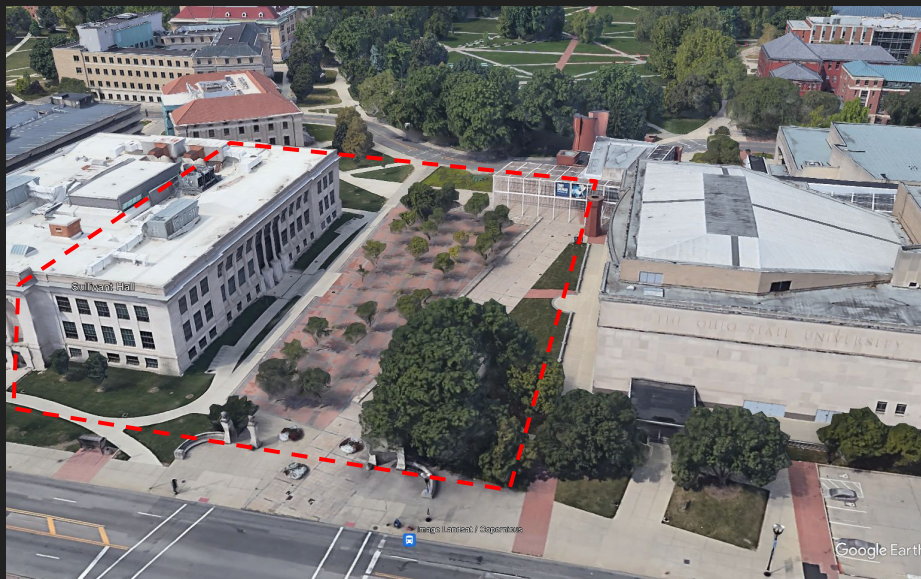
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# EXISTING SITE PLAN - OSU CAMPUS

The location we selected is in the heart of Ohio State University's developing Arts section of campus. In this area, you can find the music, dance, art, and design buildings, along with the campus art museum. Under development right now is the new theatre building, moving into this art district which will open next year. This area is also directly between the notable landmarks of The Oval\* and High Street\*\*.



Top view of the area we will be renovating.



View of the facade of Sullivan we will be renovating, and also the courtyard in front of it.

\*The Oval is a large green area with many paths going through, surrounded by some of the oldest and notable buildings on campus.

\*\*High Street runs along campus and features many restaurants, bars, and shopping. This is a major pedestrian area.



# EXISTING CONDITIONS - EXTERIOR

(built in 1913, renovated in 2022)



The main function of this courtyard space is as a pathway connecting High Street to the Oval. There is a lot of foot traffic on these sidewalks, however, the existing courtyard has not seen significant use. This is because of the rigid grid of trees which make it less approachable or flexible for people to use. It does not allow for large gatherings or any furnishings, making it a waste of a prime potential gathering location.



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# EXISTING CONDITIONS - INTERIOR (built in 1913, renovated in 2022)



The main entry of Sullivant Hall currently serves as a lobby for the Cartoon Library, with offices and classrooms in adjacent spaces. This is a secondary building entrance; the main entrance to the building is on High Street. It is important for us to consider maintaining access to the building and pathways around the space to maintain accessibility for its current use.



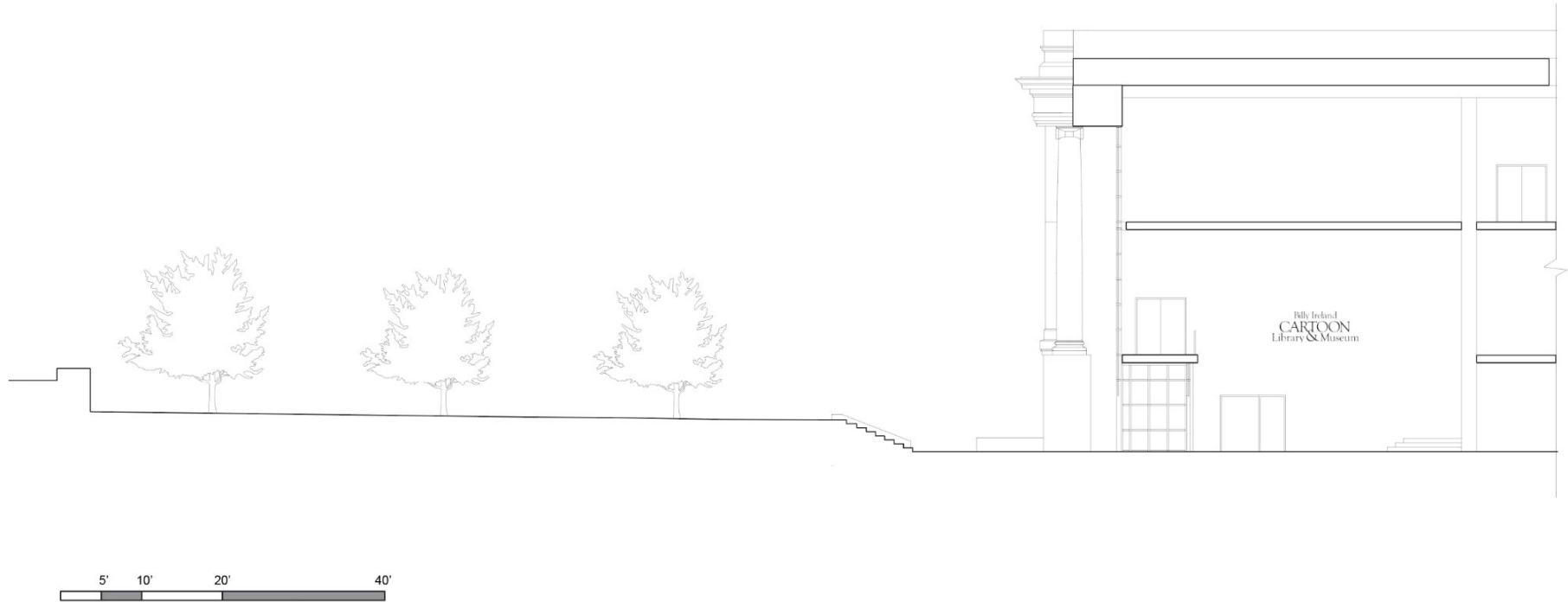
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# EXISTING SECTION- SULLIVANT & COURTYARD



Section view of Sullivan Hall and the Courtyard. Notable is the already present elevation differences from the courtyard to the building.



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# SECTION 2: CONSTITUENTS & OUTREACH



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# INTERVIEWS WITH CONSTITUENTS:

We spoke with students who would be likely to use our venue, including Arts Education, Dance, Theatre, Film, & Media Arts students. We also contacted a student theatre group, Off the Lake, and the Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB) which provides free educational and entertaining events for OSU students.



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# CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK: Arts Education

- We spoke with a PhD student in Arts Education who's research specializes in interdisciplinary work and community impact. When asked what she and her students would look for in a venue, she responded with the following ideas:
- Covered performance & patron area
  - Greenery: possibly portable planters that could be used for sculpture display
  - Public art built into the venue as hardscape
  - Ways to expand interdisciplinary collaboration: Mobile airstreams, pop up shops, business/design/event planning support through student work-study positions, etc.
  - Triple head projector for VR, movies, installations, or dance pieces
  - Sound system OR plugins to support rented equipment from the university
  - Modular setup: portable walls, staging options, etc.
  - Think about groups overlapping in the space: 30 minute performance, a week long art installation, semi-permanent (6 months-1 year) installations



# CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK: Dance

- We spoke with three undergraduate dance students. Many of their wants and needs focused on accessibility and comfort. This is what they asked for:
  - Changing rooms
  - Locked storage areas
  - Temperature controlled stage floor
  - Performer bathrooms
  - Shoe covers
  - Mini-fridge for insulin, EpiPens, snacks, ect.
  - Built in emergency equipment such as defibrillators and first aid
  - Look into the needs of service animals



# CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK: Theatre, Film, & Media Arts

- We spoke with 17 undergraduate students, 2 grad students, and one faculty member in the Theatre, Film, and Media Arts Department. Many of their wants and needs focused on the space and technology. This is what they asked for:
  - Covered performance area
  - Changing rooms
  - Locked storage areas
  - Sound system & microphones
  - A lot of outlets
  - Lighting with area, color, and intensity control
  - Modular setup: portable walls, staging options, etc.
  - Designated area for ASL interpreter



# CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK: Ohio Union Activity Board

- Ohio Union Activity Board (OUAB) is an activities board. They host a variety of free and popular events for students on campus. Many of their events are quite different and need different kinds of spaces for success. We spoke with one of their student members to see what they need in a venue.
  - Flexible seating
  - Flexible and modular staging capabilities
  - Projection capabilities for events like “Flicks For Free” (free movie showing event)
  - Easy audio system for students to use and set-up
  - Lighting options
  - Accessible outdoor outlets
  - Operation during off-peak hours



# CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK: Off The Lake (OTL)

- We spoke with 1 board member from the student theatre organization OTL who handles scenic design, building, and painting for the organization. Most of the feedback given is relative to space. OTL does not have a proper performance stage of their own. Their storage and scene shop is a basement of a dorm and empty classroom that's no longer in use. They often struggle with building, moving, and storage.

- Tech booth
- A good amount of storage space
- Rehearsal space
- Green Room (or similar space)



# OTHER POTENTIAL CONSTITUENTS FOR OUR VENUE

- The Research Commons
  - “A campus community where graduate students, faculty, and postdoctoral researchers can connect with experts for support at any stage in the research lifecycle.”
- COSAA (Central Ohio Student Advocates for the Arts)
  - “...whose mission is to empower student voices to influence legislation and policy affecting the arts and public arts funding”
- CoLABoratory
  - “Facilitates the interdisciplinary inquiry into some of the most pressing problems facing contemporary society, by providing an organizational home for research projects that draw on humanistic methodologies to engage communities on and beyond campus.”
- STEAM Factory
  - “An organization focused on bringing awareness to the necessity of the Arts within STEM programs. Putting the A in STEM.”
- Students in any arts and design programs
- Business, debate, and other non-arts students who lack access to artistic venues/collaborations



# CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK: Resulting Goals

- After conducting interviews with the people most likely to use our space, we condensed their wants and needs into this list of requirements for our venue renovation. These items aim to serve a wide range of students on our campus, focusing mainly within the arts.
- Goals:
  - Covered performance area
  - Costume storage & changing rooms
  - Locked storage areas
  - Sound System
  - Projection capabilities
  - Lighting with area, color, and intensity control
  - Modular setup: portable walls, staging options, etc.
  - Public art built into the hardscape
  - Ways to invite non-arts majors to participate: Mobile airstreams, coffee carts, event planning support, etc.
  - Accessible during off-hours as a public space
  - Flooring options for dance







# SECTION 3: RENDERED PROGRAM EXAMPLES

# PROGRAM EXAMPLE - MODEL



## OUAB Flicks For Free Night

OUAB hosts “Flicks For Free” about twice a month where they showcase a movie and provide popcorn and snacks. This is a free event geared towards students. Currently in nice weather, they throw up a giant temporary screen in the Oval and bring portable speakers to show the movie. With Squirrel Theatre, OUAB would be able to have a well organized and outdoor space that they could easily display movies without technical or audio problems.

Set up would be minimal, and requirements would be a projector, lighting control, and audio.

# PROGRAM EXAMPLE - MODEL



## Department of Art Exhibition

The Department of Art may use rolling walls to hang pictures, sculptures, and other forms of art onto the walls and allow for audience members to approach and explore the art. The access inside and outside can turn this space into the perfect temporary exhibition space, and the location can bring passersby who normally would not know about it to step inside.

Set up would involve lighting, rolling walls, and unlocking doors. Potentially a food truck could park on the sidewalk to provide refreshments and treats to the guests while they relax in the sitting area.



# PROGRAM EXAMPLE - MODEL



## Small Theatre Production

The space may also be used for theatre. Productions may perform outdoors or indoors. The stage may have backdrops and set pieces in stock that groups can use.

Set up would range depending on the guests needs. Lights, audio, storage, and extra seating may be used.

Our venue strives to make art and creation accessible to more people, so ticketed shows are not something we are catering too. For example, student organization like Off the Lake, which doesn't have a proper performance space of their own will benefit from our venue. Therefore, ticketing facilities are not necessary for this event. We expect to fund this venue with university and state grants.

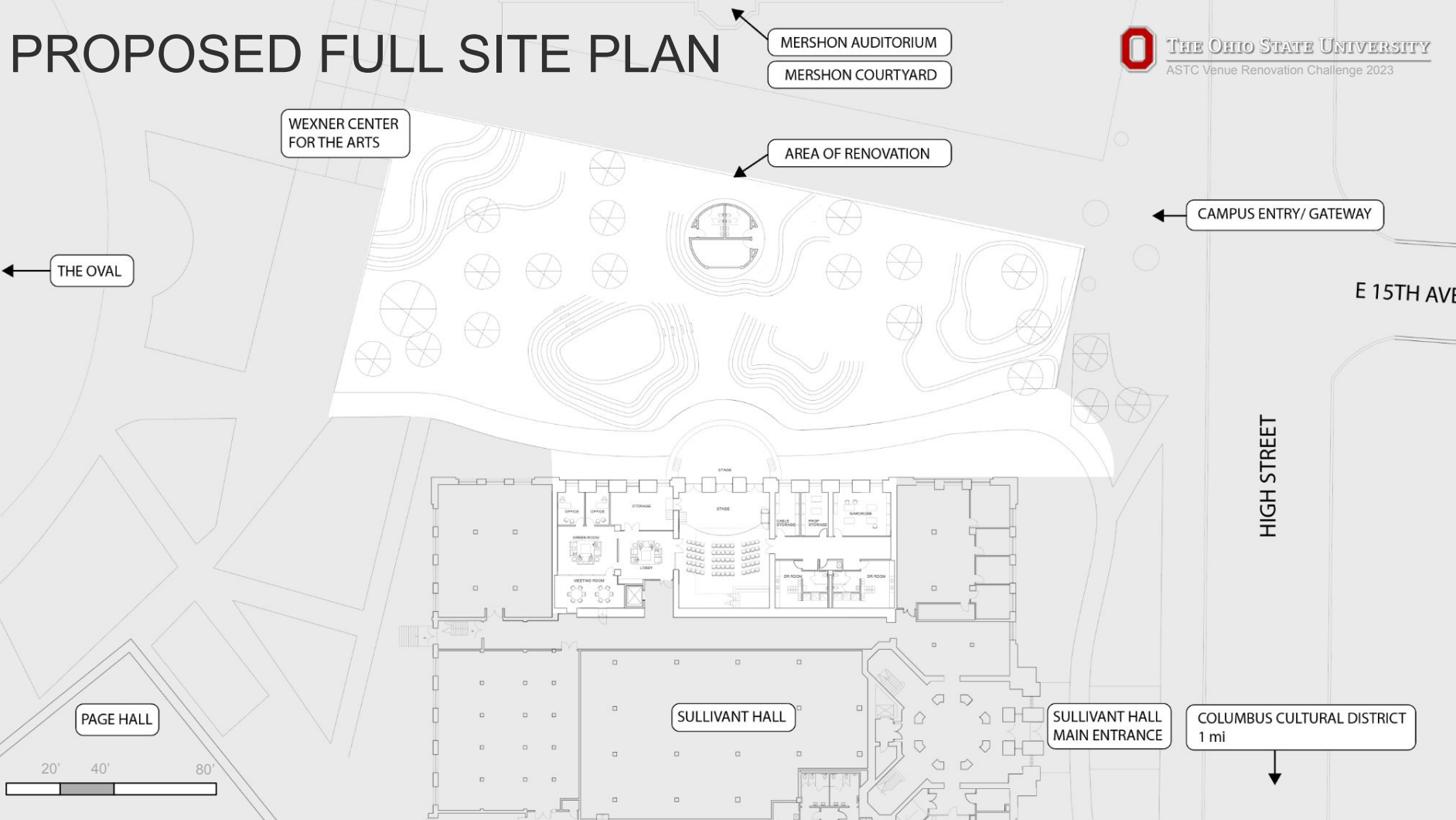
# SECTION 4: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



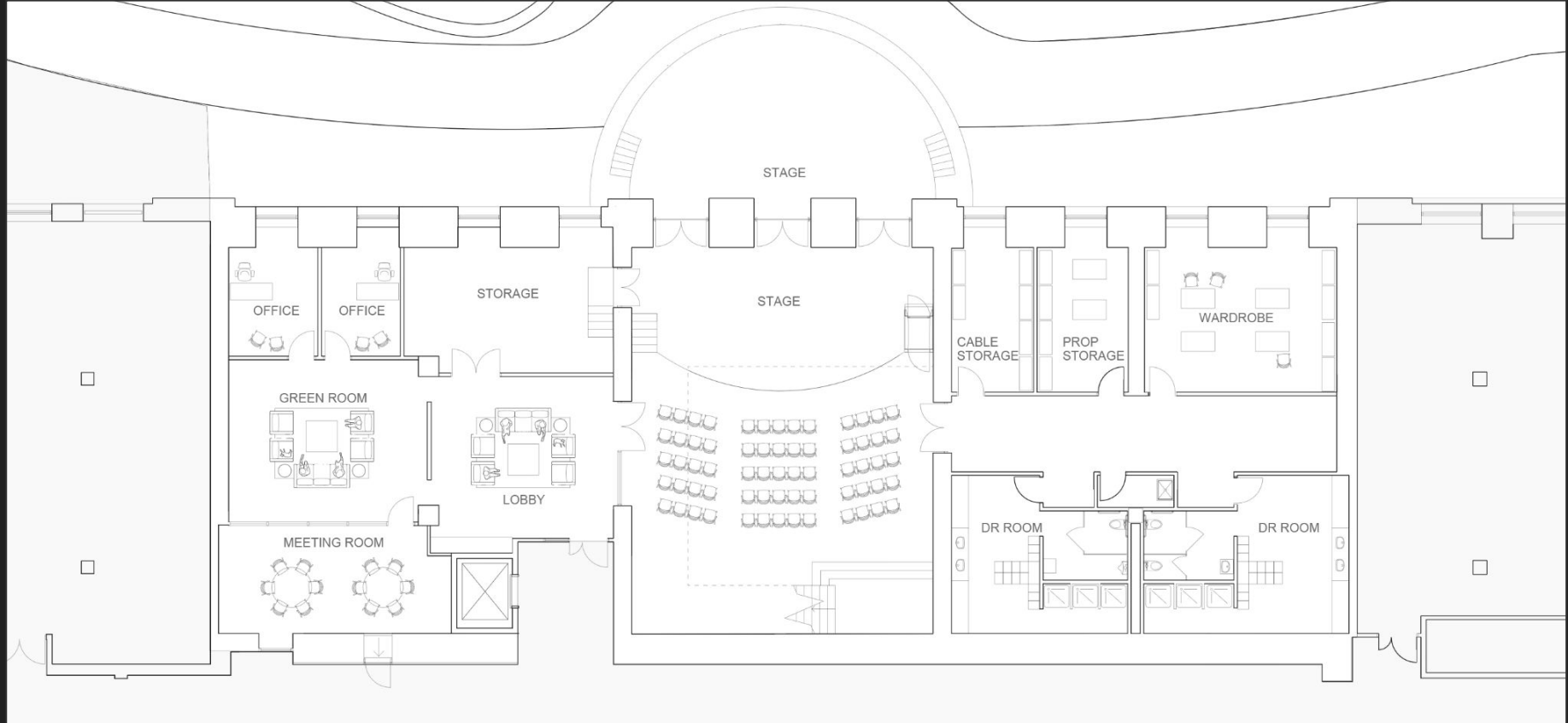
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# PROPOSED FULL SITE PLAN

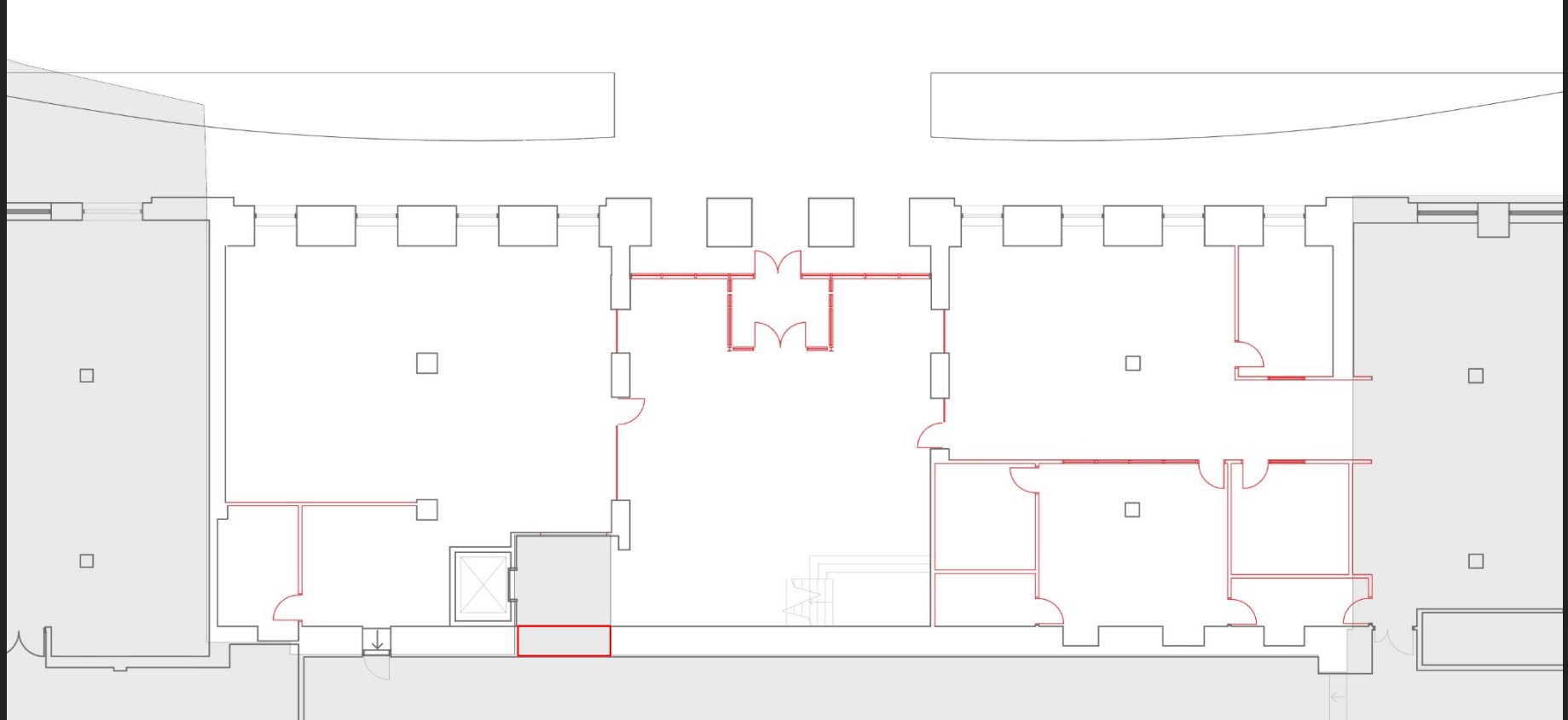


# PROPOSED RENOVATION - 1ST FLOOR



Enlarged plan of Sullivant Hall's proposed renovation.

# PROPOSED DEMOLITION - 1ST FLOOR



Enlarged existing plan of Sullivan Hall for comparison.



# PROPOSED RENOVATION - 1ST FLOOR



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## OFFICE:

Space for facility and technology managers to respond to calls and emails, and organize schedules to avoid overlap.

## GREEN ROOM:

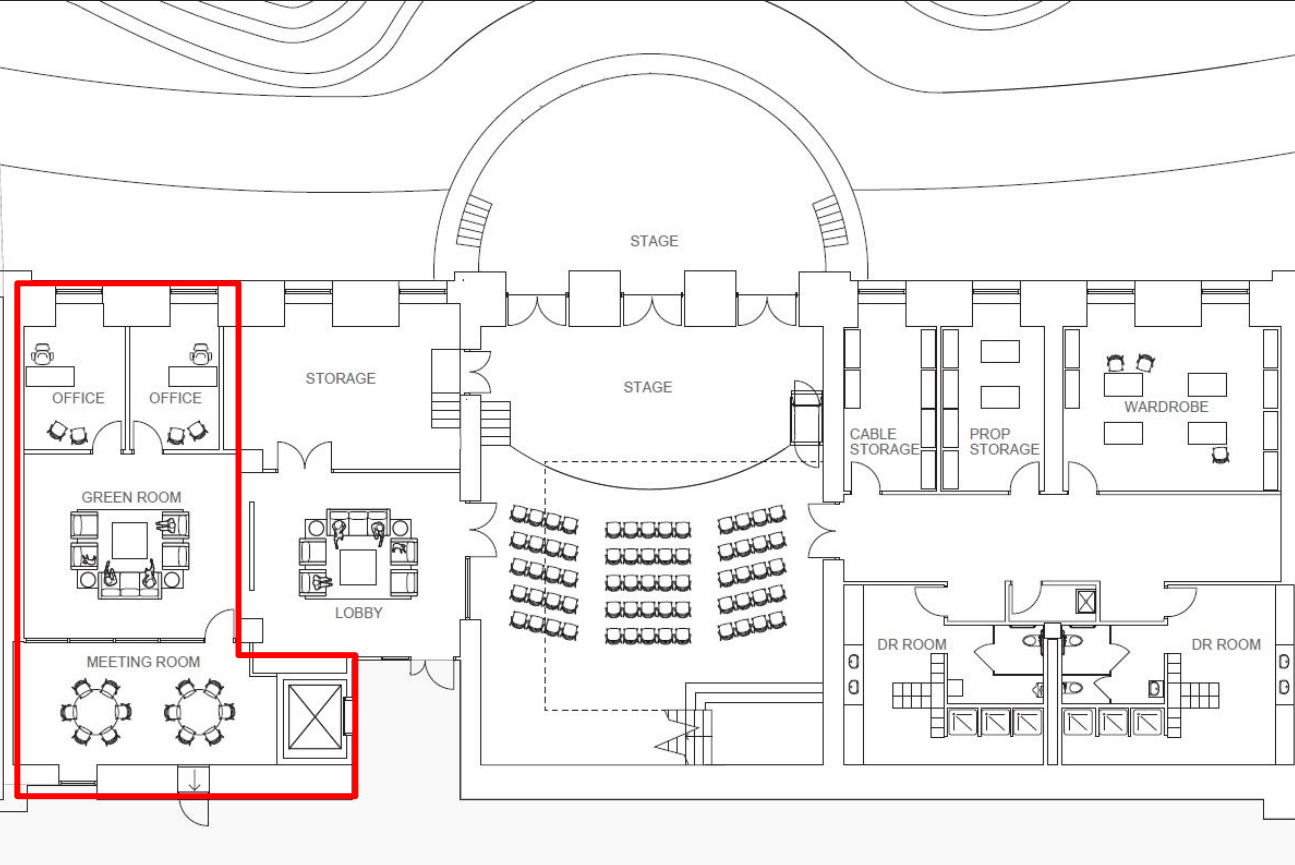
Space for the actors to gather and relax during a performance. This space would have program audio and video to view and hear the outside stage from inside. A mini refrigerator would be here to store small snacks and drinks for the actors.

## MEETING ROOM:

Space for event planning. Groups wanting to perform would meet here to organize times and logistics.

## ELEVATOR:

ADA access to 2nd floor.



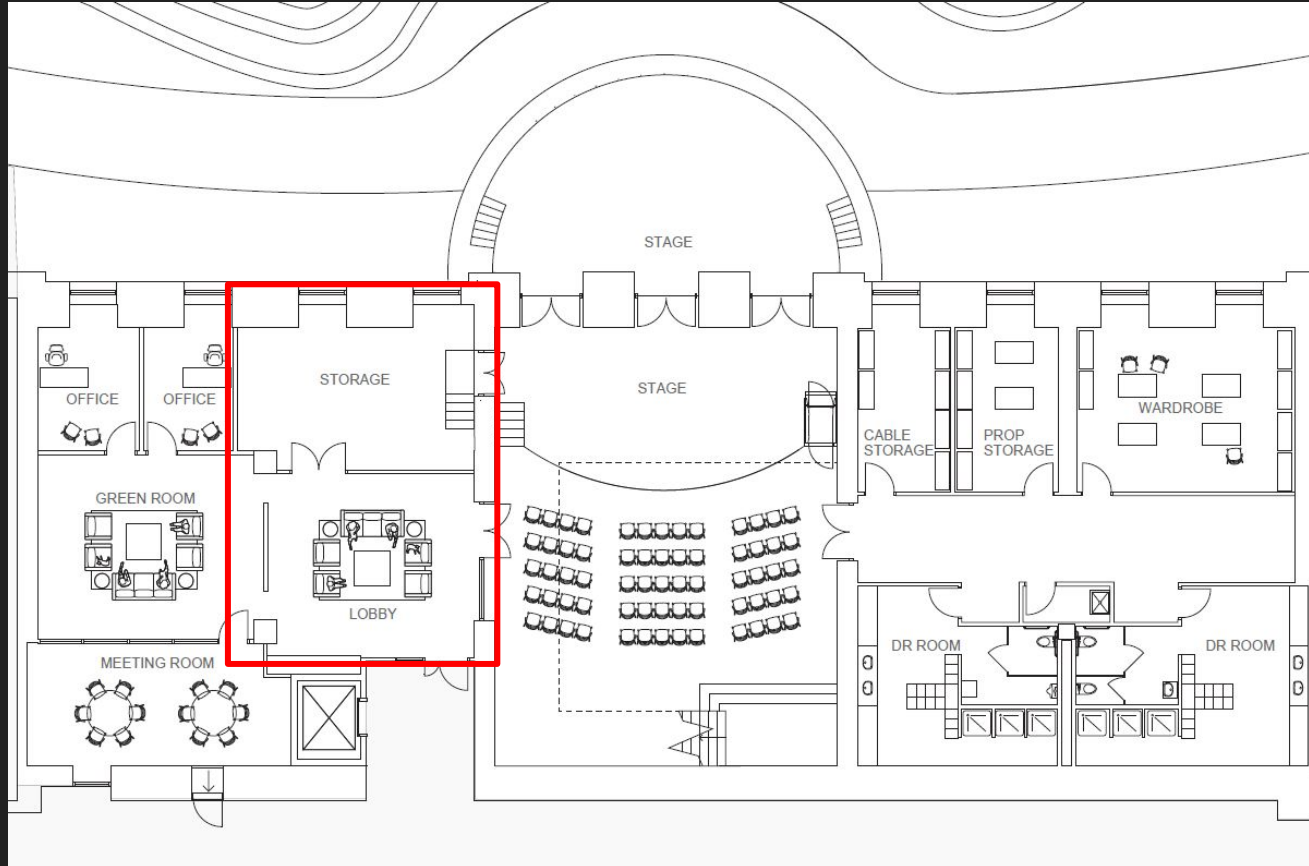
# PROPOSED RENOVATION - 1ST FLOOR

## STORAGE:

We have provided storage space for chairs, risers, portable walls, and space for students to leave items. Anything stored in our space is considered shared stock. There is also a staircase to the indoor stage here, allowing for easier access to move parts onto stage. There would also be a mop sink and cleaning supplies located in this space.

## LOBBY:

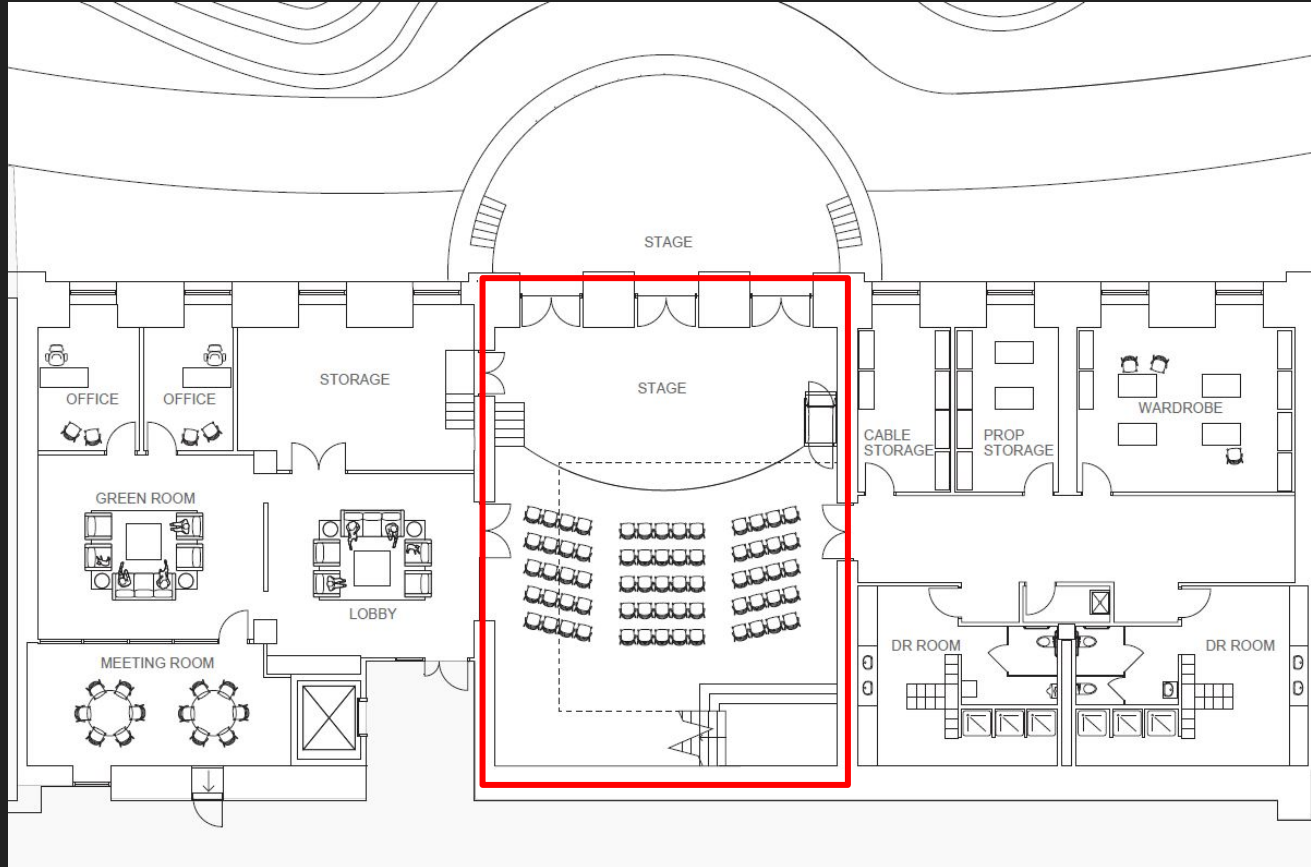
The lobby acts as a neutral gathering area for guests and users of the space. It also serves as a welcoming and relaxing area to for visitors, as it is the first room visible when walked into. This is where individuals would wait for a meeting and a space for audience members to walk through to access the inside stage seating.



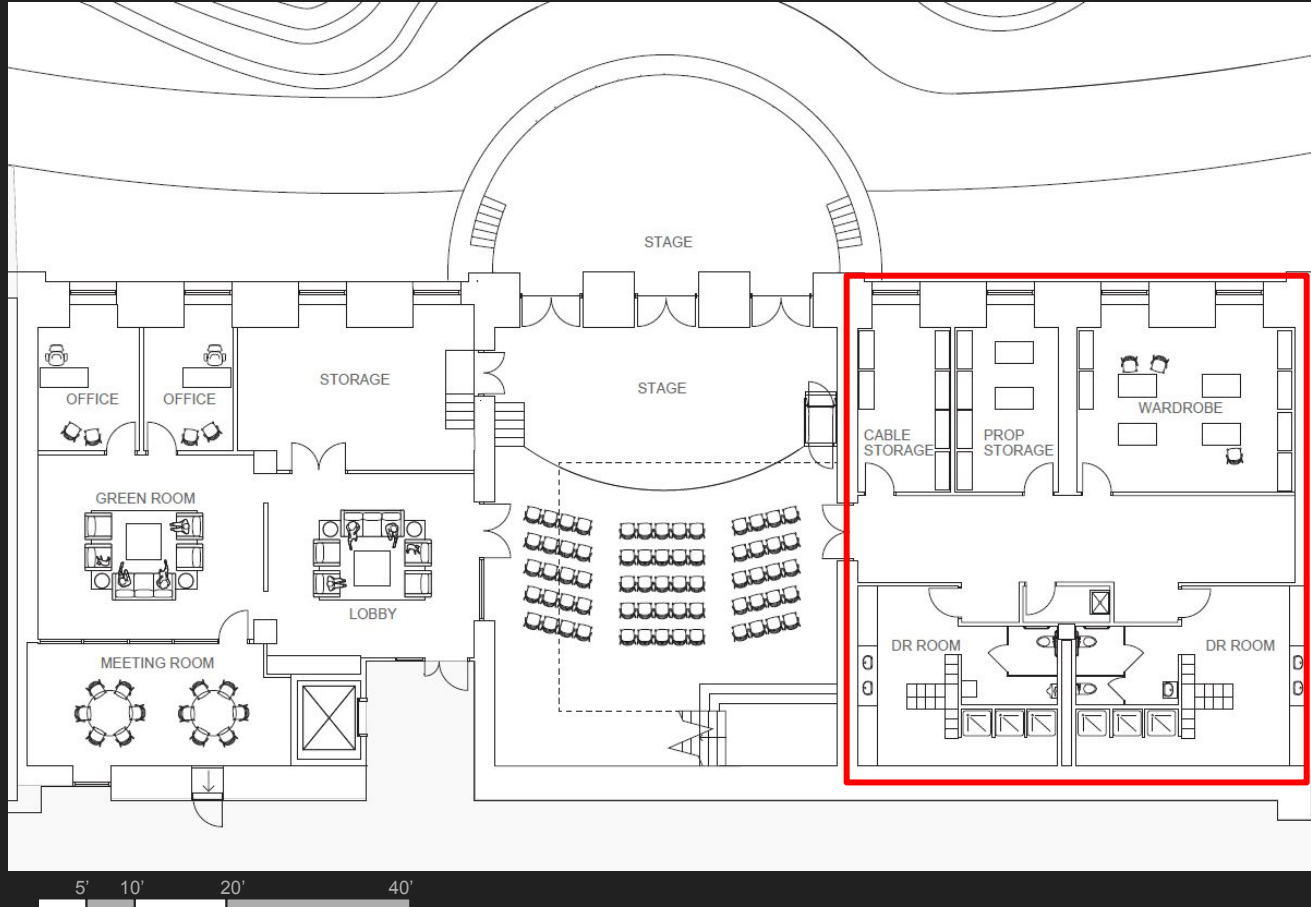
# PROPOSED RENOVATION - 1ST FLOOR

## STAGE (INSIDE):

This informal inside stage acts as a rehearsal area and also as an intimate performance space. There is access to the outdoor main stage through the back doors and a lift for ADA accessibility and moving heavy items. We imagine this space to be used for smaller events, like a comedy show. Another potential use would be for departmental guest speakers. A gathering place for that does not currently exist in the art district. This could also be an area used in the winter and for unexpected inclement weather, so this venue can be used all year long. This can seat up to 65 people comfortably, with standing room as well.



# PROPOSED RENOVATION - 1ST FLOOR



## CABLE/PROP STORAGE:

Storage for cables and microphones, and a shared space for prop storage. Anything stored is considered shared stock. Work benches provide space for small-scale fabrication or repairs.

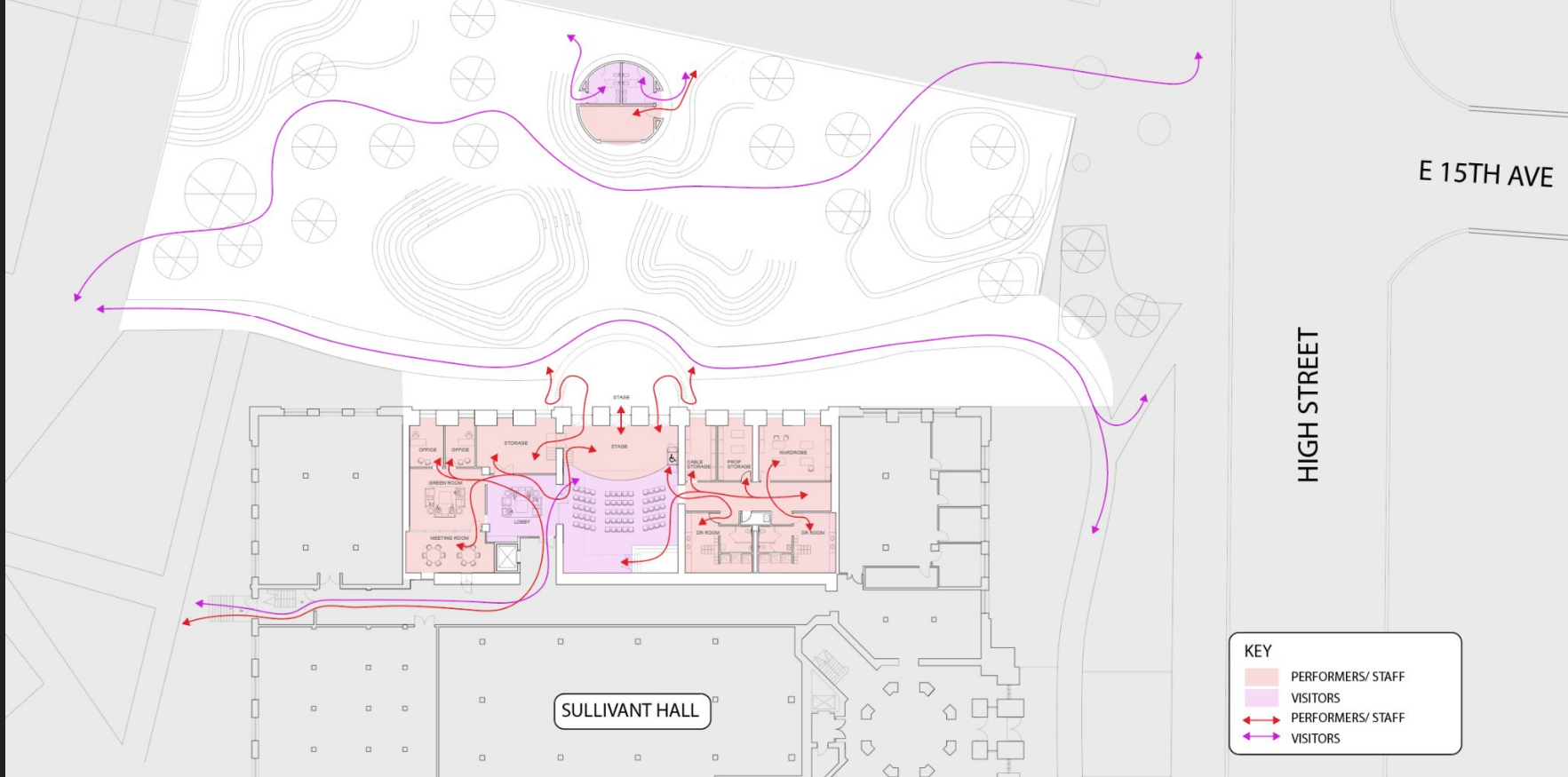
## WARDROBE:

This is a room for temporary storage of costumes, fabrication needs, and also a washer and dryer. Shoe covers for dancers will be provided and located here.

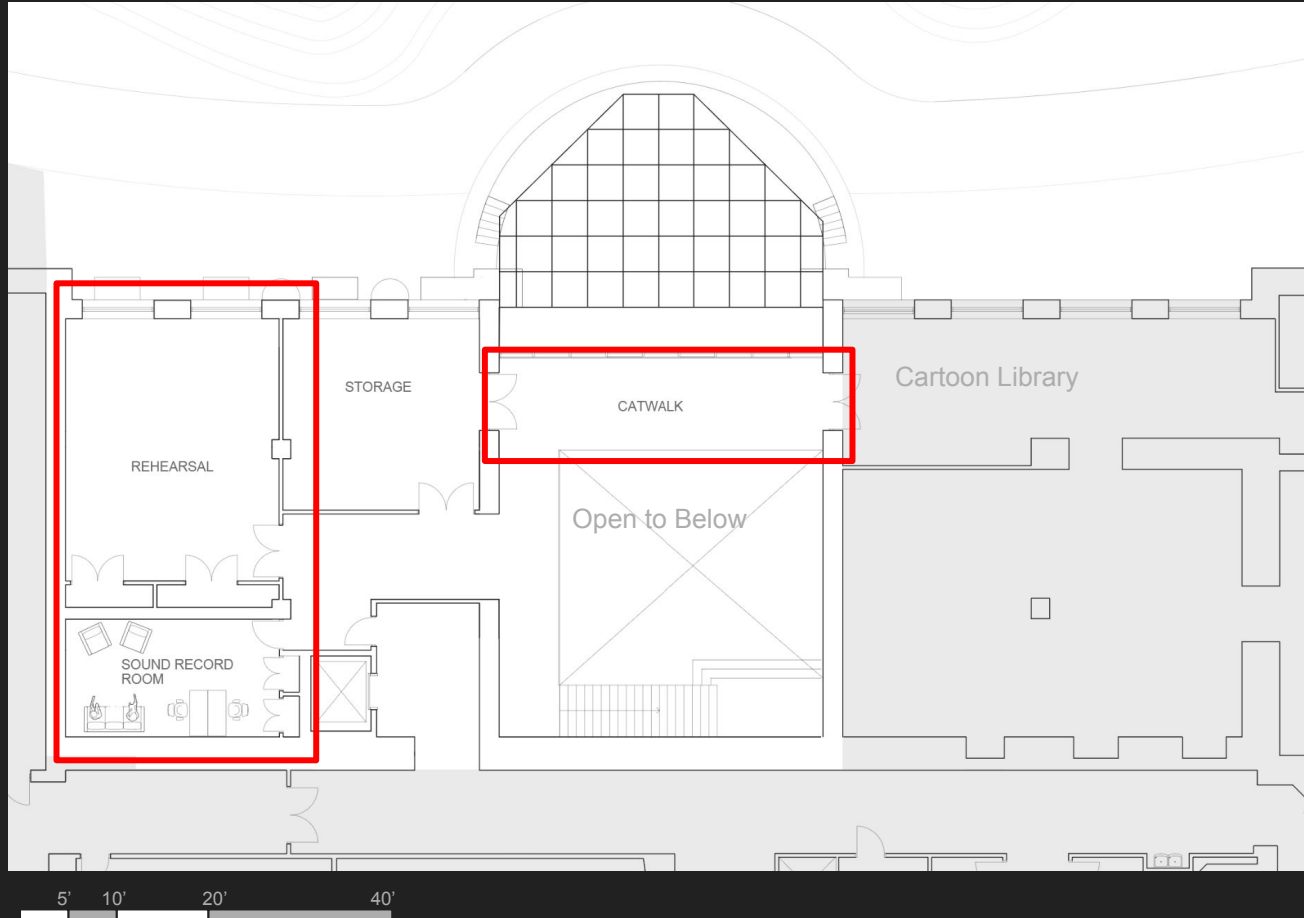
## DRESSING ROOMS:

The dressing rooms is a changing space, complete with toilets and sinks. There will be lots of outlets and mirrors along all the walls for actors use for hair and makeup. Lockboxes are also located here for actors to protect their valuable belongings.

# CIRCULATION - FIRST FLOOR



# PROPOSED RENOVATION - 2ND FLOOR



## REHEARSAL:

This space serves as a private rehearsal room for student organization groups to practice their performances. This is a more closed off location compared to the stage below, and can be used while performances are going on at either stage.

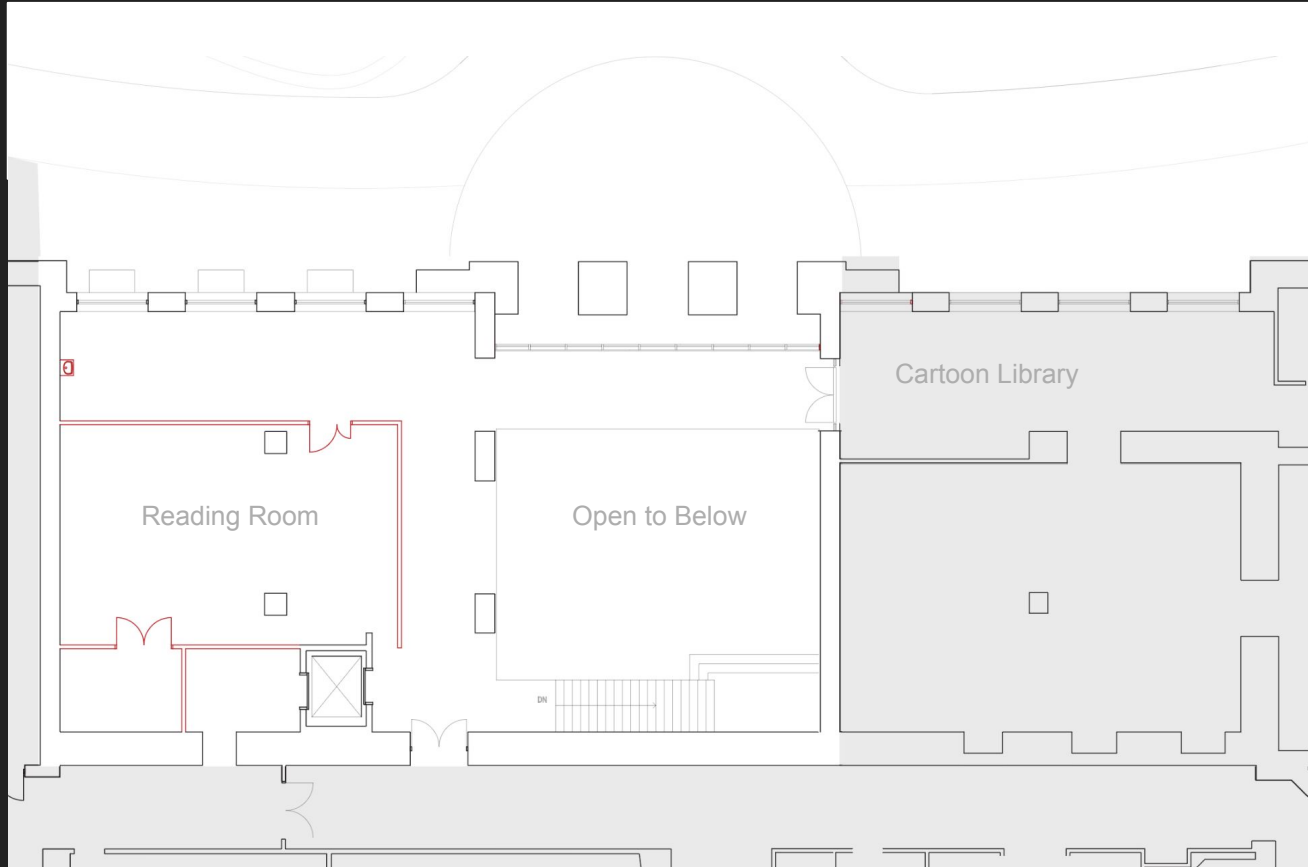
## SOUND RECORDING STUDIO:

This space provides a quiet room for recording audio through soundproofing and acoustic panel solutions. This is perfect for student groups to have an accessible place to record sound.

## CATWALK:

The existing catwalk will remain to maintain access to the Cartoon Library, and provide overflow standing space.

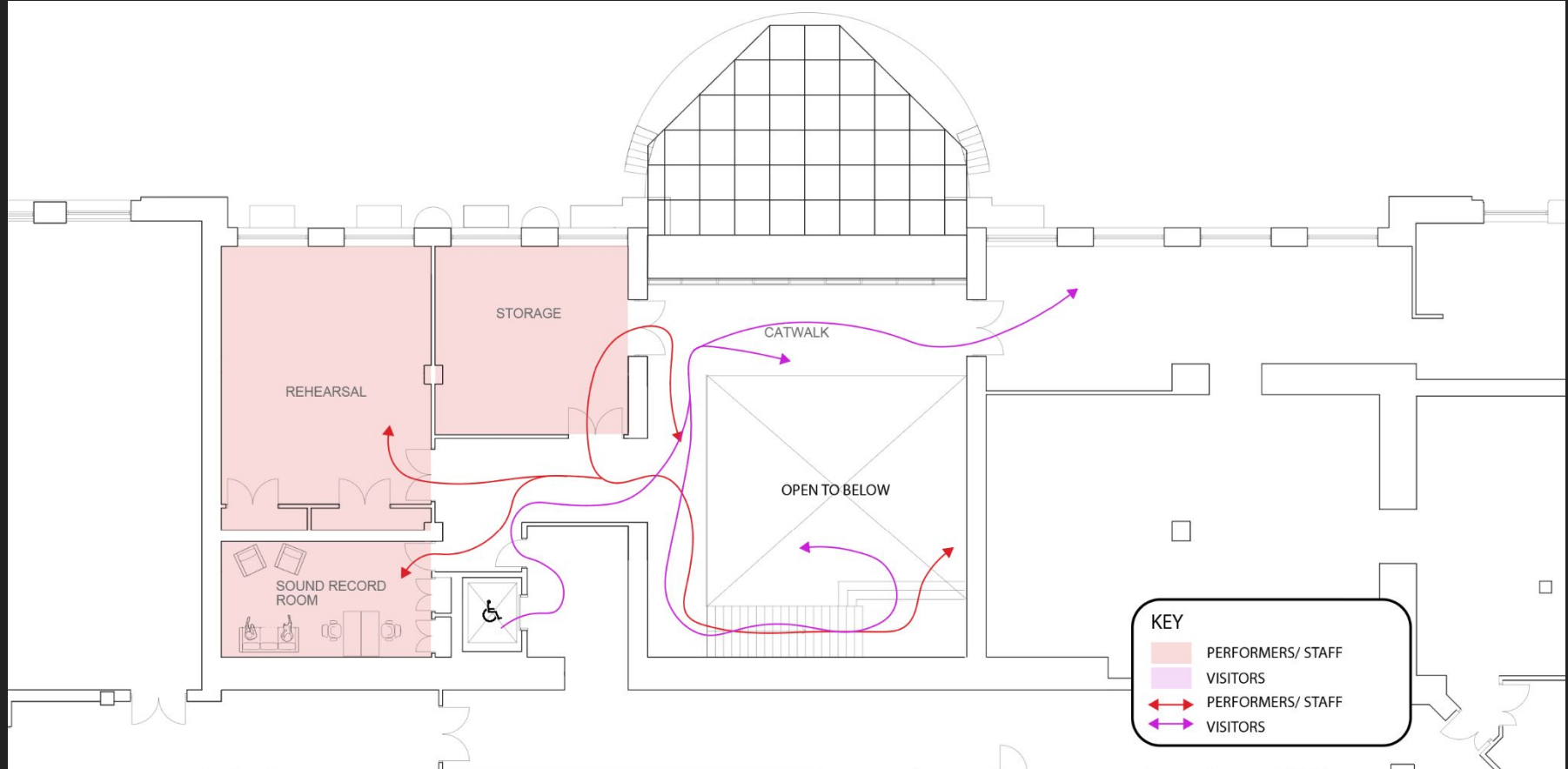
# PROPOSED DEMOLITION - 2ND FLOOR



To accommodate our program, we are removing space which is currently used as a reading/ gathering room.

The structural walls and columns remain. The existing stairs and catwalk remain to maintain access to the Cartoon Library.

# CIRCULATION - SECOND FLOOR



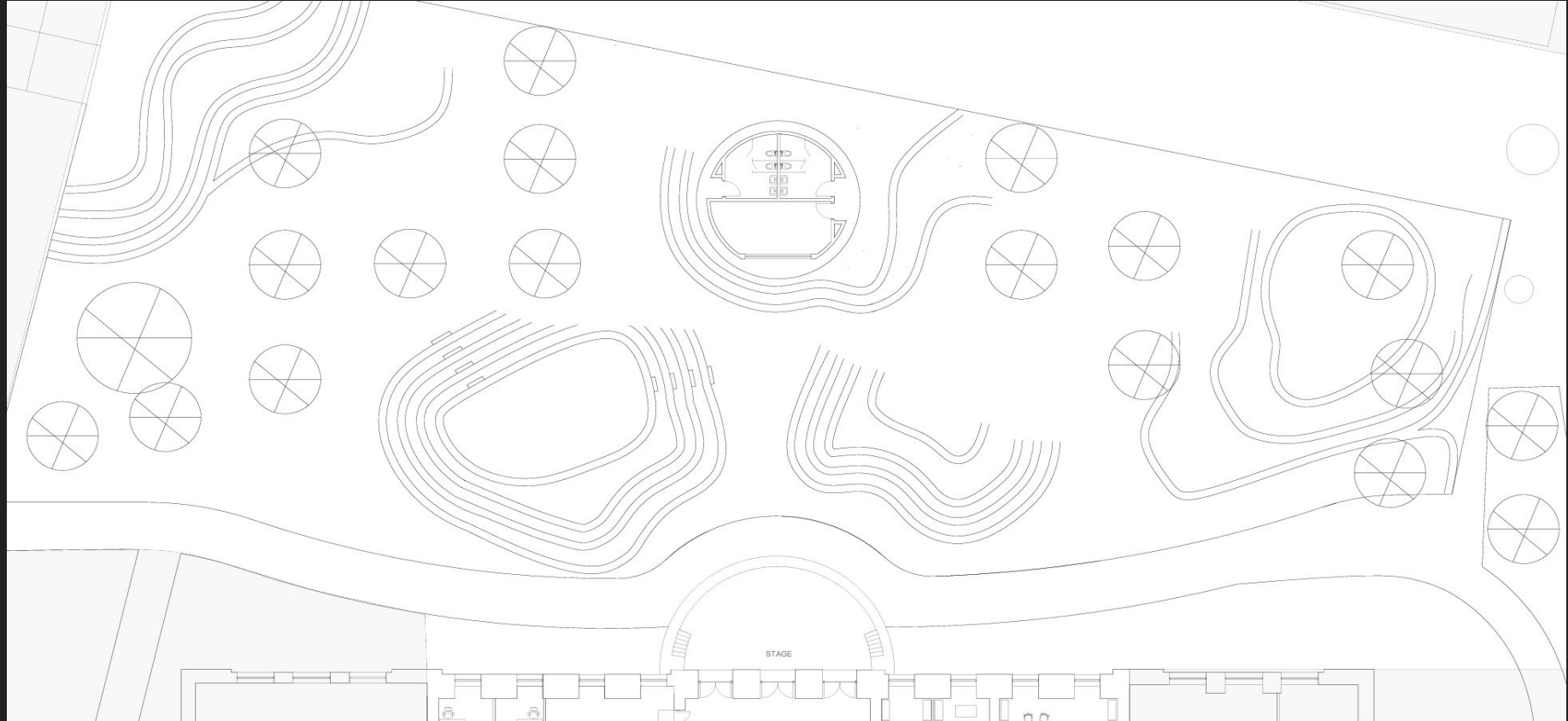


# PROPOSED RENOVATION - COURTYARD



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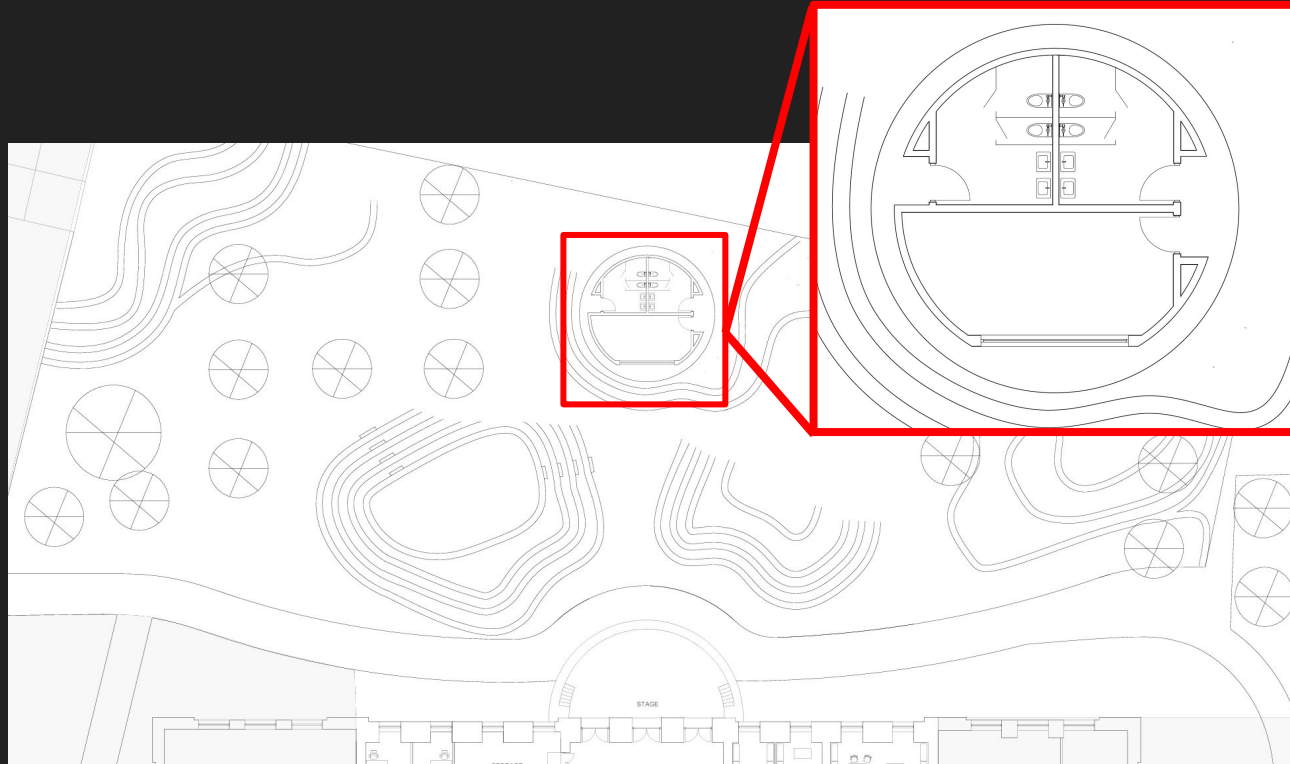
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5' 10' 20' 40'



# PROPOSED RENOVATION - COURTYARD



## TECH BOOTH:

The south half of the building is the tech booth. There is a window facing towards the stage to allow the tech crew to easily see the stage. This is where sound, projections, and lights are controlled and where the stage manager would sit. This would be key card locked at all times.

## PUBLIC BATHROOM:

Behind the tech booth will be the bathroom that the general public audience members can use. This would only be open during performance times for ease of maintenance and security.

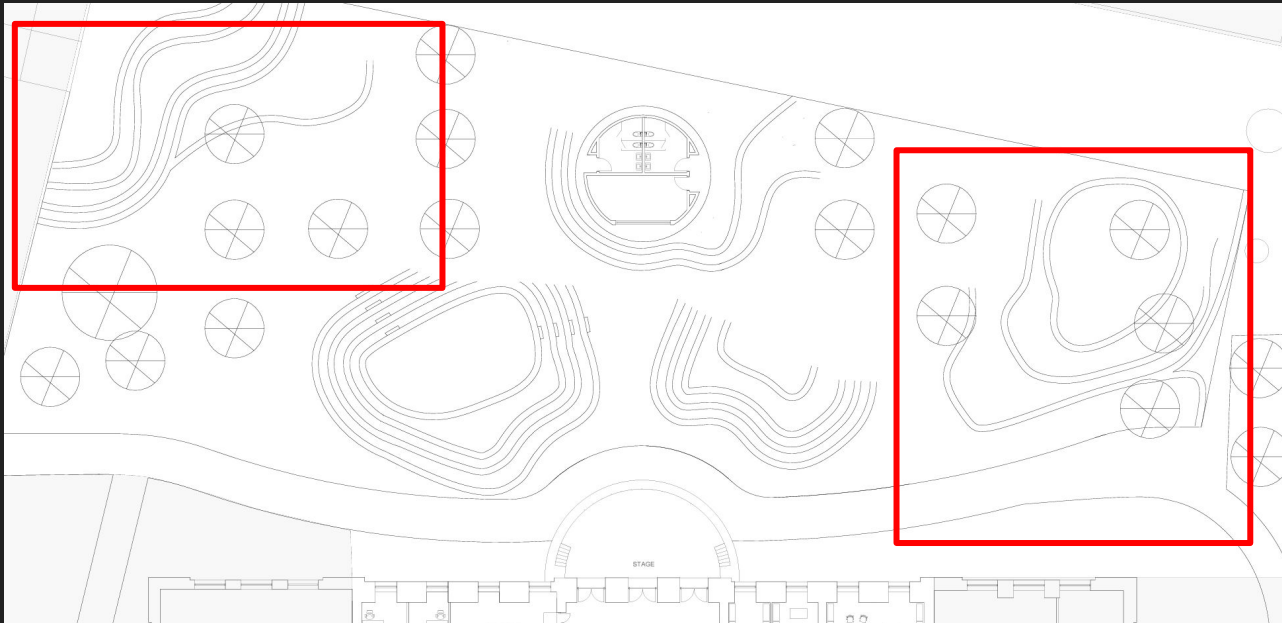
# PROPOSED RENOVATION - COURTYARD

## TREE SPACE:

Trees have been moved from their grid-like form to a more sporadic pattern. This makes the space feel more natural and less artificial. It will also act as a barrier against outside noises.

## BACK SEATING AREA:

The seating area in the trees are meant to primarily be used for studying or small gathering spaces. This is a relaxing place that may not necessarily be able to see the stage. Sound can audio spill from the main stage to here, making these possible listening seats despite the lack of view of the stage. Found space performances may also occur in these areas without technical support.



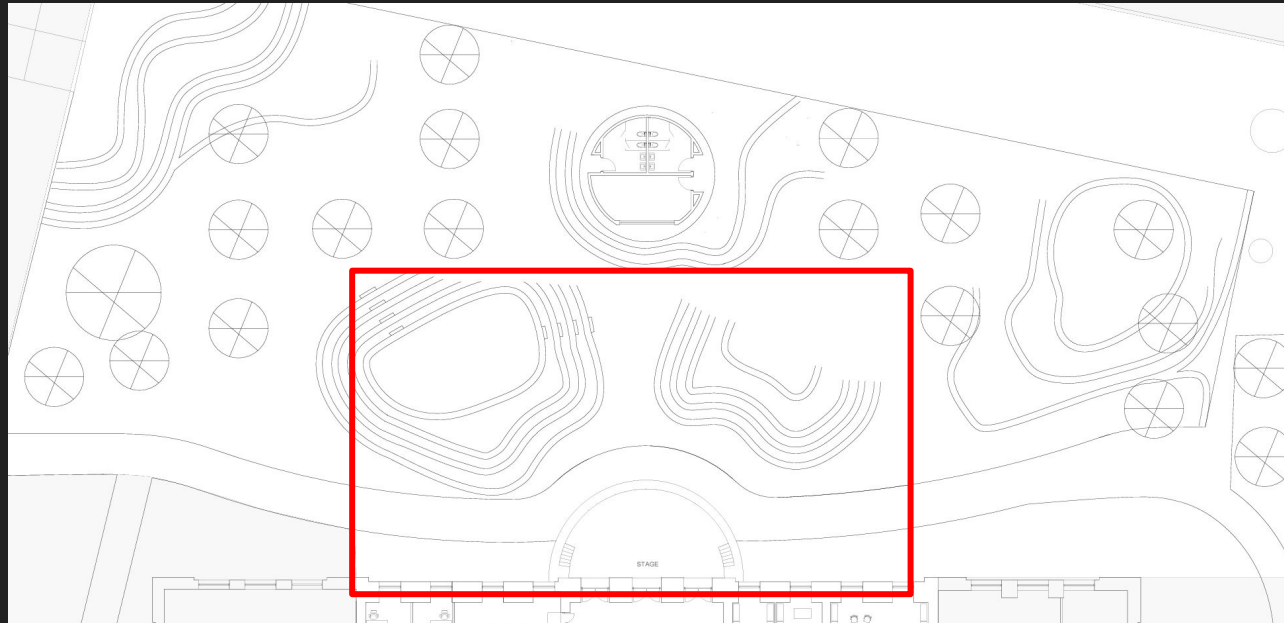
# PROPOSED RENOVATION - COURTYARD

## STAGE SEATING AREA:

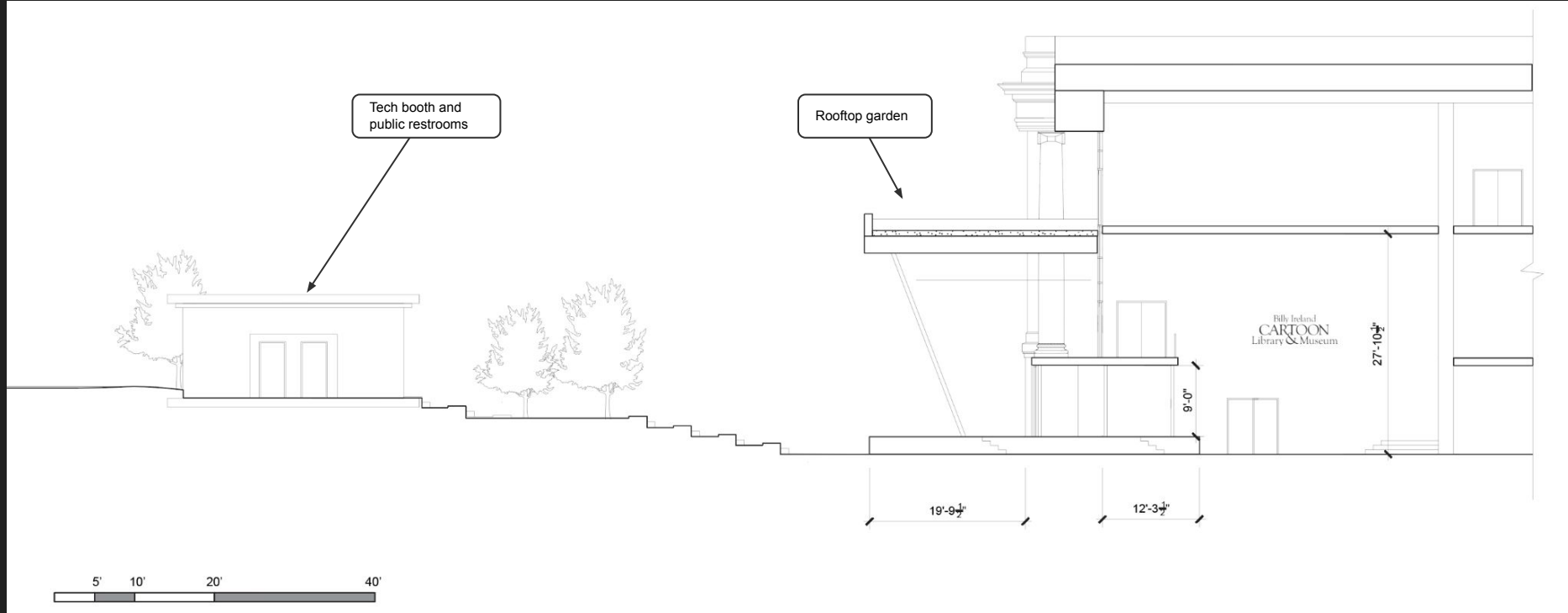
This seating area is the main seating area for the viewing the stage. It provides flexible seating and grassy spaces to bring chairs and blankets. The flat lawn and hardscape around the stage provides accessible seating.

## STAGE:

This is the main stage, located outdoors. There is a roof covering it for inclement weather, and a very slight slope on the stage to provide drainage. The stage has access from the outdoors by using the stairs, and has access indoors to the theatre space through the large doors in the back of the stage. This stage is about 20 by 42 feet so can fit a variety of performance types.



# PROPOSED RENOVATION - SECTION



Students are able to access a rooftop garden from the third floor of Sullivant Hall. The garden sits atop our stage to provide another study/hang spot. Our design purposefully focuses on creating space for students to relax, express, create, and escape from the rigors of school.

# PROPOSED RENOVATION - DETAIL

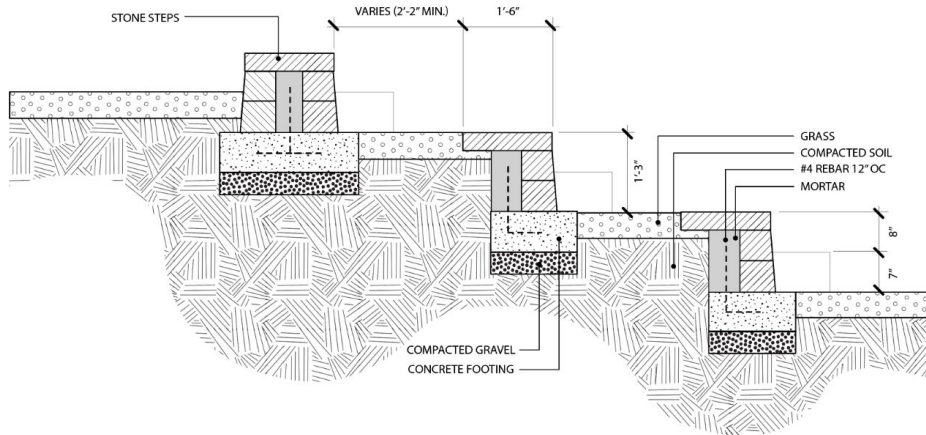


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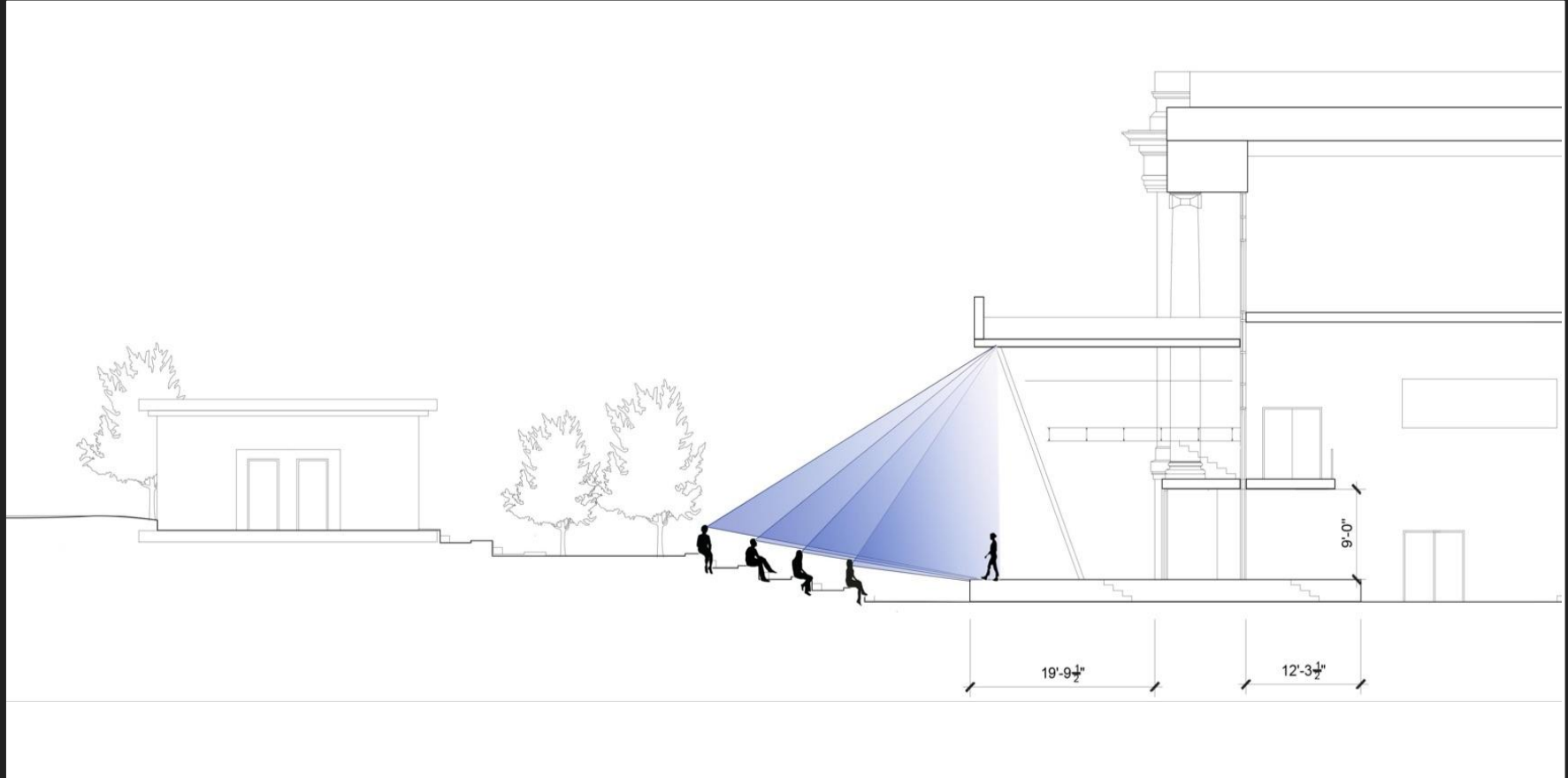
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## STEPPED SEATING:

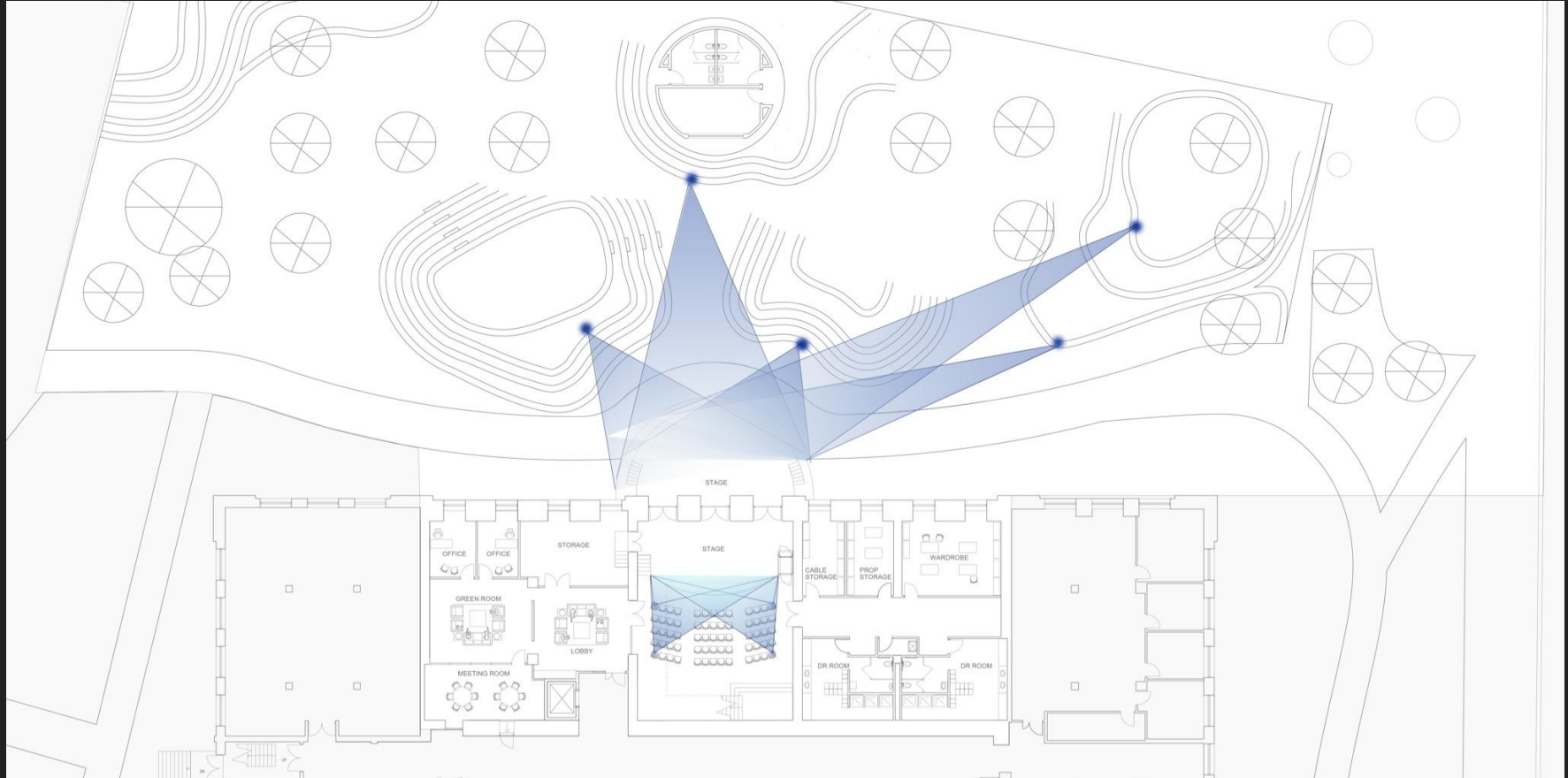
Tiered lawn seating provides an informal gathering area where patrons can sit on stone benches or lawn space. The depth of each tier changes depending on if you are near the stage or on the edges of the courtyard. There is enough space to sit on the ground with a blanket or bring a lawn chair.



# SIGHT LINES - SECTION



# SIGHT LINES - PLAN





# SQUARE FOOTAGE ALLOCATION



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	Floor	Square Footage	Notes
<b>Public Space</b>			
Outdoor Plaza	1	25000	mixed use space with flexible, informal seating
Indoor Performance Lobby	1	830	flexible seating
Lobby	1	415	waiting area for guests
All Gender Restroom	1	110	outdoor pavilion
All Gender Restroom	1	110	outdoor pavilion
Roof Terrace	3	650	accessible from 3rd floor of Sullivant Hall
		<b>27115</b>	
<b>Performance</b>			
Outdoor Stage	1	670	
Indoor Stage	1	500	
		<b>1170</b>	
<b>Technical Support</b>			
Cable Storage	1	165	adjacent to indoor stage
Control Room	1	220	outdoor pavilion
Sound Recording Studio	2	330	in-wall sound proofing
		<b>715</b>	
<b>Production Support</b>			
Green Room	1	450	
Storage	1	370	direct access to interior performance area, can be used for furniture storage
Office	1	125	
Office	1	125	
Meeting Room	1	355	
Prop Storage	1	185	
Wardrobe	1	390	
Dressing Room Men	1	350	
Dressing Room Women	1	390	
Storage	2	450	adjacent to catwalk leading to suspended grid
Rehearsal	2	760	
		<b>3950</b>	

## TOTAL AREA OF RENOVATION

Interior: 8,350 sf

Exterior: 25,000 sf

## PROGRAM RELOCATED:

To accommodate a student performance venue, we relocated half of one office suite, a reading room (first floor) and a seminar room (second floor).

# SECTION 5: PROPOSED TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS



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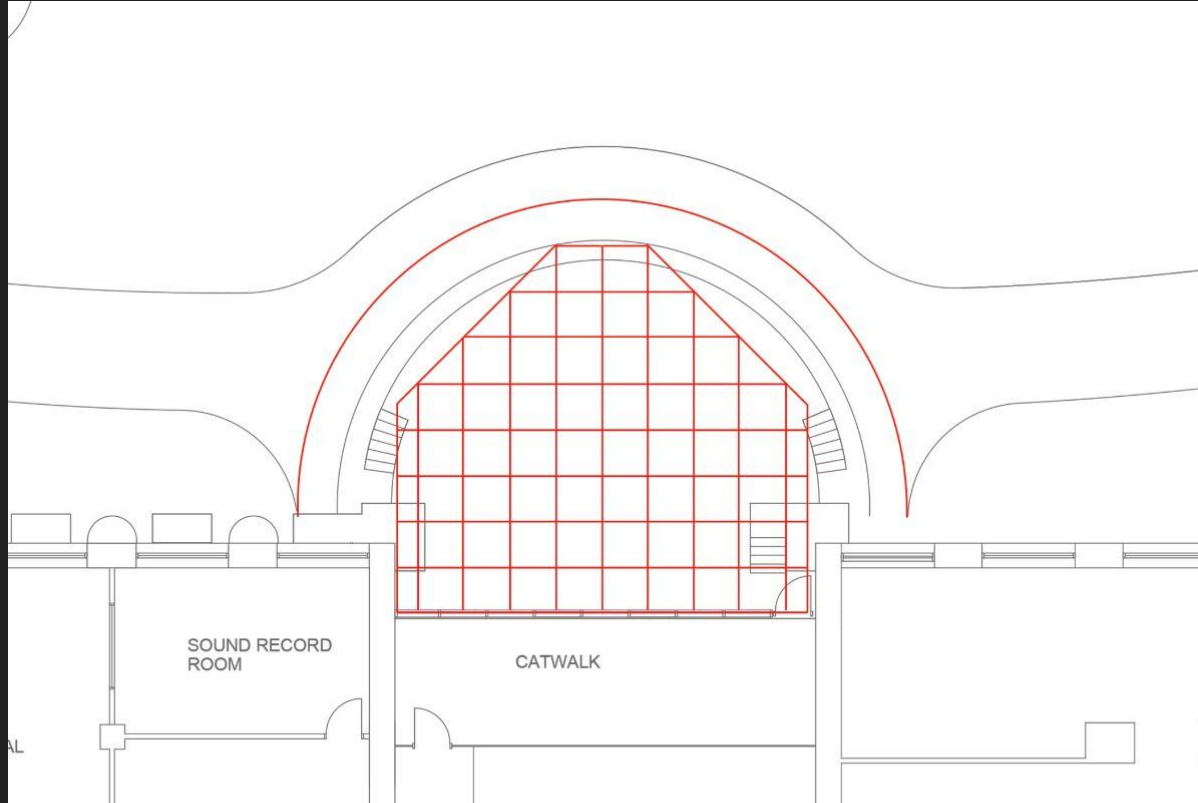
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# PROPOSED RIGGING PLAN



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The pipe system is a 4'x4' grid suspended over the stage. This provides a variety of possible hanging positions for users. The intended constituents will be using the space for short periods of time, with mainly repertory lighting and sound needs. This system is not intended to support scenery. If fixtures need to be adjusted, the grid will be accessible via hydraulic lift.

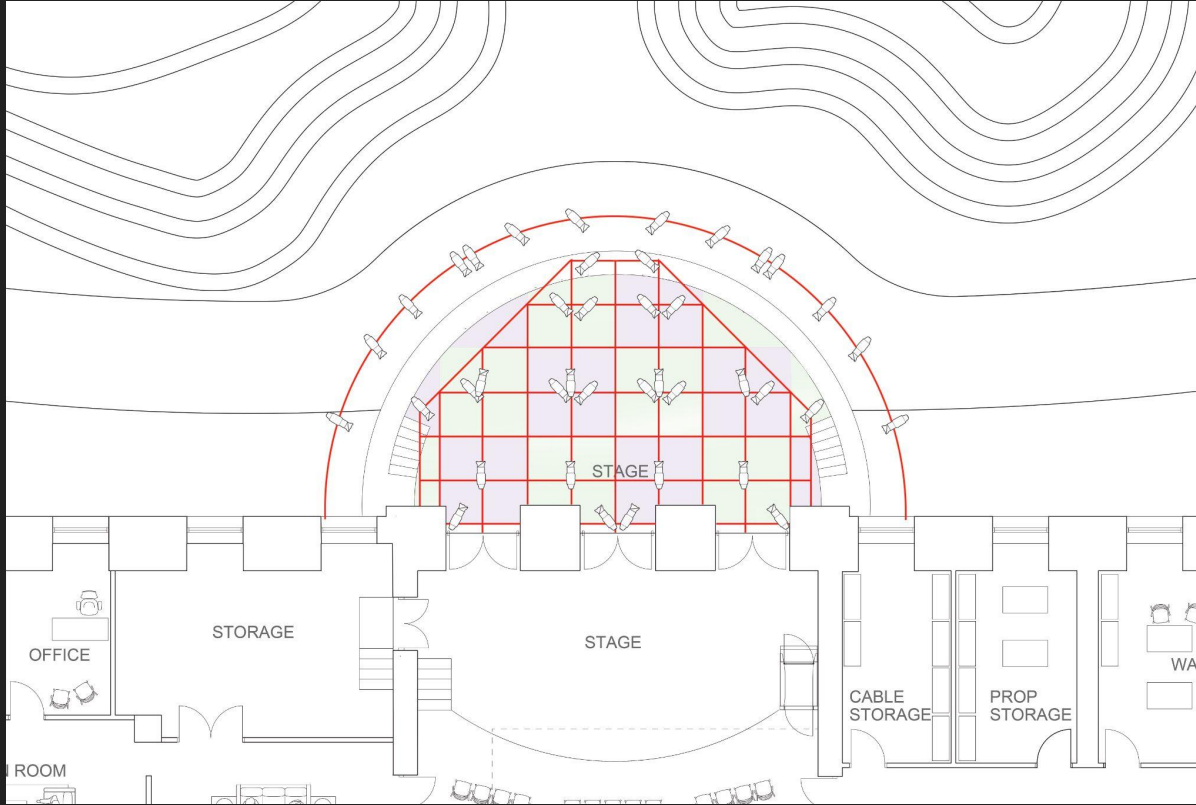
A curved pipe is suspended 2' out from the edge of the roof. It is accessible from the rooftop or via lift from below. This position provides additional lighting and speaker positions.

# PROPOSED LIGHTING REPERTORY PLOT



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The pipe system over the stage and the pipe that extends off the roof provide coverage for 8'x8' areas with left, right, and back positions. This basic plot is designed to allow agency for student organizations who may have less experience with programming. All lights are color changing LED Stage fixtures.

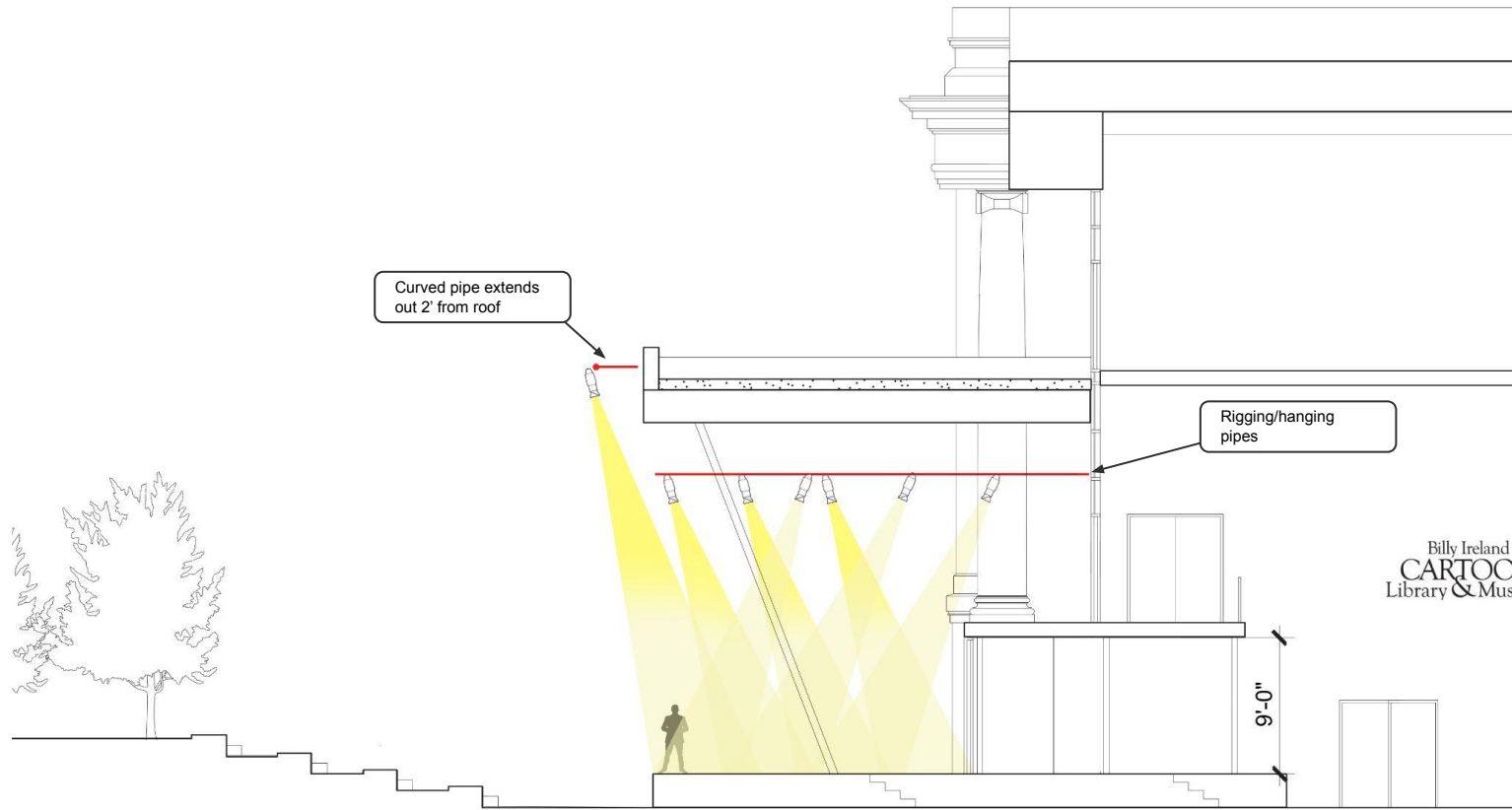
Groups with more knowledge of light systems may coordinate with staff to use additional equipment.

Vertical pipes could easily be attached to the grid to provide high-sides if desired.

“House” lighting consists of existing path and street lights that illuminate the area.

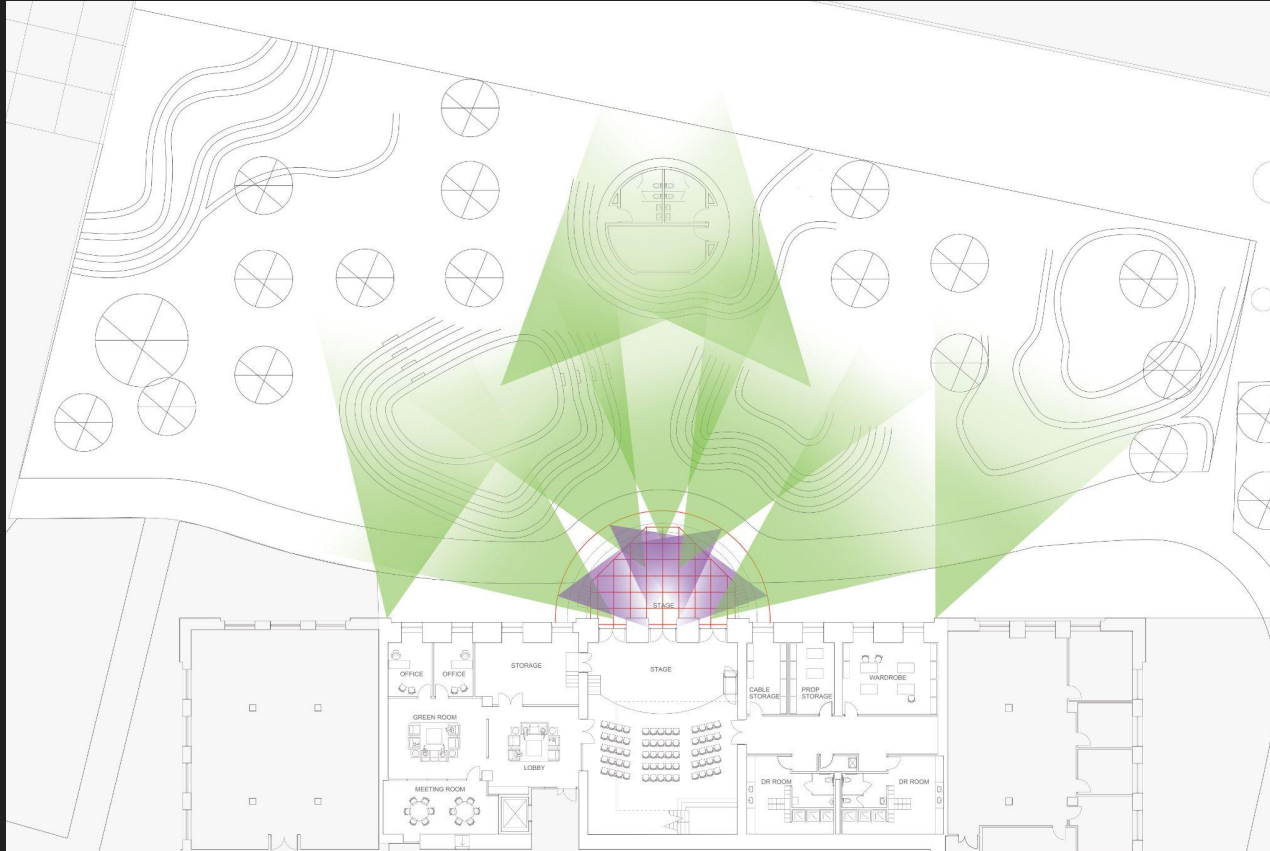
Work lights are positioned within the grid at regular intervals.

# PROPOSED LIGHTING SECTION



The proposed light plot provides full coverage of the stage based on 8'x8' lighting areas. The yellow cones in this section indicate approximate beam coverage.

# PROPOSED SPEAKER POSITIONS

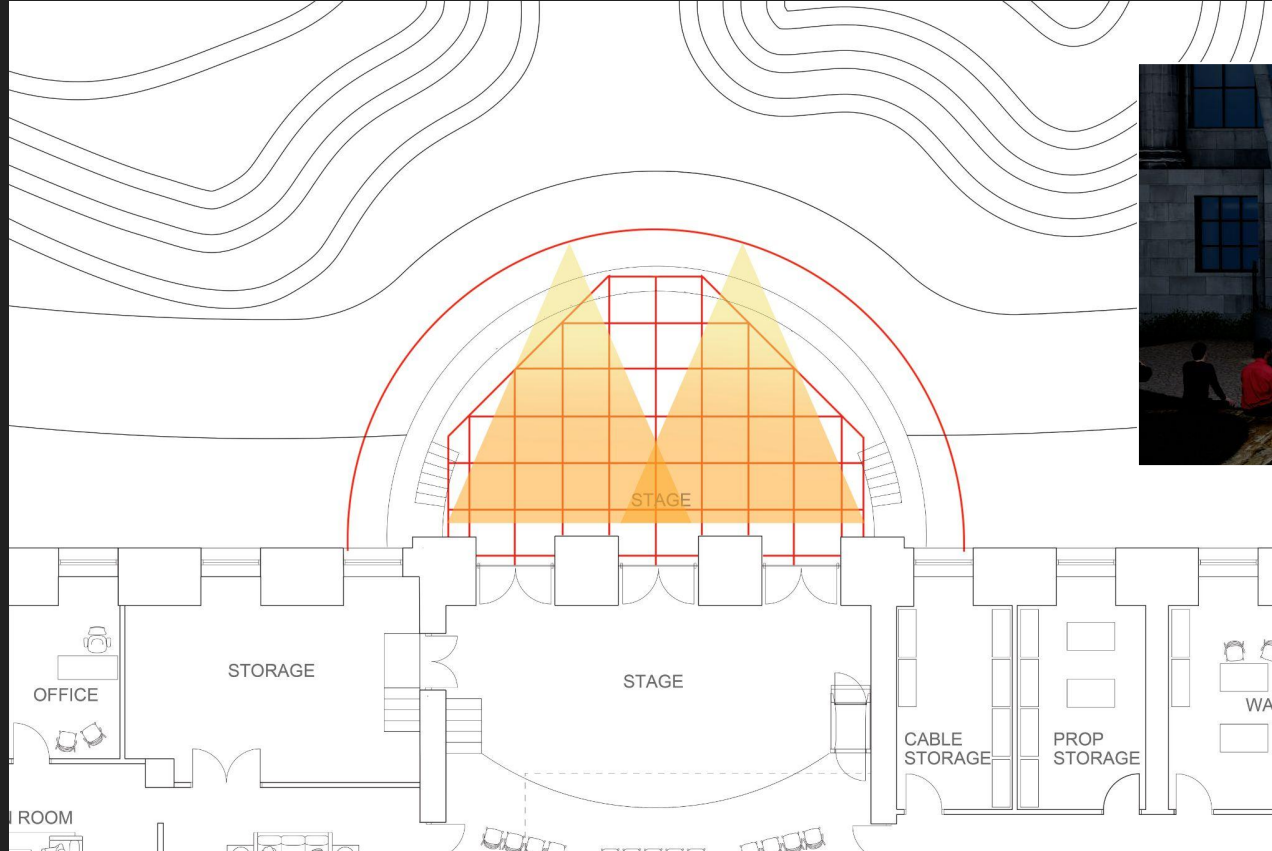


The speaker positions are designed to maximize coverage of the audience seating. Green cones represent concert level speakers. The four purple cones represent smaller playback speakers for the actors.

The shape of the seating bowl, acting as a sound dampening berm, and trees work to isolate sound from the surrounding educational and public areas.



# PROPOSED PROJECTOR POSITIONS



Example projection space

The two projectors blend to fill the screen surface or the entire stage. These are intended to be used for movies, student films, digital art displays, etc. Many dancers expressed interest in using projections on top of their work.

# CONSIDERATION FOR INTERIOR TECH

The interior theatre is a secondary location that has less technological needs than the main outdoor stage. Basic technical features will suffice for our proposed use of the interior space; including programs such as guest speakers, rehearsals, rainy day alternatives and more.

Permanent technology needs:

- Exhibition lighting (already exists in the space)
- Single track sound system (already exists in the space)
- Several plug in locations for various power needs (already exists in the space)
- Acoustic tiles on the walls for noise control

Flexible technology needs:

- Access to portable projectors
- Access to portable screen systems and staging equipment

The flexible technology will be set up by our staff on an as needed basis.



# CONSIDERATION FOR STAFFING NEEDS

We expect 1-2 performances per week in our venue. Between performances, rehearsals, and use as a study/hang spot, the venue will be used daily. To provide a consistent, accessible environment for students, we propose 3 full time staff and 3-5 part time work-study positions.

- Facilities Manager: Oversee staffing and maintenance of the venue, coordinates reservation and scheduling needs from student orgs.
- Technical Managers (2): Responsible for upkeep and maintenance of equipment, trains/oversees house technicians, assists students in equipment use as needed
- Part-time house technicians: assist student groups in programming/use of equipment, fills in as needed for light/sound/projection operations when student groups do not have the needed experience, assist in maintaining a safe production environment



# SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL RENDERINGS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ASTC Venue Renovation Challenge 2023

# RENDERED AERIAL VIEW



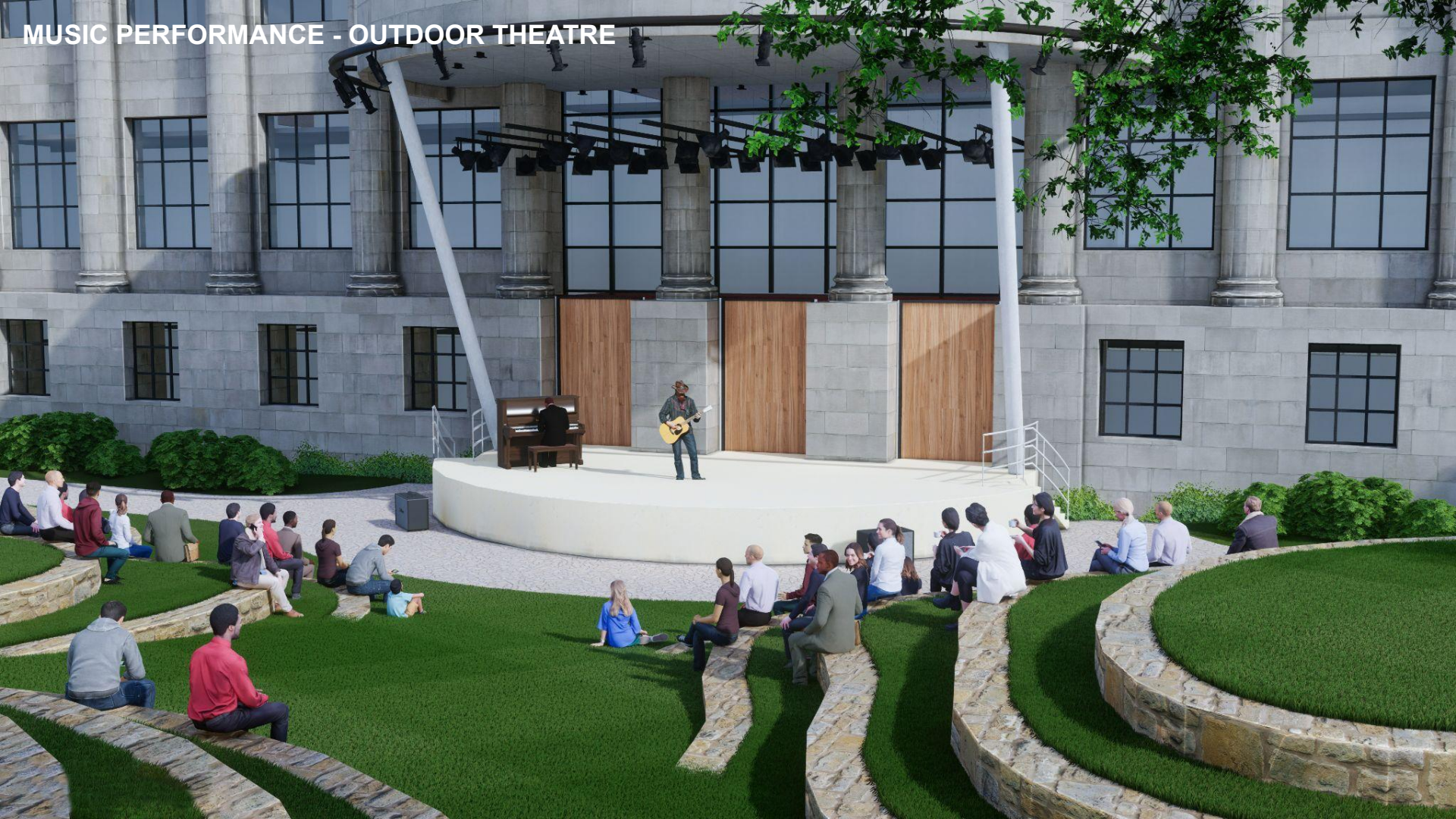
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# MUSIC PERFORMANCE - OUTDOOR THEATRE





## GUEST SPEAKER EVENT - INSIDE THEATRE





ART EXHIBIT EVENT- COURTYARD



# THANK YOU