



2025 ASTC/USITT STUDENT VENUE RENOVATION CHALLENGE

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS

Student projects will be presented at the USITT 2025 Conference and Stage Expo in **Columbus, Ohio on March 5-8, 2025.**

The goal of this challenge is for students to gain experience with performance venue design and renovation, and of possible career opportunities through an interactive process with a professional theatre consultant. Each student team must consist of at least one graduate or undergraduate student from a USITT member institution, a faculty advisor, and an ASTC theatre consultant as a mentor and resource. The teams will conceive a theoretical project based on an existing structure on or accessible from the team's campus. They will survey and study the current conditions and develop a plan to renovate the subject space to meet the team's stated goals.

Potential projects include:

- Substantial improvements to an existing theatre including technical and performance capabilities for the venue.
- Conversion of an underutilized space into a new performance space.
- Significant changes to the form and/or function of an existing theatre.

Applications are due by **September 30, 2024 by 5:00 PM EDT** to renochallenge@theatreconsultants.org

The application forms, along with examples from previous challenges, are available from ASTC <https://theatreconsultants.org/astc-usitt-challenge>

Along with the application, each team is to submit a Preliminary Concept Statement, outlining the basic scope of the project. This scope shall be reviewed by the ASTC Challenge Committee in advance to ensure the applicant's project is of sufficient substance to merit completion. Preliminary Concept Statements are to include:

- Name of academic institution.
- Name of team participants including role, year in college, and major.
- Name of subject space.
- Brief description of scope of the project.

Applications and questions are to be sent to renochallenge@theatreconsultants.org

We strongly encourage teams to review previous concept statements and example projects before submitting.

ASTC Mentors

If the team already has an ASTC Mentor, they should begin meeting regularly as soon as possible. If the team does not have a mentor, the Renovation Challenge Committee will work with the ASTC membership to find a willing Mentor. The teams are encouraged to meet with their Mentor regularly, and their mentor must review all submissions prior to turning them in.

Final Concept Statements are due October 28, 2024 by 5:00 PM EDT

The Team's Concept Statement should present the project goals, or the Project Program as it is known in the architectural world. Some past presentations have been given to the Administration that has the power to consider making the goals a reality. Therefore, make your Concept Statement clear even for people with no performing arts experience. For example, don't use theatre lingo like "A fully-functioning modern fly system." Theatre people might know what that means, but Administrators and Boards do not. Once the Final Concept Statements are received, they will be reviewed by the ASTC Renovation Challenge Committee for scope and clarity. Committee Members comments will be returned to the Team and Advisors by **November 11, 2024**, so they can be reviewed prior to the next phase of work.

The Concept Statements and all review comments will also be sent to the 2025 Judges prior to the Paper Project Submission, which is the first work they will Judge. Samples of Concept Statements can also be viewed on the ASTC and USITT websites. Concept Statements are to be sent to renochallenge@theatreconsultants.org

Final Participants List with Names and Addresses – Due October 28, 2024 by 5:00 PM EST

Faculty Advisors shall submit a Final Participants and Faculty Advisor List which shall include Names, Addresses, and email contacts. Travel Stipend and Prize checks will use this list. Please review the list thoroughly as ASTC or USITT cannot be responsible for misspellings or errors. Prize checks are mailed to the Faculty Advisor of the winning teams at the address given.

The final list with names and address will be sent to the following: (See also "Stipends" below)

renochallenge@theatreconsultants.org AND your team ASTC Mentor

Paper Project Submittals – Due February 3, 2025 by 5:00PM EST

Project submittals must be provided in the form of PDF files or Power Point presentation. Submittal data, source information, and images may be of physical models, renderings, hand sketches or drafting, photographs, modeling software or AutoCAD, REVIT or other digital design platforms. Video may be included but must be incorporated into the presentation. Submissions must show a minimum of the following:

1. Location of subject space
2. Year constructed
3. Project size or scale in square footage

4. Current use
5. Existing plan and section
6. Photos of the existing venue, including the exterior
7. Review of external factors such as access for audiences and production materials
8. Building improvements in plan
9. Building improvements in section
10. Sightlines to the performance area
11. Auditorium/stage relationship including performer access to the audience.
12. Improvements to the technical and performance support capabilities
13. Improvements for the audience such as parking, building access including any ADA issues that will need to be addressed, ticketing, and audience spaces such as lobby and restrooms.
14. Pertinent detail or supporting data
15. A written statement of the intended goals for renovation including:
 - a. The goals of the renovation.
 - i. Examples might be Greater audience capacity, Improving intimacy, Expanding scenic capability, Full ADA compliant access, etc...
 - b. Identification of parties who benefit from the improvements and describe how they benefit. (i.e., technicians, operations staff, performers, directors, designers, and/or audience etc.)

Project Submittals are to be sent to renochallenge@theatreconsultants.org

Paper Project Reviews

Each Paper Project Submission received by the deadline will be reviewed by the ASTC Judges. Comments from the Judges will be returned to the Team and Advisors by **February 20, 2025** for possible inclusion into the final phase of work for the Public Presentations at the USITT Conference.

USITT Conference – Public Presentation:

The public presentation portion will be during the USITT 2025 Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio - **March 5-8, 2025**. The exact day and time will be determined by the Conference schedule.

The Public Presentations must include two parts, and may include a third part:

1. Required: An in-person live presentation by the school's team.
2. Required: Visual support materials using still images, video, PowerPoint, and/or visual renderings created to bring the team's goals, ideas, and work to the assembled Judges and USITT Session audience. The team may use the video to help those who do not know the existing space understand what the 3D issues are with the selected facility.
3. Teams may use the first minute or two of their presentation to introduce and acknowledge their school and to include any Team members who are not able to be present at the USITT Conference.

At least one student member of the team is required to present the team's work at the conference session in person. Judges do understand that the materials to be presented at the USITT Conference may be re-worked to fit a public presentation but must consist of the same essential elements submitted at the Paper Project submission. The ASTC member judges will make their final selection for Awards based on both the submitted design and the live presentation.

One team will be presented the ASTC - Edgar L. Lustig Award for \$3,000.00 prize. A second prize, the USITT - Director's Award for \$1,000.00, will be presented to a team that showed extraordinary merit.

Student Travel Assistance – Stipends:

In order to encourage participation in the team's live presentation, and attendance at the Conference and Stage Expo, five \$600 travel stipends are available for financial travel assistance. After the start of the Spring Semester a travel assistance stipend can be requested by the team's Faculty Advisor beginning on **October 28, 2024**. The stipends will be awarded on a first-come basis until all five are claimed. Stipends are limited to one per team. The request will be based upon the email date and time received. Travel Requests are to be sent to renochallenge@theatreconsultants.org