Performance Space

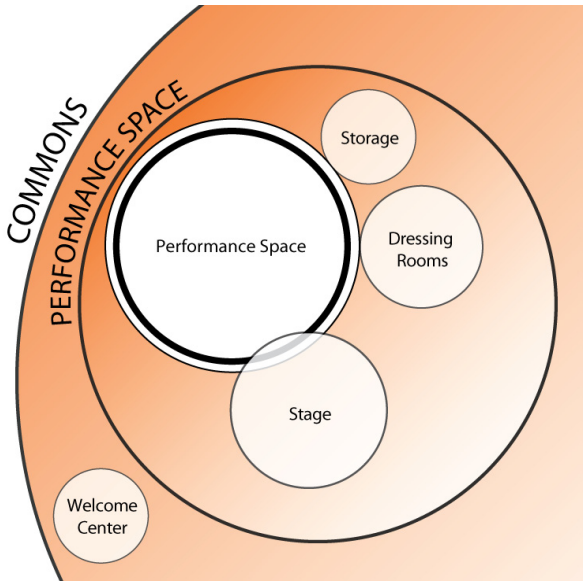
School Type: E M H K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Functional Area Descriptions

The purpose of the performance space is to provide a dedicated location for performances and specialized lectures. This space should be designed and located to facilitate after-hours use by the community. Entry to this space should be located near the commons and designed to allow for access from the commons. This space is required to be able to be completely separated from the commons. This will allow for use when activities such as dining or other gatherings are happening in the commons. It is desirable for this space to be designed so that it could be opened up to the commons for larger gatherings. Where employed, this should be designed such that it facilitates the expansion or complete separation of both spaces.

This space should be designed to seat at least one third of the student population. This space should be able to be secured when sets and props are up on the stage for rehearsals prior to a performance. If a movable partition is used, it must have a high sound transmission coefficient (STC) rating. This space is not intended for use as a permanent rehearsal area. The music program should utilize its purpose built space for daily rehearsal. Sufficient storage space should be provided for whatever configuration is selected.

Adjacency Diagram



Planning Requirements

	Area Description	SF	M^2	Notes
Performance Space				
1	**Performance Space**	1,200+	111.5	35% enrollment x 10sf
2	**Stage Area**	600min	55.7min	<100, increase by 100sf for every 100
3	**Stage Storage**	200min	18.6min	any additional area must come from the performance space
4	**Dressing Rooms**	2 @ 200	2 @ 18.6	MS & HS greater than 300 students

A description of three different types of performance spaces is provided below. The type of space to be provided should be considered together by the school and the selected designers. Discuss the programs that are likely to occur in this space and evaluate the level of flexibility that will work best for the school. The areas listed in the planning requirements are based on a traditional auditorium type space with a full stage, curtain, lights and sound. Other more flexible seating/stage options are encouraged. If something other than a fixed seat auditorium is proposed, the spaces and areas may be adjusted as long as the total square footage listed for all spaces is not exceeded.

Three options to consider for the performance space are:

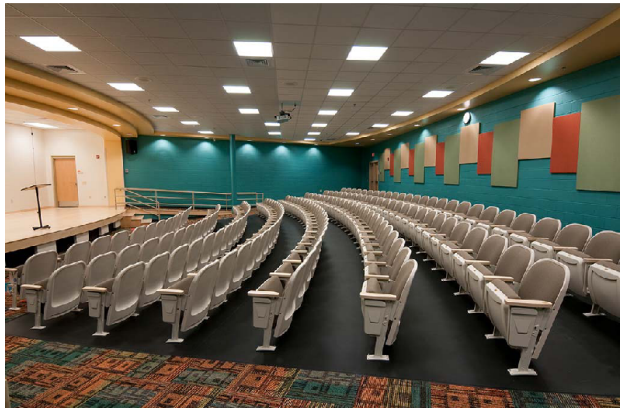
- Seminar Auditorium
- Black Box Theater
- Hybrid Performance Space

Seminar Auditorium:
This type of space would be designed for performances and seminar-style gatherings and usually includes a fixed stage and fixed seating. The floor should be sloped or tiered to provide better sight lines. Consider seating that includes writing surfaces to facilitate lecture note-taking. This space type does not allow as much flexibility as the other options listed but may be an appropriate solution for some locations.

Black-Box Theater:
This type of space would be designed for maximum flexibility. Seating for a black-box audience should be moveable and easily stored, providing a wide variety of possible configurations. The stage or central platform must also be moveable to allow for reconfiguration per the intended use of the space, whether performance, seminar, or theater-in-the-round. The design should also accommodate removal of all furniture to provide an open social gathering space. Seating possibilities can also include creative features such as wide, retractable risers designed for sitting or tiered chair arrangements.

A preparation space/green room may be included. This space should be immediately adjacent and easily accessible to the performance space. This space would be used for performance preparation. It should be flexible and include two entry/egress points to accommodate moveable partitions. This space should be close to restrooms that are shared with the commons.

Hybrid Performance Space:
This space would be configured to allow some of the flexibility inherent in the black-box theater, but with the characteristic shape and spatial arrangement of a seminar auditorium. This type of space typically has a fixed stage and movable seating. While the stage is fixed, the moveable furniture will allow multiple configurations and presentation spaces within the one space, whether performance or seminar. The seating should be easily storable to provide this wide variety of possible configurations. In certain circumstances, all furniture may be removed so the area can be used as an open social gathering space.



Seminar Auditorium: Renaissance Academy, RRMM Architects, Virginia Beach, VA

High School Black Box Theater: Robert & Arlene Kogod Theater, Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, College Park, MD

NOTE: Images shown are intended to provide real-world examples and spark design creativity.

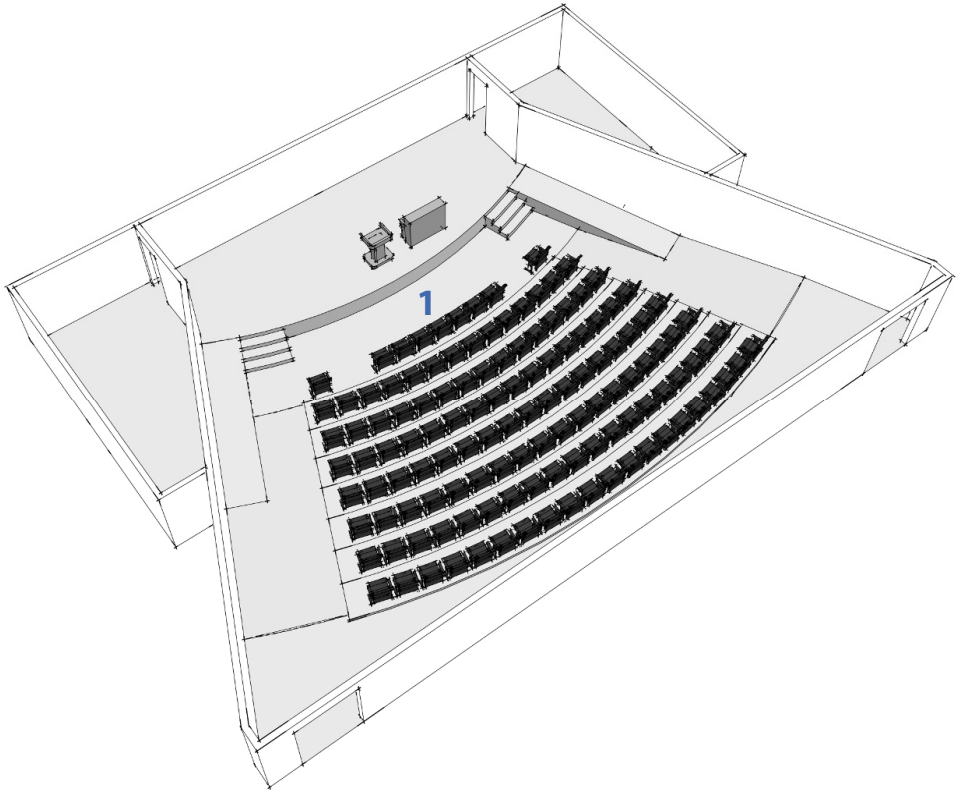
Regardless of the chosen solution, the technology for this space should be seamless and include at least the following provisions:

- Audio and voice enhancement capabilities that can be deployed easily.
- Multiple display platforms such as drop-down screens, portable display furniture, and interactive whiteboard access (movable).
- Easily adjustable lighting suitable for sufficient, overall general lighting as well as special centralized lighting circumstances.
- Acoustical equipment that can be easily adjusted.

Concept perspective illustrations are shown on the following page.

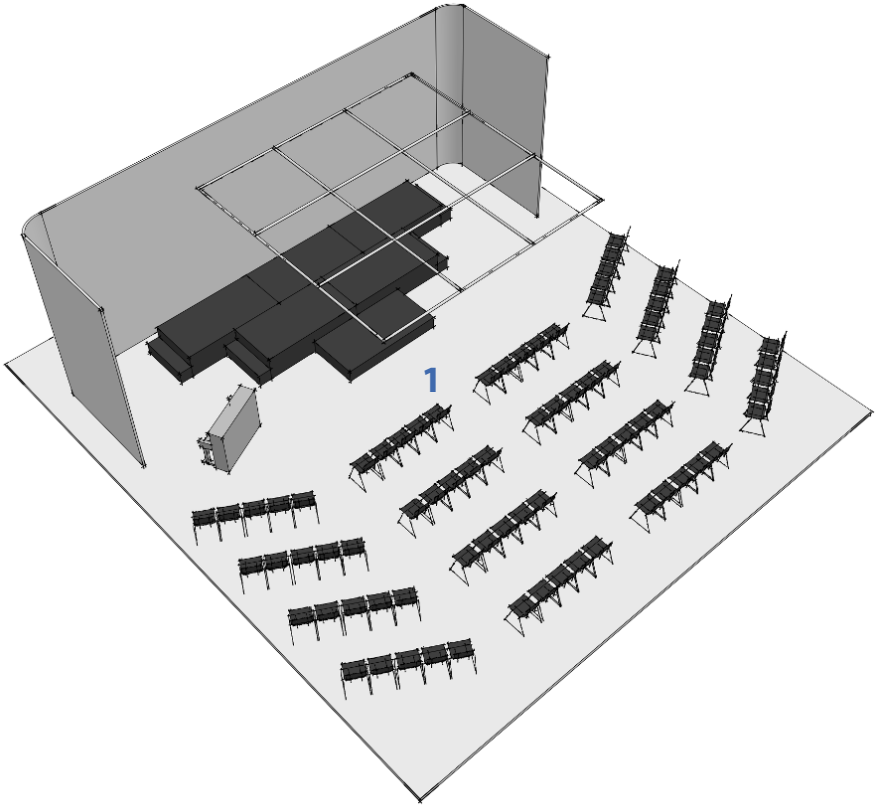
Elementary/Middle School Hybrid Performance Space: High Tech Middle School, Carrier Johnson, San Diego, CA

NOTE: Images shown are intended to provide real-world examples and spark design creativity.



Seminar Auditorium Concept Perspective

NOTE: In hybrid space type, seating will be moveable and require sufficient storage.



Black-Box Theater Concept Perspective

NOTE: 3D illustrations are shown for informational purposes and are not intended to limit design. options.