Small Theater

School Type: EMH

Functional Area Descriptions
The purpose of the small theater space is to provide a dedicated location for performances and specialized lectures. This space will be located in the commons area of the school; however, it will be designed as a separate space and will be uniquely accessible from the welcome center. The separation of space will allow for effective use when adjacent spaces are being used for activities such as dining or gatherings. The unique accessibility to the welcome center will facilitate after-hours use by the community.

1 Gathering and Performance Space
The design of the gathering and performance space should be considered together by the school and the selected designers. Two options to consider are:

- **A Seminar Auditorium**: This type of space would be designed to allow for small performances and medium-sized, seminar-style gatherings. This should include an informal stage that is fixed. Seating in this arrangement would also be fixed and could include writing surfaces to facilitate lecture note-taking.

Seating in the seminar auditorium arrangement should be tiered to provide for better sight lines, although this design does not allow use with a flat, open floor for informal gatherings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Description</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>M²</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gathering and Performing Space</td>
<td>varies</td>
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<td>See description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry Foyer</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenroom</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>56</td>
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Common Shared Spaces

**Black-Box Theater:** This type of space would be designed to allow for multiple seating arrangements such that it allows the audience to view small performances, as well as informal or spontaneous presentations. This should include an informal stage that is moveable and designed to facilitate small, informal performances, and medium-sized seminars and gatherings. Seating possibilities can also include creative features such as wide, retractable risers designed for sitting or tiered chair arrangements.

Seating for a black-box audience should be moveable and easily storable such that a wide variety of configurations are possible. The stage or central platform must also be moveable such that it can be reconfigured per the intended use of the space, whether performance or seminar. The design should also accommodate removal of all furniture so that it can be used as an open social gathering space. In certain circumstances, this space can abut and be designed with a moveable wall to expand/enhance the Commons described in the previous section.

The size of this space should be variable, based upon school type. At the elementary and middle school grade levels this space should accommodate 75-100 people. At the high school level, this space should accommodate 100-150 people.

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 and spontaneously.
- Multiple display platforms such as drop-down screens, portable display furniture, and interactive whiteboard access.
- Easily adjustable lighting with the ability for sufficient, overall general lighting or special, centralized lighting circumstances.
- Acoustical equipment that can be easily adjusted.

**2 Entry Foyer**

Entry to this space should be located near the commons and designed to allow for access from the commons.

Where feasible, one entire wall of the small theater should be designed as retractable and be able to completely open the adjoining wall of the commons. This should be designed such that it facilitates the expansion or complete separation of both spaces. In circumstances where the space is opened and expanded, larger seating arrangements should be possible.

**3 Greenroom**

A preparation space should be provided immediately adjacent and easily accessible to the gathering and performance space. This space will be used to prepare for performances. It should be flexible and include two entry/egress points such that a moveable partition can be accommodated.

This space should be within close proximity to restrooms that are shared with the commons.
4 Storage
This space should provide sufficient storage for the various uses of the space. This includes storage for:
- The collapsed seating equipment
- The retractable/moveable stage
- Sound and lighting equipment
- Any small, non-permanent stage props