

## **Introduction**

### **Purpose**

The Rapid City Performing Arts Center Design Study provides a planning framework to guide the future development of this new rehearsal and performance venue. The Design Study reviews proposed site locations within Rapid City and includes detailed analysis of the recommended Journey Museum site and other meaningful synergistic opportunities this site affords. A detailed program of spaces, schematic plans, and three-dimensional images are included to provide a glimpse of the completed project. The Design Study also includes information about materials and systems required for implementation of the project as well as construction budget and operational cost estimates.

### **Organization**

The Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation (RCPAF) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to enrich the lives of people in Rapid City and the surrounding region by providing facilities that support and encourage the creation of a broad range of quality arts programs for the entertainment and education of people of all ages and backgrounds.

From music to theatre to painting to dance, art is alive in Rapid City. Through a true community partnership, Rapid City and Black Hills residents and visitors can experience art in many different mediums. By providing opportunities to participate in productions, attend performances, and volunteer, the arts have a great impact on the area.

Each year, over 12,000 children and nearly 2,000 adults participate in programming, activities, or classes sponsored by Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation (RCPAF) organizations. Audiences totaling more than 50,000 enjoy the combined efforts of these artistic groups. The arts community also provides a vibrant arena for those with a volunteer spirit. From being a board member to assisting with set design, last year nearly 3,000 people volunteered with organizations affiliated with the RCPAF.

### **Vision**

In response to the growing need of arts organizations within Rapid City, the RCPAF, a consortium of 501(c) 3 organizations, began planning for a performing arts center where each organization has ample performance, rehearsal and production space.

With input and support from partnering organizations and the City of Rapid City, the RCPAF wants to build a Performing Arts Center to benefit Rapid City and the Black Hills region. The Center will provide individual arts organizations with the performance, rehearsal, classroom, office, and storage space they desperately need. In doing so, each organization can better serve the community by expanding the cultural opportunities and offerings in the region. More individuals will have the opportunity to become involved both in the arts, as performers and audience members, because of this new Performing Arts Center.

### **Goals**

Upon completion, the new facility will allow the RCPAF groups to provide many benefits to the city and region, including:

- The ability to share performing arts with a greater number of people.
- Expanded programming and more sophisticated productions.
- Greater opportunities for theatre, music, dance and art classes for children and adults.
- A performance venue for visiting arts groups and increased opportunities for collaborative efforts among the region's cultural organizations.
- A facility that can be utilized for community events.
- An important economic and cultural asset that will greatly enhance the quality of life in Rapid City and the surrounding region.

## ***Executive Summary***

### **Background**

The Arts have long been a source of community pride and active participation in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Visual Arts have primarily found a home at the Dahl Arts Center, a partnership project of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce Cultural Affairs Committee and the Rapid City Arts Council, which is currently undergoing a major renovation and expansion. The Performing Arts however, have been operating more as individual non-profit entities until this year.

In early 2007, six groups came together to form the Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation (RCPAF). The groups include A Capella Showcase, Dakota Artists Guild, Black Hills Community Theatre, Black Hills Dance Theatre, Black Hills Symphony Orchestra and Rapid City Children's Chorus. Each of these organizations has faced increasing challenges over recent years to secure locations for rehearsal and performance, however they are each independently creative in maximizing resources that are available to them.

As part of the City of Rapid City's 2012 Project, \$6.5 million was allocated to the Arts. Half of that money went to the Visual Arts and is being used to help fund the expansion of the Dahl Arts Center. The other half of the money was dedicated to the Performing Arts groups, which is now the RCPAF, and will be utilized toward the construction of a new Performing Arts Center.

### **Design Study**

In January of 2007, Pfluger Associates Architects was hired by the City of Rapid City to complete a Design Study for the proposed new mid-sized Performing Arts Center. This new Performing Arts Center will support the needs of the six organizations that make up the Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation, as well as provide opportunities for numerous other local groups. Pfluger Associates worked closely with all six organizations to understand their individual needs as well as considering maximum utilization of the shared facilities through flexible multi-use spaces and creative scheduling of these groups.

The resulting program and conceptual design of the new Performing Arts Center will serve the needs of the Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation and the City of Rapid City for many years to come. Perhaps more importantly it will give the RCPAF a home and an identity within Rapid City, which can only enhance their visibility and encourage community participation and support.

## **Site**

Seven independent site locations were reviewed and considered as part of this report. Additionally, multiple options were evaluated at some of those sites. Through an analysis of those site options identified for study, it became increasingly clear that the most feasible option for implementation of a new Performing Arts Center is a freestanding structure at the site of the Journey Museum.

This property is owned by the City of Rapid City and presents numerous opportunities for positive synergistic relationships between the Journey Museum, the Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation, the Civic Center, and possibly the future development of an Alliance of Tribal Tourism Advocates (ATTA) Pow Wow Garden and Indian Art Market.

The idea to create a Cultural Campus at the Journey Museum site has been discussed with City leaders at least as far back as 2004. There are many benefits and opportunities created for the City and the community in locating the new Performing Arts Center in close proximity to the Civic Center and the Journey Museum.

## **Program and Plan**

The program and plan have been through numerous revisions in an effort to make them as flexible and functional as possible, yet always considering efficiency and multi-use opportunities. All six groups have been reasonable in working through difficult decisions, yet agree that the resulting recommendation is a very workable solution despite the compromises.

For example, when we began there were three large 3,250 square foot rehearsal halls, which were reduced to one. Three large spaces insured that even the largest groups could be accommodated in any of the spaces. By only providing one large hall, two medium halls and one small rehearsal hall, scheduling becomes slightly more challenging, but the groups are convinced it can work, and actually serves the smaller groups more effectively.

The program and plans included in this report are considered well developed and refined schematic design documents. That does not mean that further modifications should not be considered as the project progresses, but these should clearly represent the intentions of the new Performing Arts Center for the Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation.

## **Implementation and Cost**

By locating the new Performing Arts Center adjacent to the Journey Museum, site development costs are minimized. Parking, access and utilities infrastructure are in place at this location. There are also potential cost-saving benefits to the City that could be realized by integrating certain key systems of the new PAC with the existing Journey Museum. The recommended location at the Journey Museum site takes advantage of the existing terrain and building characteristics to minimize site development costs.

Recommendations regarding building systems and development are sensitive to the critical concerns of developing Performing Arts spaces, such as acoustical isolation and volume, yet seek to proactively implement these solutions in a cost effective way. In any theatrical performance venue such as this, a large portion of the budget must be dedicated to specialty systems and equipment such as theatrical lighting and rigging, sound systems, orchestra shell and auditorium seating.