



**Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center
Public Meeting
May 27, 2009
Langston Hughes**

Present: Gary Gibbons– Seattle Parks Project Manager
Royal Alley-Barnes – Parks Resource Manager
Jacqueline D. Tabor – Parks Staff
Ron Wright - Project Design Consultant

Purpose: Public Meeting

Handout: 1 handout was passed out. It showed a brief description of project past and present, explanation of how decisions are made, and factors that may have an impact on the outcome of the project.

Introduction:

Overview of project inception and development within the new Parks and Green Spaces Levy, a brief history of the facility and its development.

Discussion / Overview

Gary Gibbons

In early 2008, City Council established a citizen's advisory team to assist with recommendations for the proposed levy. As one of the projects selected by the advisory team, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center was recommended as a landmark facility in need of further repairs. This was based on the 2008 building assessment and evaluation conducted by Ron Wright and Associates, which revealed a deficiency in the structure to withstand lateral forces. The electricity also needs to be improved.

\$2.5 million was approved by City Council for this project at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. This project has become part of the Mayor's Economic Stimulus Package: Seattle Jobs Forward, and the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center will be closed from January 2010 through December 2010. There are no plans to support programs during this period, and the facility will be closed.

We will be putting this project out to bid late in 2009 or early 2010. Hopefully we will get a successful bid from a local contractor. Our schedule shows our design continuing through 2009, with the project out to bid late 2009 or early 2010.

Royal Alley-Barnes

I am the Executive Director of Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. The 2008 citizen task force compiled of 21 members were a highly diverse group and led by Vivian Philips. In the past there has been historical disregard for this facility. The group wanted to create a vision and to carry it out in a meaningful manner.

There have been 10,000 people go through Langston Hughes just since January 2009.

We currently have 7 major partners and have just added the University of Washington's Worlds Series.

We need to make this place highly sustainable and make space for emerging artists.

We are getting involved with Art Fund and PONCHO and Sound of Voices.

From July to August from 1 a.m. to 4p.m. we will be open with security provided to try to keep the youth off the street. We need to be flexible and concerned about building the future.

We will have 5 premiers before the end of the year. In the Fall we will be having "Obama on my Mind" from London, England. We had to put our foot down in reference of Economic Utility-Hiring local actors and they went for it! There will be 2 months of auditions and we are currently looking for additional funding.

We are trying to help the community and do outreach on different levels.

We need to represent and integrate into the community

Ron Wright

Electrical is not big enough to allow this facility to perform at full capacity. And with the elevators being used at the same time as a production there is a good chance of an electrical outage. We want to increase the service. We want to go from 800 to 1200 amps, the original service really went quite close to the edge.

Structural- This building is a dome on 4 pins. If a 7.4 or 7.5 earthquake was to occur the legs would not hold the dome. We want solid concrete walls (see design) and a diagonal line to create continuity. We are going to create good support beneath this building by upgrading the footings of the columns to support and brace the new column additions.

Plumbing issues the bathrooms are a mess.

Asked by a citizen:

When this building is closed will you have to rethink acoustics? With possible stimulus money what technology do you think will be placed into Langston Hughes? What do you think about Broad band Technology?

Answer by Gary Gibbons:

I think that broad band connectivity is a great idea. Parks has taken steps to include broad band connectivity in a number of its facilities, but for now it is not part of our design program for Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. We will look into the idea and see if it could be considered.

A grant has been applied for at the state level, and known as the Building For the Arts grant. This grant will help us get the backstage areas and restrooms upgraded, as well other items in need of repairs, including the current stage.

We are concerned about getting the integrity of acoustics true.

Acoustics are part of the design and the project. We do not want to lose what great sound we currently have, so we will hire an "Acoustician" to help us understand and plan the acoustics.

Ron Wright:

The floor that will come back to the building will not be the same, it will be better and state of the art. When we re-open we want to open in grand style.

Gary Gibbons States:

Restoration of the exterior took about 2 to 3 months. The old grout was replaced and the building sealed against the weather.. This yielded a very nice finish.

Conclusion

Ron Wright:

All restoration materials will be state of the art, replicating original materials as closely as possible. We will not be recycling the current materials back into the building if they are not up to standards.

Gary Gibbons:

Thank you everyone for participating. Please do not hesitate to call me or send an email with any questions or concerns. I will respond as soon as possible to any question you may have.

Royal Alley-Barnes:

If you want to tour the facility, I will walk you through now.

Meeting adjourned.