



MEETING NOTES

Meeting Location: Virtual

Project: Design Review Board – April 2026

Date/Time: 4/21/26 – 9:00 am

Re: DRB Meeting Notes

Notes By: Janine Glaeser, UW-Madison
FP&M, CPLA

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Agenda (virtual):

- 1. Music Hall Renovation and Addition #0485-2501**
Design Development Review – DRB #2 Presentation

Committee Attendees:

Heidi Natura
Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
Kevin Firchow
Rafeeq Asad
Al Oberlander
Tonia Pittman
Ex Officio: Scott Utter
Ex Officio: Peter Schlecht
Staff: Janine Glaeser

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Schlecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll call confirmed quorum.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

March 17th DRB Meeting Notes were approved noting corrections need to be made assigning comments correctly.

- Czynszczak-Lyne motioned to approve; Oberlander seconded motion

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

- None

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Utter read the Land Acknowledgement

Agenda Item #1: Design Development Review – DRB #2 Informational Presentation

Project Name: Music Hall Renovation and Addition #0485-2501

Attendees:

- Tim Peters, KieranTimberlake Architects
- Bo Muwihad, UW FP&M PM
- Ginny Routhe, UW AVC FP&M
- Brett Adams, Universities of Wisconsin
- Fawn Behrens-Smith, UW L&S Facilities Director
- Lisa Elinger, UW L&S DSI
- Brenda Gonzalez, UW Director of Community Relations
- Gabe Mendez, UW FP&M Transportation
- Lori Wilson, UW FP&M Communications
- Aaron Williams, UW FP&M CPLA
- Jonathan Bronk, UW FP&M CPLA
- Lynn Dahlgren, UW FP&M CPLA
- Rhonda James, UW FP&M CPLA
- Sadie Derouin, UW FP&M CPLA - Sustainability

Project Description: The UW LaFollette School of Public Affairs (LFS) is working with KieranTimberlake Architects and InSite Consulting on a plan to renovate and preserve the existing Music Hall. The scope of work will encompass a comprehensive renovation of the facility, including architectural, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, plumbing, site, and landscaping upgrades. The building will be brought up to all applicable state building, health, safety and environmental codes, and federal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project will follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Entitlements Schedule:

DRB Advanced Plan Review	5/16/23
DRB #1 Schematic Design Review	9/16/25
JCAC Introduction	10/23/25
DRB #2 Design Development Review	4/21/26
JCAC Recommendation to DRB	5/28/26
DRB #3 Final Approval	6/16/26

Project Schedule:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| - Schematic Design | Fall 2025 |
| - Bid Documents | Fall 2026 |
| - Construction Start Ph I | Winter 2026 |
| - Completion Ph I | Fall 2028 |

DRB comments:

- **Schlecht:**
 - Noted importance of the project and referenced existing scaffolding & temporary supports to preserve building.
 - Reiterated gratitude to La Follette school for being here and their efforts in fundraising.

- **Oberlander:**
 - Praised the overall design, highlighting strong organization and effective wayfinding despite vertical circulation challenges.
 - Commended incorporation of stairs to improve connectivity across levels.
 - Questioned the clarity of the primary building entrance, noting that the tower visually reads as the main entry and suggested enhancing the Bascom-facing plaza to better signal the true entrance.
 - Raised concerns about the north entrance design, noting it may feel concealed and could pose perceived safety issues due to recessed doors and limited visibility.
 - Observed that symmetry created by a functional and faux column results in a constrained interior feeling.
 - Identified the retained wing wall at the southeast stair as visually distracting and encouraged evaluation of its necessity relative to historic character.
 - Suggested refining site circulation near the east elevation to provide a more direct and intuitive path.
 - Questioned the location of the lift at Level 2, noting potential inefficiencies in user circulation and recommending it be located closer to primary connectors.
 - Supported the addition of skylights as a strong improvement to interior quality.
 - Praised the connector design and its potential as a welcoming and social space.
 - Questioned the heavy expression of wood elements and noted unequal design attention across connector elevations.
 - Suggested increasing the prominence of the stair to the lower level and improving clarity of circulation at Level 0, which currently reads as service oriented.
 - Asked whether thick walls include built-in elements on the west side.
 - **Design Team**
 - Acknowledged feedback and noted that several issues remain under active design iteration.
 - Confirmed Level 0 circulation currently reads as service-oriented and agreed improvements are needed.
 - Noted limitations of Phase 1 scope, indicating that Phase 2 will resolve several circulation challenges.
 - Confirmed that interior wall, door, and window treatments remain in development.
 - Explained that forum space circulation varies based on use, transitioning between open forum and classroom modes.
 - Noted accessibility constraints, including limited balcony connections.
 - Confirmed efforts are ongoing to improve the Bascom entry and address safety perception concerns.
 - Stated that the Park-facing accessible entrance remains under development.
 - Agreed that Bascom plaza circulation requires refinement and is being simplified to reduce confusion.
- **Natura:**
 - Observed that the retained wall at the southeast corner appears unresolved and recommended further study to integrate it more intentionally as a historic element.
 - Praised the project as a whole and expressed strong support.
 - Questioned whether the clock tower stair could reorient to the east to improve circulation clarity.
 - Commented on limited visibility of building elevations and raised concerns about the bridge obscuring key views.
 - Requested clarification on program phasing and asked how current programming supports future expansion and overall building flow.
 - Noted concerns about how the forum functions as a classroom, specifically questioning instructional setup and usability.
 - Recommended reconsidering ramp orientation and its connection to the lift, noting impacts to spatial performance.
 - Praised the façade design and encouraged strong restoration support for key historic elements on the north elevation.
 - Questioned whether the space below the restored clock tower should remain open.

- Raised concerns about landscape design, noting the need for a more historically appropriate entry plaza and careful tree placement to avoid obscuring architectural features.
- **Schlecht (Response):**
 - Emphasized the importance of a holistic approach and noted collaboration with La Follette to minimize rework between Phase 1 and Phase 2.
 - Clarified that certain circulation elements, including the main stair, are anticipated to be resolved in Phase 2.
- **Natura (Follow-up):**
 - Questioned how the forum supports flexible classroom use, including instructor location and room configuration.
 - **Design Team:** Explained that the forum transitions between commons and classroom modes using operable partitions, curtains, and reconfigured layouts, with podium placement at the top of the stair.
- **Mary Czyszczak-Lyne:**
 - Raised concerns about service and waste area circulation, noting potential pedestrian conflicts and lack of turnaround space.
 - **Design team:** Confirmed conditions are similar to existing and will not include truck turnaround space.
 - Asked about construction impacts on nearby dorms, including noise, dust, access, and student experience.
 - **Design team:** Confirmed adherence to city construction hours, coordination with University Housing, restricted access routes, and mitigation measures during finals.
 - Inquired about overlap of Humanities demolition and Music Hall work.
 - **Design Team:** Indicated Humanities demolition is anticipated around 2031 and unlikely to overlap.
- **Schlecht:**
 - Acknowledged potential conflicts between construction and academic activities and emphasized need for coordination.
- **Pittman:**
 - Noted student move in times will impact traffic on Park Street during those days. Coordinate future construction and site work with these dates.
- **Asad:**
 - Noted that prior comments captured his concerns and reiterated that the building entry requires further refinement.
- **Firchow:**
 - Noted no questions on Phase 1.
- **Utter (Ex Officio):**
 - Responded that relocating the stair to the east may conflict with historic preservation requirements.
 - Noted the importance of maintaining original entrance orientations to meet State Historical Society expectations.
- **Natura:**
 - Asked whether an additional vehicle entry is being introduced.
 - **Design Team:** Confirmed that it already exists.
 - Questioned how restored windows in the library/office areas will be expressed and utilized in the interior design.

- **Design Team:** Explained that window openings span multiple levels and referenced historic balcony conditions within the book stacks.
- **Schlecht Closing Comments:**
 - Complimented the design team on the project's progress and acknowledged the value of committee feedback.
 - Noted that several design challenges have been ongoing throughout the process and continue to be actively considered.
 - Emphasized the strong influence of interior conditions on exterior design decisions, particularly where historic elements limit flexibility.
 - Explained that the fixed configuration of the auditorium and balconies constrains changes to circulation elements such as ramps and access points.
 - Highlighted that restoration decisions, including double-height window conditions, directly affect spatial planning and design integration.
 - Observed that the project reflects an integrated architectural approach, where interior and exterior elements are interdependent.
 - Stated appreciation for all comments received and noted openness to additional feedback.
 - Indicated that the team is preparing to close the design phase and move toward construction.

New business

Schlecht noted the May 19th DRB currently has a potentially light informational agenda.
Meeting adjourned.

May 19, 2026, is the next regularly scheduled DRB meeting.

These notes are what the writer understands of the proceedings. Please contact or email any changes to the writer within 5 working days if not in concurrence. End of meeting notes.