



MEETING NOTES

Meeting Location: Virtual

Project: Design Review Board – July 2026

Date/Time: 7/21/26 – 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 – Phase 1 #0485-2501**
Design Development Review – DRB #3, Requesting Final Approval
 - 2. Music Hall Renovation and Addition – Phase 2 #0485-2501**
Design Development Review – DRB #2, Informational Presentation
 - 3. Agricultural Hall – Undergraduate Student Home #0070-2414**
Pre-Design Review – DRB #1, Informational Presentation
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Committee Attendees:

Present:

Heidi Natura
Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
Rafeeq Asad
Al Oberlander
Ex Officio: Scott Utter
Ex Officio: Peter Schlecht

Excused Absence:

Tonia Pittman
Kevin Firchow

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

- April 21 DRB Meeting Notes were approved
- Czyszczak-Lyne motioned to approve; Natura seconded motion

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

- None

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Utter read the Land Acknowledgement

Facilities Planning & Management

Agenda Item #1: Design Development Review – DRB #2 Informational Presentation**Project Name: Music Hall Renovation and Addition #0485-2501****Attendees:**

- Tim Peters, KieranTimberlake Architects
- Matthew Macchietto, Hoerr Schaudt (Landscape team)
- Gina Gianetti, Hoerr Schaudt (Landscape team)
- Bo Muwihad, UW FP&M PM
- Gabe Mendez, UW FP&M Transportation
- Aaron Williams, UW FP&M CPLA
- Jonathan Bronk, UW FP&M CPLA
- Lynn Dahlgren, UW FP&M CPLA
- Rhonda James, UW FP&M CPLA
- John Herath, UW FP&M CPLA
- Anna Bussolo, UW FP&M CPLA
- Sadie Derouin, UW FP&M CPLA – Sustainability
- Van VanWyk, UW PM

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:

- **Czynszak-Lyne**
 - Asked whether flexible seating such as chairs or tables would be incorporated into the plaza.

- **Design team response:** Stone seating provides a variety of seating opportunities and functions well within the available space; limited room exists for additional movable furniture.
- Questioned the planting strategy for the central planter.
 - **Design team response:** The planter is envisioned to contain a large canopy shade tree with a high branching structure, accompanied by low shrubs, perennials, and groundcover plantings.
- Asked about building signage.
 - **Response:** The building will be identified as Herb Kohl Hall.
- Encouraged consideration of referencing Music Hall within the building signage, consistent with other buildings on Bascom Hill.
- Asked about plaza lighting and whether pedestrian-scale lighting would enhance ambiance and safety.
 - **Design team response:** Historic lanterns will be repositioned to frame key pathways, supplemented by discreet lighting, tree lighting, and light spilling from the building to highlight entrances and improve visibility.
- Asked about the material of the south porch cheek wall.
 - **Design team response:** The wall is proposed to use Minnesota dolomitic limestone matching the original building materials.
- **Oberlander**
 - Praised the orthogonal organization of the plaza and its relationship to the building, noting it creates a strong outdoor room.
 - Questioned whether trees near the entrance may obscure views of the entry feature and suggested preserving unobstructed views of the entrance form.
 - Raised concerns that lower plantings along the west façade could conceal the building's defining horizontal base line and recommended further study.
 - Commended improvements to the east-side walkway alignment, noting the route now feels more direct and intuitive.
 - Supported the revised Bascom entrance vestibules, noting that increased glazing improves visibility, daylight, security, and overall welcome.
 - Suggested exploring additional transparency on the west vestibule wall to further improve visibility and views through the entrance sequence.
 - Expressed continued concern about the wall extending from the east entry and suggested a lower seat wall transition may better connect future Phase 2 improvements.
 - Praised the revised forum design, particularly relocation of the ramp and integration of seating, describing the solution as elegant and successful.
- **Natura**
 - Thanked the design team for incorporating prior feedback and expressed enthusiasm about the project's progress.
 - Raised concerns regarding circulation elements and questioned the continued prominence of the tower stair.

- Questioned whether modifications to stair orientation could improve circulation and better integrate future Phase 2 work.
 - **Response (Scott):** The design team remains committed to preserving historic character and adhering to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, maintaining original entrance relationships where possible.
- Appreciated the revisions to the Bascom Hill entrance but questioned whether the scale of the entry courtyard and central planting area could be adjusted to provide a larger and more open arrival experience. Noted possible benefit to widening 11' wide walk and expanding courtyard.
- Expressed concern that trees at the entrance may compete with the visual focus of the building entry.
- Questioned whether proposed shrubs and planting beds adjacent to the entry façade are necessary and suggested additional hardscape may better reinforce the building's architectural expression.
- Recommended reconsidering seating wall placement to avoid visually compressing the courtyard and obscuring key architectural features. What if seating walls were stepped back to allow column expression.
 - **Landscape architect response:** Alternative layouts were evaluated, but wider approaches resulted in less defined spaces and reduced clarity of the primary entrance sequence.
- Asked how stormwater will be managed throughout the site and requested greater clarity regarding drainage infrastructure and inlet locations.
 - **Design team response:** Stormwater will be directed around the terrace and conveyed through underground infrastructure beneath the plaza. Expanding the courtyard further west would create grading, erosion, and drainage challenges.
- Noted that the east-side walk remains visually interrupted and encouraged improved integration of signage and historic references.
- Strongly supported reinforcing the historic double allée character of Bascom Hill through additional tree plantings and understory landscaping.
- Asked how access to the entry sequence would be controlled while maintaining the historic landscape character.
- Questioned the placement of evergreen trees and suggested careful consideration of species size and long-term space requirements.
 - **Design team response:** Evergreens are primarily proposed on the south side for operational reasons, although integrating additional evergreens on the north side is under consideration.
- Requested an additional landscape review and a more detailed planting plan to illustrate how the project will strengthen the historic Bascom Hill landscape framework.
- Questioned the appropriateness of several proposed tree and shrub species, suggesting Swamp White Oak may be more suitable than some wet-site species and questioned the hardiness of Oakleaf Hydrangea in the local climate.
 - **Design team response:** Alternative oak species and hybrids remain under consideration, and the team welcomed additional planting recommendations.

- **Asad**
 - Noted that his comments and concerns had already been addressed during the discussion and offered no additional comments.
- **Schlecht (Closing Comments)**
 - Requested a final recommendation from the Board while acknowledging that future touchpoints may still be beneficial.
 - Expressed support for incorporating the Committee’s feedback moving forward without delaying final approval.
 - Noted that the project team received valuable input and encouraged continued communication and future updates as the project advances.

Motion:

- **Scott** – with the comments received today, I move that the DRB approve the project as submitted with the caveat that the team returns with more specific information on the planting variety, small revisions to plaza, and considerations of double allay at project site.
- **Heidi** – noted a friendly amendment to add reconsideration on the southeast entry, particularly the retaining wall.
- **Al** – **seconded the motion**
- **All in favor – motion carries**

Agenda Item #2: Design Development Review – Informational Presentation

Project Name: Music Hall Renovation and Addition – Phase 2 #0485-2501

Attendees:

- Tim Peters, KieranTimberlake Architects
- Matthew Macchietto, Hoerr Schaudt (Landscape team)
- Gina Gianetti, Hoerr Schaudt (Landscape team)
- Bo Muwihad, UW FP&M PM
- Gabe Mendez, UW FP&M Transportation
- Aaron Williams, UW FP&M CPLA
- Jonathan Bronk, UW FP&M CPLA
- Lynn Dahlgren, UW FP&M CPLA
- Rhonda James, UW FP&M CPLA
- John Herath, UW FP&M CPLA
- Anna Bussolo, UW FP&M CPLA
- Sadie Derouin, UW FP&M CPLA – Sustainability
- Van VanWyk, UW PM
- Brenda Gonzalez, UW Community Relations

Project Description: The scope of work will encompass an addition, site, and landscaping upgrades. The project will follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

DRB comments:

- **Asad:**
 - Praised the design team for successfully integrating an addition with a historic building, noting the challenge of balancing old and new architecture.

- Commended the complementary use of glass patterns and textures within the addition.
- Expressed interest in seeing how nighttime lighting will enhance both the building and landscape design.
- **Natura:**
 - Praised the architectural design and overall site planning.
 - Requested additional clarity regarding site access and circulation.
 - Highlighted the building section as particularly effective in illustrating daylight penetration and interior spatial quality.
 - Commended the use of red sandstone references and appreciated the contemporary interpretation of historic campus materials.
 - **Design team response:** Confirmed that the base stone, window framing, and trim were selected to complement the historic red sandstone palette.
 - Asked about bicycle parking accommodations within the project.
 - **Design team response:** Existing bike parking is located west of the alley between the project site and the Law School. The alley will be reimaged and bicycle accommodations further addressed as part of Phase 2.
 - Requested clarification on how Phase 2 will address remaining site and program elements.
- **Oberlander:**
 - Praised the project, noting several successful design elements and significant refinement since earlier reviews.
Commended the design team's efforts to maintain an appropriate scale and avoid overwhelming the historic Music Hall building.
 - Identified the primary project perspective as particularly successful, highlighting the strong vertical rhythm and horizontal relationships within the façade composition.
 - Expressed concern regarding the amount of plane change on the south elevation, suggesting the façade may feel visually busy compared to the more restrained treatment of the east elevation.
 - Requested additional consideration of bird-safe design strategies and potential impacts to bird populations.
 - Expressed concern that the connection between the existing building and addition feels constrained, noting the historic opening may limit the sense of arrival and movement between the two structures.
 - Encouraged further study of the transition space to create a more welcoming and intuitive connection between the historic and new building components.

Agenda Item #3: Pre-Design Review – DRB #1, Informational Presentation

Project Name: Agricultural Hall – Undergraduate Student Home #0070-2414

- Kate Edwards, Quorum Architects
- Allyson Nemec, Quorum Architects
- Dana Wendt, UW FP&M PM
- Gabe Mendez, UW FP&M Transportation
- Aaron Williams, UW FP&M CPLA
- Jonathan Bronk, UW FP&M CPLA
- Lynn Dahlgren, UW FP&M CPLA

- Rhonda James, UW FP&M CPLA
- John Herath, UW FP&M CPLA
- Anna Bussolo, UW FP&M CPLA
- Sadie Derouin, UW FP&M CPLA – Sustainability
- Van VanWyk, UW PM
- Brenda Gonzalez, UW Community Relations

DRB comments:

- **Oberlander**

- Expressed concern about the width of the corridor outside the large classroom, noting potential congestion during class transitions. Encouraged the team to explore widening the corridor or reconsidering a switch of the classroom and office locations to provide additional staging space.
- Recommended improving visibility and accessibility to the pre-function space by increasing visual connections from the entry sequence and incorporating additional glazing where feasible.
 - **Design team response:** Historic preservation requirements limit removal of the corridor; however, opportunities for additional glazed openings may be explored.
- Questioned the role and visibility of the stair in the east library wing, noting it appears inviting in renderings but functions primarily as an exit.
 - **Design team response:** Long-term plans include potential connections to the courtyard, which could give the stair a more active role in the future.
- Supported the idea of the east stair serving as a future courtyard connection and destination.
- Suggested reviewing the placement of lighting fixtures within the historic library to reduce visual impact and better celebrate the original volume of the space.
 - **Design team response:** noted historic photos show current lighting locations

- **Natura**

- Requested inclusion of existing site plans, landscape plans, and floor plans in future presentations to better illustrate opportunities and constraints.
- Encouraged further study of the north façade, noting opportunities to enhance and activate an underutilized elevation.
- Agreed with comments regarding opening up the corridor to improve visibility and circulation.
- Questioned whether the ramp could be incorporated more directly into the main hall experience.
- Supported consideration of relocating classroom and office functions to improve circulation and flexibility.
- Asked whether opportunities exist to reduce back-of-house space within the existing building to improve program efficiency.
 - **Design team response:** The team has evaluated these options and will continue to study them with engineering consultants.
- Requested clarification on unlabeled areas and how they relate to the exterior façade.

- **Design team response:** Certain areas have been reserved for future mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure to support upper-floor improvements. Portions of the north side are below grade, while the auditorium enters at grade.
- Encouraged stronger connections between the courtyard and the north side of the building, noting that circulation currently funnels users through narrow access points.

Czynszak-Lyne

- Observed that the existing west stair is extremely narrow and questioned whether the proposed classroom location is appropriate given circulation constraints.
- Asked whether the classroom could function as a flexible seminar space with movable partitions to support multiple uses.
- Asked about the location and accessibility of restroom facilities, including the use of automatic door operators.
 - **Design team response:** Accessible fixtures are provided within the men's, women's, and gender-inclusive restrooms, and automatic door operators could be incorporated.
- Encouraged consultation with the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding accessibility considerations, including accommodations for individuals with ileostomies and other medical needs.

DISCUSSION

Schlecht noted the August 18th DRB currently has a potentially light informational agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

August 18, 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.