

Kimmel Center Public Space Project
Moderator Notes
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Group "Green"

Users

Current: Performers, donors, voters, concert goers, staff, city officials, tourists, taxpayers, students, neighbors, corporate renters, volunteers, suburbanites

Potential: More diverse (both ethnic and age); performers who don't a chance to perform here now; nonprofits; Free Library branch; schools

Uses

Current: Concerts, plays, eating, shopping, meeting, lectures, relaxing (but not as much as should happen), looking at art

Potential: Christmas market, flower market, seasonal retail, more art exhibits (temporary); open stage for young performers – playing off what the marquee talent are doing at that time; expos; a unique music/arts library; coffee bar; remote broadcast of performances from elsewhere; much more info on coming attractions, in lobby and outside; computers in lobby where people can compose and listen to their own music (software exists); the Kimmel summer camp in the arts; musicals, with scenes done on the lobby stage; pipe music outside to sidewalk; screens on exterior of building, showing performance inside; good, cheap food in lobby, with seasonal sidewalk café; music lessons

Values

In this group, we just did what the values should be: Pride, quality, welcoming, humane, balance of art and commercialism; innovation, music, fun, diversity, inclusive, education, community.

What works

Glass ceiling is spectacular; view from tiers; lots of space (downsides there too); acoustics in venues; everything about the Perelman; interior design of halls, good sight lines and no bad seats; merchandise in gift shop; artwork

What doesn't work

Inside is dark (drab colors and furnishings); no escalators; sterile at holidays; “There’s no choreographer to the space; it gives you a lost feeling. There’s no flow and a lot of dead spaces”; lack of signage; you can’t see in from the outside; what’s the point of that black granite thing on the corner?; nowhere to sit; the Broad Street entrance is unwelcoming; whether you’re coming from the south or the north, you see nothing that tells you it’s the Kimmel or whether there’s a performance going on; it has a poor flow for the elderly; it needs more visible bathrooms; staff seems to be more into “guarding” than “welcoming”; not enough places to sit

Possible fixes:

Veil of LED lights on the black granite “thing”
Light and sound show outside on performance nights
More green in the plaza
A serpentine water element in the plaza
More places to sit – comfortable sectionals
Food in the plaza
Sidewalk café
External screens to promote events, show performance clips
External entrance to gift shop
Better promotion of program
Outside ticket booth where granite is

Principles

- 1) Give more people more reasons to embrace Kimmel culture; innovate and diversify**
- 2) Be elegant but inviting**
- 3) Let the outside broadcast what’s inside**
- 4) Wake up: the plaza is your third entertainment space!**
- 5) Balance a profusion of uses with high-class aesthetics**