Kimmel Center Public Space Project Moderator Notes January 27, 2008 Submitted by Harris Sokoloff

# **USERS/STAKEHOLDERS:**

- all who enjoy music
- All residents in city
- Neighbors ->city ->region ->PA ->tri-state
- Tourists
- Those who can afford music, food, etc.
  - o Should be affordable to all
- Kids for free events (e.g., movies)
- Region music tourists
- Families
- Children
- Clubs
- Members of performing groups
- Staff work here
- Patrons of all/any events
- Mothers/parents of children
- University of the Arts students
- Segments (demographic):
  - o Children ... teens ... young adults ... middle age .. senior citizens....
- Transients for warmth, comfort, rest rooms
- People who attend sporting events
- Neighborhood arts/drama groups
- Coffee drinkers
- Question: Do we need to focus on performing arts?

#### **USES**

- coffee shop
- affordable food
- sit and read
- celebrity event
- fashion store for concert wear
- music museum/library/listening room
- music education
- wireless good access, strong signal
- meeting space
  - o book clubs
  - o civic associations

- annual event
  - o children's parades
  - o spring plants
  - like National Constitution Center "Red Ball"
- Free concerts
  - Curtis students
  - o Open mc
  - o Settlement Music House
  - o Poetry readings
- Instrument room for children
  - o Music playground
- Changing art exhibits –more space for them
- Movies/multi-media events
- Happy hours "bar looks nice" but how long is it open?
- After performance eating
- Special deals (dinner and concert; concert and after performance snack; for KC performances and other venues
- Gift packages/cards (not event specific)
- Vendors come to sell; for X days
  - Craft vendors/fairs
- Music clubs; music appreciation programs/Temple U music appreciation class site
- Chess/backgammon on the rooftop garden tables with boards built in...
  - Also special nights
- Neighborhood drama/arts group performances
- Mural arts indoors
  - o Process with neighborhoods
  - o Product on large interior walls
- Retail:
  - o Carts, stores
  - o Issues:
    - Need predictable hours of operation
    - Current museum store is crowded

#### **NEEDS**

- Art work local students (elementary school through college) to personalize the space
- Plants
- Better lighting
- Tables and chairs that are inviting, and move
- Event board
  - o Inside what's going on where

- Outside what's happening inside
- Marquee –current and future events
  - Concerns and free events
- o Broadcast events live outside (low volume)
- Partnerships with other institutions and share events/packages
- Avenue of the Arts coop/association to develop synergies
- Inform when private functions will close part of the public spaces
  - Also some thought public spaces ought to be kept for public use... no private use of public spaces....

#### **VALUES**

- Sense of community of center city
- Diversity
  - o Of ages (birth to death)
  - Of ethnicity
  - o Of SES/class
- Social presence and stimulation
- Glass vault as powerful architectural image
- Appreciation, education and promotion of arts and culture
- Public access
  - o Public money should give public access, and keep politics out
  - De-privatize the space
- Move from Kimmel Center, Inc. to Kimmel Community Center (at least in public spaces)
- Participate/engagement for civic life
- Apr4ciate this building
- Learning/new experiences in the arts

## **SUPPORTS**

- Space
  - Variety of sizes and shapes
    - Different members of the family can come together and use different spaces that are safe, supervised....
  - So much space to work with
  - o WOW! Factor of the building
  - Like a park all year round
  - o Flexible
  - o Tiers
    - Sight lines all around up and down
    - Feel different
  - o Portable partitions can make secluded spaces
- Central location
  - o And walkable and accessible to public transportation

- Though late at night may not want to walk all the way back to Suburban Station
- Parking is near, but is expensive.
  - Need package deals

#### INHIBIT

- Sidewalks:
  - o Forbidding
  - o Lack of signs, information
  - o No invite to come in
  - o WOW! Factor can be off-putting: do I belong?
- Front uninviting:
  - Nothing distinctive at street level (the outside WOW is the glass shed from distance
  - No street advertising
- Outside:
  - o Very cold
  - o Lack of outside seating, no place to stop and rest or wait outside
  - No landscaping
  - o Black "wall" at corner is interesting but cold, uninviting and purposeless
  - o Too straight and barrier/wall-like on all sides
  - Nothing "pulls" you in...need a "yellow brick road"
- High cost of food
- Limited and unclear hours of operation
- Image/sense of space:
  - o Be quiet and subdued ... not lively conversation
  - Materials are solemn
  - Tourists want to see space inside concert space, buy not permitted to enter even if there is no event
    - Some said you can go on a tour, others didn't know about this
- Lack of info of what's going on –signage
- Security people are off-putting and unwelcoming
- Management/PR concerns have a "no" attitude rather than a "yes" welcome.

# **IMPROVE/IDEAS**

- Bike racks
- Welcome alcove
- Meet the performers opportunities
- "1<sup>st</sup> Saturday" at the KC, or "on the Ave of the Arts"
- Management issues
  - Extend hours
  - o Tone down security attitude

- Increase friendliness
- Take lessons from Disney World
- Use more volunteers to welcome folks
  - When there are no shows
  - Greeters inside outside doors when people arrive
  - Give tours
  - Have them out on the sidewalk
- Hold open houses to welcome and intro people to KC/KCC, with free concert
- We want to thank the Kimmel for asking our ideas and opinions

## **PRINCIPLES**

- More of a sense of community
  - o E.g., a café or restaurant on first floor open to public
  - o Create a fountain (inside or outside) as a focal point
- Open and inviting
  - o Hours of operation: 11 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.
  - Windows to street at street level
  - o Marquee
  - o Benches inside and out
- Make the inside apparent and easy to access to the outside
- Soften edges and more color
- Accessible to all diversity
- PR: tell people whets happening and that they belong, even if there isn't an event, or even without a ticket..
  - o ... after all, they own it.