

Kimmel Center Public Space Project
Moderator Notes
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Submitted by Harris Sokoloff

What do you find exciting about the Kimmel:

- lighting at night – grandeur
- city within a city
- combination of shapes and materials
- natural light
- interior volume
- Commonwealth Plaza – great image
- Size – roomy
- Scale – breathtaking
- The garden – green, light, alive
- Commonwealth Plaza – free events and garden
- “A place”
- soaring impression and excitement at performance

Uses

- shopping
- exhibitions – art, photography
- performance in and out of the “boxes”
- lunch restaurant –affordable and reasonable prices
- movie/screening/film festival
- lectures/artist talks
 - by performers before and after show
 - academic
- venue for other events:
 - fringe festival
 - links to museum shows
 - “M Butterfly” bring in lectures, music performance, culture events
- Conventions
- Community events
- Children events
 - Education
 - Puppet show
 - Day care
 - Play space
- Ethnic festivals
 - Performers
 - Art

- Vendors
- On the waterfront in the summer, at the KC in the winter
- Indoors and outdoors
- Music teachers hold recitals
- After school workshops
- Amateur musicians “get your chops back”
 - Open mike as well as audition
- Place to hang out with children and talk with others (chairs, benches)
 - Dogs?
- Community orchestras/organizations “open space” for “rehearsals”
- Coffee bar
- Broadcast of events
 - Airwaves
 - On “street”
- Wireless/WIFI – strong, free
- People watching
- Meetings – small, in public spaces
- Info booth –for whole city; tourist info
- City-wide ticket booth
- Community meeting/conferencing, videoconferencing

User

- Everybody and anybody
- Grandchildren run around
- Weekday people in the city
- People who live in the neighborhood
- Urban strollers
- Architectural tourists
- Tourists
- Ticker buyers – music lovers
- Concert goers
- Foreign tourists
- People look for something to do – “always something at KC”
- Eaters and drinkers – buy there or bring own
 - Students
 - Business people
- Shoppers
- School children (groups – introduction to the arts)
- Arts followers – “culture vultures”
 - Classical
 - Opera
 - Visual arts
 - Dance

- Sculpture
- Jazz
- World music
- Interactive
- Rock
- Folk
- Etc.
- Lecture attenders
- Vendors come in with wares/display
- Resters/relaxers
- Employees
- Special event goers (graduations, conventions)

Values:

- Mixed use – other reasons to come it
 - Multiplicity of uses – sometimes correspond to show, sometimes not
- Welcoming and access and inviting to public spaces
 - Includes energizing exterior to draw people in
 - Need marquee, signs, etc. outside
- Exposure to arts
 - Educate children
 - Link to Avenue of the Arts, art schools, variety of arts.
- Location – Broad and Spruce, population center
- Availability
 - Hours of operation
 - Openness of space
 - Not just box-office
- Community
 - Build sense of community
 - Reach out to all, not just a few
- Wide range of arts
 - Reach out to wide demographics, interests, SES, ethnicity
- Partnership

Barriers/Inhibitors

- Feels unsafe to walk to suburban station at night
- Not a place to pass through without a particular purpose
- Unclear hours of operation/inconsistent?
- Intimidating
 - Outside:
 - Not clear opening
 - 15th Street wall
 - Spruce street

- Lack of signage
 - Gift shop with no outside entry
 - Lack of color
 - Lack of light
- Inside:
 - Big/huge
 - Shapes edges
 - Greeted by plainclothes security
 - Barriers to prohibit access to areas that should be public
 - Security precautions limit what can see when here
 - Institutional feel to parts of building
- Stairs that go nowhere
- Elevator – unclear names to floors (Tier 1 = floor 2)
- High prices for refreshments/food
- Buildings inside building loom and can be intimidating
- Limited seating in public spaces
 - Current circle chairs/not for interaction
- Feels empty most times
- Need low cost/informal coffee bar

Supports

- Good people watching space
- Halls and plaza support public space
- Landmark building – can't miss it
- Public performance space
- Has bars, restaurants, cafés
- Good public restrooms in basement (when open)
- Location
- Volunteers are helpful, will help answer questions, particularly at info booth

Principles

- Seating conducive to conversation and lingering
- Welcoming atmosphere
 - Security and emptiness need to be overcome
 - Need color and decorations
- Link outside and inside:
 - Signage
 - Lighting
 - Plantings
 - More transparent glazing at street
 - Sound playing outside what's inside
 - Sidewalk – break it up to connect to inside and connect to paces/wayfinding
- Clear and consistent hours of operation

- Stuff to do:
 - Restaurants
 - Coffee shops
 - Free Events
 - Shopping
- A gathering focal point
 - E.g., a fountain