

Kimmel Center forum, 4/14, Satullo group

Student ideas discussed:

### **The central spiral staircase**

Very mixed reaction

One view: Too large; would distract from atrium space.

Another: If designed to be largely transparent, could work.

Concern that spiral staircase really doesn't address the safety and accessibility worries that many older patrons have re: the current staircase.

Does adding one elevator do enough to add to vertical circulation to justify the expense of this idea?

Would a circular ramp be more accessible and useful than stairs?

Why no escalators in any of these plans.

Several people liked the bold signage incorporated into this drawing; one very much did not like it. But that person was kind of like Mikey in the cereal commercial; she didn't like anything.

### **Waterfall/wall garden**

People LOVED the concept of the roof garden floor and waterfall, though many doubted the practicality. There were a few qualms on noise, but most people thought it would be spectacular and make the roof garden a special destination for the whole region.

"Gorgeous," "spectacular" and "really neat but not essential" were some of the quotes.

They disliked the idea of the wall garden, or at least its profusion on many surfaces.

"Turning the plaza into a tropical rain forest is too much." Several raises concerns about the bug problem that much greenery might create. (It was a practical crew.)

### **Lighted sidewalk outside**

This was the single biggest universal hit with this group. They loved the idea. Several people pointed out it might mesh nicely with the ongoing CCD program to light the Avenue of the Arts buildings.

### **Entrance at Spruce and 15<sup>th</sup>**

Another huge hit with this group.

All supported the concept of the entrance; several pointed out that most suburban concert goers head that way anyway to the garages; several said the neighborhood behind the Kimmel was slowly getting more life, but needed this boost.

Views on the dance studio idea were mixed; mostly people did not like seeing the space for the gift shop dramatically reduced. They wanted the shop maintained in place, but given an entrance directly onto Spruce.

### **Stairs to rooftop garden**

People liked the concept and the look, but were very divided on practicality. Older people said they'd never used it; some of them hadn't noticed that an additional elevator is part of the plan, too.

As for the rooftop garden ideas, people thought any play area was impractical, because the heights and concern that a child would pitch over the edge.

Someone stated emphatically she didn't like the seating plan in the one drawing, because it "repeated the mistake of that pod seating where you're facing away from the person next to you whom you're trying to talk to."

### **"Third venue" ideas**

The group mostly supported the idea of moving the bar and having the central, floor-level performance area – particularly after Ainslie and Aura explained how they'd create circulation room around the stage.

One woman was insistent in her view that the plaza should be equipped with a grand piano that amateur and budding artists could play during the day.

People very much liked the idea of using the side of the Perelman as a movie screen with seating on the tier.

One woman said, "The design of the public performing space is less important than the Kimmel making a commitment to program the space creatively, consistently and well."

### **Broad and Spruce**

People uniformly hate the granite block.

There was great enthusiasm for the sketch showing the transparent glass corner, with the groundfloor café. People liked the idea of the iconic mobile sculpture very much, and the screens/signs on the corner advertising events.

There was less enthusiasm for the stairway to Cadence plan, with the thinking being that wasn't active enough, but they agreed Cadence, if not moved, needs a new entrance.

Comments on the granite block: "It's like a doorstep."  
"It's like death sitting there at the busiest corner of the building."

“It would make some nice rubble; maybe we could sell off the chips to raise money for some of these new ideas.”

### **Spruce Street**

High marks for the drawing showing a connected balcony with trees, creating an event space. The gaps in the arcade on Spruce drive people crazy.

Mixed response to the dance studio idea, not so much on the merits, but as noted above, for the impact on the gift shop.

Moving the box office to the middle of the Spruce Street side struck all present as a useful idea, again if not at the cost of the shrinking the gift shop to nothing.

### **Rock climbing wall**

How to sum up the reaction? Does “No, No, a Thousand Times No” convey a sense. Quote: “It won’t be so contemplative and quiet when people start screaming as they fall.”

On the principles,

Inside/Out, Outside/In was runaway winner as most important principle this group. The Third Arts Venue principle came across as second most valued. Two people – both older orchestra subscribers - were very strong on the Aesthetics principle.

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