

Kimmel Center Meeting- Ilene's Group: April 14, 2008

Bullets indicate points made by different people at different times. Therefore, if a person made several points at once, they are included in one bullet.

The Group:

- ❖ Reggie- Chestnut Hill
He and wife are interested in building.
 - ❖ James- Used to live at the corner opposite the building
Likes the building, doesn't understand why it needs to be changed.
Wants the building to be more accessible and cheaper show tickets.
 - ❖ Jeff- lives in the area
Got an email regarding this public event.
Architectural historian.
 - ❖ Christina-Conshohocken
Comes to concerts fairly often. Would be interesting to see several changes.
 - ❖ Tina- Christina's her friend who brought her here.
 - ❖ Norman and Elise- daughter is one of the presenters.
 - ❖ Sandy- fairly new to the city, so is excited about the prospects.
 - ❖ Charles- architecture teacher from Penn.
- **Question: What stood out to you? What were you impressed by?**
 - Liked the waterfall since it would be relaxing. Rock climbing and the floor that is going to illuminate in different colors.
 - Waterfall is conducive to acoustics. Supporting Vinoli's architectural intention.
 - Opening another entrance to Spruce Street. Improving the signage, since the building is confusing.
 - Making this building a destination when there isn't a concert.
 - **Question: What ideas proposed drew you to the building when it isn't in concert time?**
 - Spiral staircase that links the different observation decks. Instead of stairs, make it an escalator. Allows you to see everything that is going on at a slow and steady pace, taking

advantage of the entire building. Need something that is a destination downstairs: utilize the jumping fountain in the center of the ground floor. Fountain could be a focus point.

- Fountain could relate to different types of music. Lights or water streams could relate to the tempo of the music.
- Fountain may be a problem in terms of maneuvering the space during highly occupied times. Use a water wall as a sculptural element with central flex space seating. An artistic/scenic escalator. Liked outdoor lit sidewalk, to animate the space for younger visitors.

Question by the public: Are there any problems with building not being sustainable?

Can't visualize bringing children in the building. Bringing children to a rooftop playground is not realistic. Location is an impediment for accessibility by families.

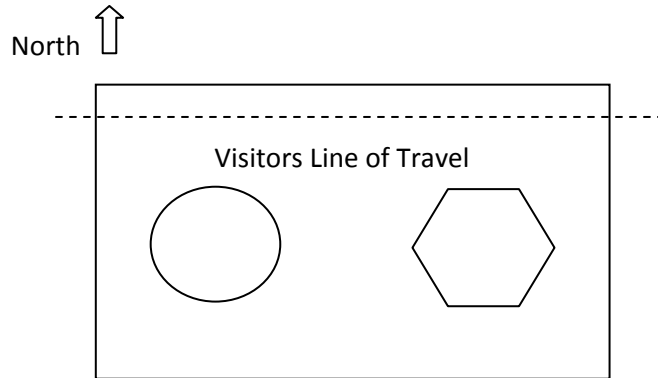
- **Issue: Integration of public space with family space.**
 - Current entrance staircase is too platonic. The grandiose flared (baroque) staircase that was proposed would give the entrance an identity. Wrapping the central theatre with a staircase would be interesting, but there would need to be destinations on different levels so the trip up the stairs wouldn't be a burden. But if you wanted to go up to the top in one shot, an escalator that wrapped around the main theatre would be more desirable.
 - More entrances, to make the building less threatening. People are scared of the building, and when you enter it's still scary. Incorporate food/drink to make it a place to mix and mingle.
 - To make the building more open, make the colors of the interior lighter and more inviting.
 - Interior colors should reflect the creativity of the building.
 - Movable furniture is too small. It does not match the scale of the building.
 - Is moving furniture around practical?
 - The interior space needs more identity. The green floor, the red floor, etc.
- **Issue: Who has the privilege to be where?**

Can you invite your friends to meet you inside the Kimmel Center for lunch?

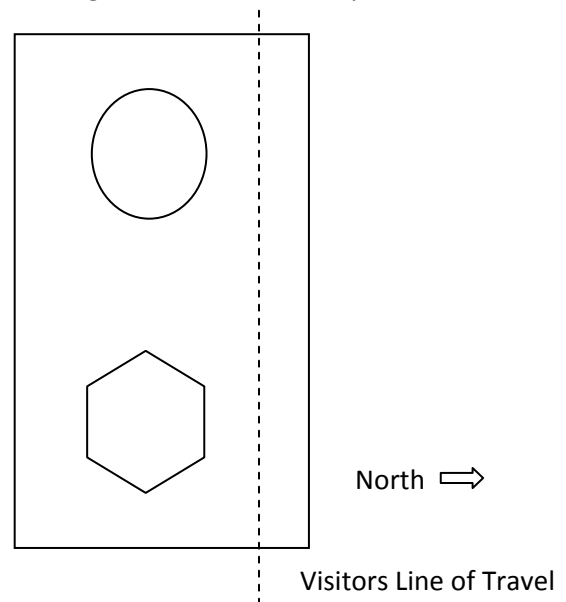
 - Restaurant needs to be more competitively priced. To attract people and make the restaurant more desirable.

- Signage on the exterior displaying Kimmel Center hours.
- Kimmel Center needs to be publicized. There needs to be a few signs of welcoming: from the sidewalk, to the signage, to when you actually enter the building.
- **Issue: How do you make a distinction about accessibility to the public, and who does that include?**
Can / should the homeless be included in the definition of the public?
 - Is there anything keeping the homeless out now? With the design plans that are proposed, would occupation of the building by the homeless change?
 - Establish codes of behavior to not be exclusionary to the homeless.
- **Issue: What are some of the other design items that stood out to you?**
 - If there was a grand staircase/escalator, it would mean that there is a desirable space up there, and now I know how to get there.
 - Put a lightshow up on the roof garden to make the roof a desirable location.
 - Put elements on the roof that would make people want to come again and again.
 - Show movies on the roof on a regular basis.
 - Different accessibility during different times of the day.
 - The roof has to be an attraction. There has to be activity spilling over the edge. There needs to be accessible paths. The place needs to have a name and an identity. (Name gift opportunity)
 - A playground may not work on the roof, but there needs to be a child element to the building. Children's movies on the roof. A playgroup location. Incorporate educational programs.
- **Issue: How do we educate the public, saying that this is a space for you? A place that you want to come back to again?**
 - Commercials on TV only address the concerts. Commercials should address the other activities going on here.

- Happy hour at the Kimmel Center. (\$4 wine) Would spread the word of how fun the Kimmel Center is, really fast.
- Need to create a buzz, that encourages word of mouth.
- Orient the plan vertically, having north read up is confusing from a visitors standpoint. The graphic should be drawn experientially.



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