

Alameda HS – Kofman Auditorium Lighting and AV Systems Upgrades Programming Discussion – October 17th, 2022

In attendance:

Brian Addicott – AUSD Maintenance

Tyra Cable – AHS Music Teacher

Susan Davis – AUSD Community Affairs

Bonnie Nelson Duffey – K-8 Music Teacher

Bernadette Gard – AUSD Facilities

Robert Ithburn – AHS Principal

Shariq Kahan – AUSD CBO

Julie Larson – Wood MS Music Teacher

Robbie Lyng – AUSD – Facilities

Rachael McCray – AHS Dance

Robyn Odell – AUSD Technology Director

Veronica Rylander – AUSD MS Drama Teacher

Vernon Walton – Secondary Education Director

Pasquale Scuderi – AUSD Superintendent

Mark Quattrocchi – QKA

Bryan Chubb - QKA

Mitch Cramond - The Shalleck Collaborative

Jedd de Lucia – TheSC

1. Project goals are to use available funds (Approx. \$2.2 million) for improvements to the lighting systems and fixtures, audio systems, possibly video as well, and some improvements for the dressing room spaces.
2. The design team will look at improvements which will not require submittal to DSA for review as that will add cost and result in less enhancement at the stage.
3. Program Discussion:
 - a. Typically, there are 2x shows/year for both music and dance.
 - b. Music has 2x programs with approximately 120 students in each.
 - i. Jazz, Orchestra, Concert Band, Guitar
 - c. 160-190 dance students.
 - d. Fall Play and Spring Musical – 12 nights/year *plus* rehearsal and set construction weeks.
 - e. 6-7 assemblies/year – Parent info night, etc.
 - f. Full school assemblies.
 - g. Outside users do full productions. Alameda Theatre Group (?). Alameda Ballet (nutcracker).
4. The pit has been used in the past, accessed from basement. The covers *are* removable.
5. The Cyc (large blank white rear curtain) was moved to a midpoint of the stage, wasting a lot of stage space. Request to have it moved back (upstage) to gain more useable stage space.
6. Rigging
 - a. Robbie Lyng explains that, after a walk through by the insurance agent, much of the rigging was removed. The curtain may have been moved at that time.
 - b. Most of the (former) rigging system was “rope-line” rigging where independent ropes for each suspension line are ganged back to a pin rail and counter width is added by suspending sandbags from these groups of ropes. JdL explains that this is antiquated theatre technology and is not appropriate for a school.

- c. Robbie mentions that 5 of the lines were traditional steel counterweight line sets with an arbor, and that those may still be in use. *To be confirmed on site.*
7. Curtains are a high priority:
 - a. There is no main curtain. School would like a main curtain which opens and closes.
 - b. There are no side or overhead curtains either. Those must be added.
8. The closed off dressing rooms beneath the stage are not accessible. That area has been closed and is not to be used.
9. Per Robbie: There is a fire curtain, which is up to date and not asbestos.
10. The existing control area is adequate and there is not a request to change it to the 3rd floor booth, although that can be done.
11. Stairs in the front discussed.
 - a. The top step can be a hazard as people do not realize that they step above the stage level to get over the front footlight strip.
 - b. The SC and QKA recommends removing these (at least every 30 days). Since there is no readily accessible path to the stage from the audience side, there is no equal facilitation for wheelchair users to access the stage.
 - c. One stakeholder mentioned that these steps are very useful for many productions and requested the stairs not be removed.
12. Backstage:
 - a. Possible dressing room changes discussed. Some of the area adjacent to the gym, behind the stage might be used if the matts can be re-arranged. Adding walls to separate the spaces would be a DSA trigger.
 - b. JdL asks if it is possible to connect to the stage left side, using the gymnasium as a cross over. Preference is to just move the cyc curtain but keep cross over inside the stage. the route through the gym is too long unless a new door is cut in.
13. Requests by stakeholder group:
 - a. School use is a priority, not outside users.
 - b. Main curtain which opens and closes.
 - c. Side curtains.
 - d. Move rear cyc. to 5' from rear wall.
 - e. Improved lighting and audio.
 - f. Fixed projection for lectures and assembly.
 - g. Fixed projection for use as scenery.
 - h. Improvements to dressing rooms.
14. JdL at The SC mentioned some possible updates that may be explored, some of which could trigger DSA review:
 - a. Replacement of the lighting console and AV mixing board.

- b. Replace old dimmer rack with new solid-state rack (for LED lights)
- c. Purchase LED lighting fixtures
- d. AV systems improvements should consider hanging the main speakers as well as delay/fill speakers, all of which may require DSA review.
 - i. Due to the historic nature of the theater (built in 1924), design team will explore ways to avoid mounting exposed speakers.
 - ii. Wireless mic system would also be desirable.
 - iii. Mics that lower down to stage from the ceiling.
- e. Consider adding 1 or 2 “Front of house” stage lighting positions, which would be hoist battens that lower to the audience level for maintenance access. Definitely a DSA review item.
- f. Consider adding side lighting battens in better locations.
- g. Consider strengthening the existing side lighting battens.

Next Steps: The SC and QKA will visit the site and assess the state of the rigging, Lighting and AV system. From that we will present options to the district to consider.

END OF NOTES