

Educational Suitability Summary Report

Performing Arts Center

Date: 02/03/2021

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) opened its doors in 2015 and serves the district's students and staff to enhance all areas of the arts. The PAC features an auditorium with 1,200 seats, a black box theater that can seat 250, a dance studio, multipurpose room, recording studio and kiln. Recently, AISD TV moved its studio into the PAC. The facility is heavily used, averaging 450 events per year and recently has been hosting district board meetings. Not only is it a performance venue, but it also serves as an educational tool for learning and professional development.

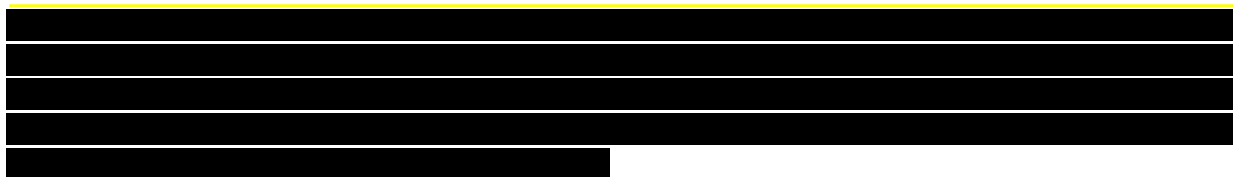
Interview Overview

The assessment team interviewed Alan Lambert, director of fine arts, and Jacob Lange, PAC manager. They both stated that the main performance hall, black box theater and education areas are functioning well. The main concerns are current space limitations for storage and future growth for education and training.

Storage has been a problem for the PAC since its opening. The high volume of events that are hosted at the center at one time poses a challenge for storage capacity and organization. Equipment and furniture are moved from room to room as needed with no true dedicated space. For example, the dance studio houses the portable choral risers. When the dance studio is needed, the choral risers are moved to whatever space is available. The most concerning storage item is the Steinway grand piano which is currently not stored in a climate-controlled area as it should be. It is currently being stored adjacent to the stage in a small storage room. This piano is very expensive and there is concern for its condition if not stored properly.

The scene shop has always been used for overflow storage. The administrators have been diligently trying to empty it by donating instrument storage to schools and finding other secondary storage options. The goal is to use the scene shop as it was intended. Mr. Lambert would like to see the scene shop fully functional for productions. In addition, he would like to see it be used as an educational space to introduce and teach theatrical design and technology. An additional issue preventing the scene shop from being fully operational is the lack of proper ventilation. They must go outside when sanding or painting.

There is no dedicated space for a costume shop. When productions run, costumes, crew and sewing equipment are housed in the scene shop. Again, the Fine Arts director sees this as an opportunity to not only have a suitable costume shop but provide an additional learning resource for students that are interested in the field.



Other areas that were noted as having deficiencies were the sound booth in the main performance hall that houses the projector, the recording studio, and the exterior area intended for outside

performances. The projector in the sound booth is very loud and produces a lot of heat. The sound booth does not have adequate ventilation for the heat. The projector needs to be outside of the sound booth, suspended in the main hall or provide a rear projection solution. The recording studio is very small. It only fits two to three people. Having recording space for an ensemble would be optimal. Also, the space has technical issues with the hardware and software not being compatible. The PAC does not utilize the outdoor spaces because there is a lack of power and lighting. The ground surface is uneven and not ideal for performances.

The PAC staff and organizers would like to have the ability to host more master classes, have a musical instrument repair shop, have more opportunities for UIL One Act practice, and be able to integrate film students in the PAC. Currently, the PAC teaches master classes in theater, visual arts and dance. In order to achieve these goals, spaces within the PAC need better technology and need to be more flexible and adaptable. An example would be adding folding partitions to the multipurpose room so that multiple classes or events could happen at once. The administrators expressed concern about communicating with the community and how to get events and information to the public. They stated there is not a marquee due to local HOA restrictions. There is also a desire to get the community more involved with attending performances and volunteerism.

When asked about learning 20 years from now, the response was they hope to expand on the student intern program, connect with local professionals, provide better access to the PAC for all students and focus on creating a space that functions more as a learning center instead of solely for performances.

Supporting Photographs



Storage under mezzanine seats.



Outdoor area with lack of electricity for performances.

Supporting Photographs



Piping that sometimes backs up and smells.



Recycling and landfill receptacles throughout but no compost.

Supporting Photographs



Lots of display options for student and local art.

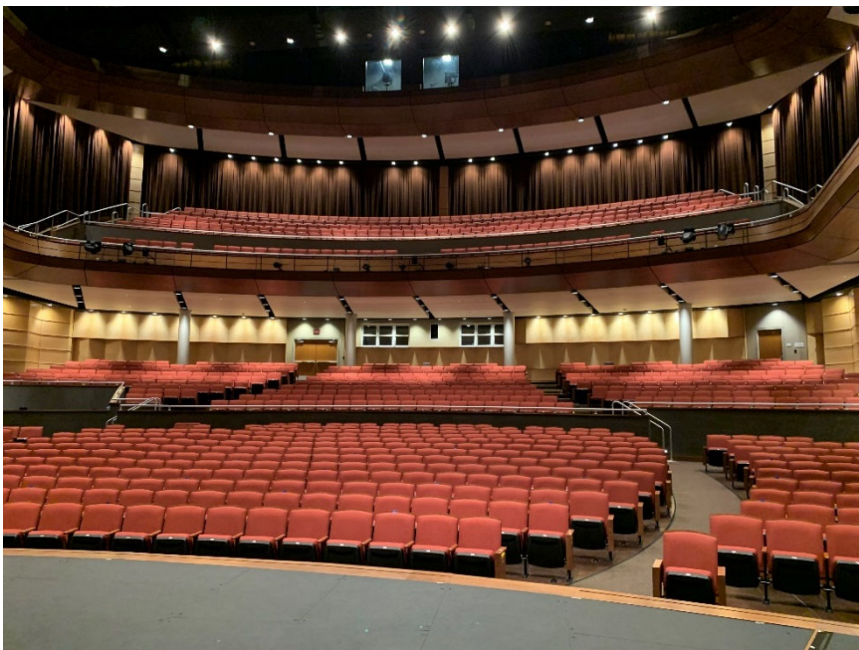


Multipurpose Room: Requested a folding partition so that it can be more flexible and host two events at once.

Supporting Photographs



Dance Studio: Issues with daylighting so cannot use it as any other performance space. Upper panels pop during temperature changes.



Main performance hall in good condition.

Supporting Photographs



Grand piano not stored in proper climate- and humidity-controlled space.



Projector is loud and gets hot. Would like to suspend it in the main hall if possible.