

KELLER AUDITORIUM REOVATION CONCEPT AND PROCESS UPDATE

Date: February 6, 2024
Department: Visitor Venues/P5
Meeting Date: February 6, 2024
Length: 1 Hour

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Diana Stuart – Downtown Portland
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Brian Ferriso – Portland Art Museum
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The City of Portland and P5 have identified structural, accessibility, operational, and guest comfort challenges with the Keller auditorium and are exploring options to remedy these challenges. Options include renovation on the current site and building new on an alternate site. To date, the City of Portland and Metro have contributed funds to a comprehensive renovation study conducted by the Halprin Landscape Conservancy. The City is also in the process of funding concept studies for 2 alternate sites. Today the Halprin team will present their work in order to keep Council informed of progress.

ACTION REQUESTED

No action – informational only

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

N/A

POLICY QUESTION(S)

N/A

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

None at this time

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This work session will include a presentation by the Halprin Landscape Conservancy team on the conceptual renovation proposal developed during 2023. This privately-led effort

received funding from both the City and Metro, and raised significant private capital to complete the work presented in [A Keller Renaissance: Keller Auditorium Feasibility Study](#).

Renovation of the facility is one option being considered. In addition, the City is working with Metro and P'5 to explore two sites that could accommodate a new large scale performing arts facility. This conceptual design work is getting underway now and is expected to be completed in late spring 2024. During summer 2024, City and Metro leaders will consider the comprehensive set of options for exploring the future of the facility and be asked to make a recommendation regarding a preferred path.

BACKGROUND

The Keller Auditorium plays an essential role in Portland's arts community, providing the only local space for large-scale theatrical performances such as traveling Broadway shows, large format ballet and opera. It generates half the revenue for Metro's Portland's theaters – helping make smaller, local productions feasible, affordable and accessible.

Like most older civic buildings, the Keller was not built to withstand a major earthquake. A [2020 seismic report](#) provides a preliminary analysis of renovations needed to meet modern safety standards. Guest amenities, backstage facilities, and mechanical and production systems are also outdated, creating a competitive disadvantage.

Renovating the Keller, replacing the facility in its current location, or building an entirely new venue are all options that will require significant time, investment and collaboration between Metro, the City, facility users, and private partners.

ATTACHMENTS

None

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- What other materials are you presenting today?