

ICFAD Roundtable Discussion 2021 Submission

Title:

'The Benefits and Challenges of Comprehensive Facilities Planning: Arizona Arts as a Case Study'

Abstract/Description:

Using the Arizona Arts Master Plan as a case study for discussion and examination, this roundtable considers the benefits and challenges of comprehensive planning as key strategy for defining and achieving arts facilities needs within the context of mid-twenty-first century higher education. Meant as a dialogue to open up discussions and input with ICFAD's members, this roundtable will also focus on how this case study can be translated into other contexts, including land-grant institutions, financially distressed departments, community colleges, and private/public partnerships.

In 2019 Arizona Arts engaged DLR Group to create a comprehensive Arts Master Plan for the University of Arizona campus. The nine-month planning process engaged various stakeholders and constituencies, and integrated previous feasibility studies to arrive at a blue print for renovated and new facilities that will enable Arizona Arts to fulfill its ambitious academic, campus and community engagement objectives over the coming decades. Conceived as a leading edge for the university's campus master plan, the Arts Master Plan has been a vital tool in elevating the arts as a key strategic and philanthropic priority at the University of Arizona. In spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic, several projects in the first phase of the master plan have been successfully funded through philanthropy, with construction beginning in 2021. Overall, the Arts Master Plan has a timeline of seven years and a total estimated cost of \$450 M, and is framed as a core priority for the University of Arizona Foundation and Development Program.



Andy Schulz serves as Dean of the College of Fine Arts and the University of Arizona's inaugural Vice President for the Arts. He oversees Arizona Arts, a new division created to achieve the strategic objective of integrating the arts throughout the university experience and beyond in order to establish UArizona as an arts destination.



Dennis Bree is a Lead Designer specializing in Cultural + Performing Arts projects at DLR Group. His focus on design begins with collaboration in supporting fundraising efforts and public outreach through concept design and construction. He is committed to design excellence, frequently leading product research, design work sessions, and detail development. Dennis is a former faculty associate at the Design School at Arizona State University, where he has taught both undergraduate and graduate design studios in architecture.