

St. Mary's College of Maryland
New Academic Building & Auditorium

47645 College Dr.

St. Mary's City, Md 20686

Public Art Project Request for Qualifications



Solicitation #: RFP-22-26718

Public Artwork
Commission Budget: **\$250,000 (all inclusive)**

Issued: November 1, 2021

Application Deadline: 3:00 p.m. (EST) Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Apply Online: [APPLY ONLINE HERE](#)

Artwork proposals are NOT accepted at this time.

Contact: Ryan Patterson
Public Art Project Manager
Maryland State Arts Council
ryan.patterson1@maryland.gov
(443) 721-3085
www.msac.org

Call for Public Artists

This Request for Qualifications seeks to identify a qualified individual artist or artist team who will be commissioned to develop a new site-specific and responsive work of public art for the New Academic Building & Auditorium Project at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The selected artist or team will be tasked with designing, fabricating and installing an artwork that functions as a public landmark and entry point while responding to the unique setting, history and relationship to the environment present throughout the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus. Up to four qualified semi-finalists will be selected from the respondents to this RFQ. Selected semi-finalists will be provided stipends to develop site-specific concept proposals for artwork.

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) is an independent state-supported institution located adjacent to Historic St. Mary's City, the first capital of the State of Maryland (a federally designated national landmark district within St. Mary's County.) SMCM is committed to the ideal of public education that is affordable, accessible and celebrates the diversity of the state's citizens. It also enjoys a unique status in Maryland's public education system as the State's designated National Public Honors College. Unlike the other state colleges and universities, SMCM offers an undergraduate liberal arts education and small college experience of the sort more commonly found at private colleges. SMCM shares the hallmarks of such institutions: an outstanding faculty, talented students, high academic standards, a challenging curriculum, small classes, a sense of community, and a spirit of care and intellectual quest. The proximity of the residential campus to the St. Mary's River inspires work, play, and a strong commitment to the environment.

New Academic Building & Auditorium

The New Academic Building & Auditorium project (NABA) is a 52,300 gross square foot building complex providing space for the College's Music and Educational Studies departments, a "Learning Commons" study suite, and a concert-hall-quality auditorium. The new buildings contain classrooms, class labs, practice and rehearsal rooms, offices, and other academic support space, in addition to the study suite, and the auditorium and recital halls. The 700-seat auditorium, the largest venue on campus, will support lectures, presentations, film screenings, music programs and other College and community events that draw large audiences.

The New Academic Building & Auditorium is built on the site of the College's former varsity field and running track which was relocated in 2019 approximately 1,500 feet to the south-east to the new Jamie L. Roberts Stadium. The NABA complex continues the campus's master plan based on the concept of a mid-Atlantic "tidewater village." The landscape designed by Michael Vergason Landscape Architects includes a new campus-facing courtyard, a Crescent Green for student activities, and a lawn and plaza which serve as a gateway-entrance to this newly developed precinct. Members of the public attending concerts in the Auditorium and students and faculty traveling between the campus and the new Jamie L. Roberts stadium will traverse these outdoor spaces.

It should be noted that during pre-construction archeology work at the location of the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium artifacts were discovered, providing evidence of enslaved people having once lived on and worked near the location. This discovery led to the creation of [The Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland](#) (completed in Fall, 2020) by RE:site

Studio, featuring the erasure poetry of Quenton Baker. This recent addition to the St. Mary's campus provides space for acknowledgement, education, reflection and introspection about the nature of slavery and its connections to the College and contemporary society. Respondents to this RFQ should be aware of the context and presence of this recent addition to campus.

Commissioned Public Artwork

With that in mind, the Artist Selection Committee has identified the following publicly visible and regularly accessible locations as potential locations for the installation of the artwork.¹

- The area adjacent to the east plaza entrance / passenger drop-off on College Drive where students and the public may observe and pass-by a sculptural artwork.
- The interior stairwell that is adjacent to the public (east) entrance to the Auditorium, would be suitable for an artistic light installation which would be visible from the outside of the building, especially at night.
- The “prow” of the auditorium lobby, which faces west toward the campus-oriented courtyard, adjacent to a new water feature designed by Michael Vergason, is suitable for artwork hung from the ceiling and visible from outside the building.

Public Artwork Themes and Goals

Semi-finalist artist and teams invited to develop artwork concept proposals should draw inspiration and guidance from the following themes and goals:

¹ See Artwork Location parameters in the Attachments

- St. Mary's College of Maryland [Mission and Goals](#), and aspirations as National Public Honors College in the 21st Century, as communicated by [The St. Mary's Way](#).
- The College's Land Acknowledgement Statement, and the artwork's relationship to the existing [Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland \(see above\)](#).
- The function of the Auditorium as a performance venue, lecture hall, ceremonial space, and place of communal gathering for the campus and the St. Mary's County community.
- The artwork's ability to function as a "gateway" to this new campus precinct and as a connection and inflection point in the paths across campus.
- The College's traditional architectural forms, and relationship to the natural environment.
- The College's [commitment to sustainability](#), including respect for the natural and cultural environments of Southern Maryland and the desire to find new ways to lessen negative environmental impacts and improve positive social impact.

Eligibility:

All professional artists or artist teams living in the United States may apply. If artists apply as a team, the team should be listed on the application, specifying a team leader to receive notifications. Artists currently enrolled in a university or college degree program are not eligible to apply. Employees of St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the Maryland State Arts Council are not eligible to apply.

Budget Details:

The all inclusive budget to commission public artwork for the New Academic Building and Auditorium project is \$250,000.

The selected artist's contract will be broken into two phases. Phase I: Concept Design Development and Phase II. Fabrication & Installation. The total budget is inclusive of all costs associated with the artwork project, including but not limited to: artist fee and expenses (sub-consultants, travel/lodging, printing, overhead, etc.), artwork shop drawings and specifications; artwork materials and fabrication, lighting fixtures, storage (if applicable), transportation and installation; related permits, license, insurance; and if significant site modifications are made. The artist will be required to establish a 10% contingency within their proposed budget. Any expenses that exceed the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility.

Contract:

The selected artist will contract directly with the University System of Maryland (via St. Mary's College of Maryland which will manage the project construction) and work with the Maryland State Arts Council Public Art staff on all aspects of the artwork, from design development through project implementation and installation. The artist's contract is required to be approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works. A sample copy of the contract entitled "Artwork Contract" is included for review².

Please be advised that the following will be required of the contracted artist:

² See attached

- 1) The artist must be able to be a registered Maryland vendor and adhere to all applicable state permitting and licensing and tax requirements for the duration of the contract;
- 2) The artist will be required to submit an artwork maintenance manual following artwork installation; and in order to complete their contract.
- 3) The artist is expected and required to attend the artwork dedication event in person if and when such an event takes place.

Submission Procedures:

The Application Deadline is: **December 8, 2021, 3:00 pm (EST)**

Artists and Teams **must apply online** [CLICK HERE](#) for the application.

Requirements of the Online Application:

- **Contact Information** for Lead Artist (and artist team if applicable)
- **Statement of Interest:** Explain your interest in this commission opportunity, specifically how you would approach or respond to the themes and goals specific to this project. Please avoid describing a proposed artwork in your statement.
- **Work Samples:** Ten (10) JPEG Images of existing relevant artwork. Please be sure to include all relevant description information for each artwork (scale, material, year, budget, location, etc.). Work samples may include images of the same work from different angles or highlighting details. Please avoid including more than one image per uploaded work sample. Work samples that are crowded with multiple images may be difficult for the committee to decipher in the initial review.
- **Artist Resume/CV** (teams should include resumes of all artists combined into a single PDF)
- **References** include at least three (3) art and/or design professionals who have detailed knowledge of the artist's work and working

methods. Include contact name, title, telephone number, and email address for each reference.

Initial applications should **NOT** include artwork concept proposals.

A live *"How to Apply: St. Mary's College of Maryland"* webinar will be held November 16, 5:00-6:00 pm. You can register for the info session [here](#).

A recording of the webinar will be available [here](#) following the event.

Artist Selection

The artist selection process for this project will happen in **three steps**:

Step 1: The Artist Selection Committee will review and score each eligible application based upon the following criteria as they relate to this project:

1. How the applicant's demonstrated experience and Statement of Interest connect to the themes and goals outlined for the public art project³.
2. How the applicant's background artwork samples reflect technical skill, authenticity, originality, commitment to material(s)/media and artistic practice, and evoke response or inquiry.
3. The applicant's experience as demonstrated by the resume.

Applications that include artwork concepts may be removed from the review.

Step 2: Based on Step 1 scoring, a shortlist of up to ten (10) applicants will be individually invited to a virtual/video interview with the Artist Selection Committee. Applicants invited to the interview will be asked about their creative process and relevant experience, how they would conceptually approach the project and the rationale for the proposed approach.

Visual proposals/presentations are **NOT** requested at this step.

Step 3: Following Step 2, the Artist Selection Committee will invite three to four (3-4) semifinalists to tour the site and campus and to develop artwork concept proposals. Following a development period each semifinalist will individually present their concept proposal to the Artist Selection Committee

³ See Themes & Goals section above

(and the College community at a public presentation). Semifinalists will be provided with a \$2,500 stipend.

Each Semifinalist concept proposal must include the following:

1. Written description of the proposed artwork Concept renderings/drawings of the proposed artwork including location, dimensions, materials, colors and finishes.
2. Artwork budget, including identification of fabricator and fabricator fees (if applicable).
3. Artwork schedule including final design through installation.
4. A brief summary of maintenance requirements for the proposed artwork.
5. Background art experience of artist and fabricator (if applicable).

Each semi-finalist artist or artist team preparing concept proposals must agree to the following:

- The artist or artist team shall retain intellectual property rights to the artwork commissioned.
- The Maryland State Arts Council, and the user agency shall have the unconditional right to retain the proposal materials (drawings, illustrations) for public art education purposes, whether or not the artwork is selected for implementation. Full credit will be given to the artist or artist team if the proposal is disseminated by print or digital means.
- If utilizing the proposal for future public art applications, the artist shall give credit to the Maryland State Arts Council and the Public Art Across Maryland program.

- Proposed artwork must be original and unique to this artwork commission opportunity. No editions or replicas of pre-existing work may be submitted.

The Finalist artist or team will be scored and selected, based on the following criteria:

1. **Artwork Concept:** Artwork reflects authenticity, originality, evokes response or inquiry, demonstrates relevance, and is appropriate for the site, architecture, occupants and environment. Addresses artwork themes & goals defined in RFQ.
2. **Feasibility:** Proposed budget is clear, specific, and detailed indicating the artwork can be fully implemented. Schedule is clear, specific, and detailed indicating the artwork can be fully implemented.
3. **Durability, Permanence and Safety:** The artwork is materially and structurally sound. Artwork is resistant to theft, vandalism, and is low maintenance. Proposed artwork does not create unsafe conditions nor utilize unsafe materials. Concept is able to adhere or adapt to ADA guidelines and applicable building code requirements.
4. **Unique assets and artistic process of the artist/artist team** and what they will bring to the New Auditorium and Academic Building project.

Selection and Production Schedule:

RFQ Posted	November 1, 2021
RFQ Application Deadline	December 8, 2021
Video Interview with up to 10 selected applicants	Late January 2021
Semi-Finalist Site Visit (in-person)	Mid-late February 2022
Semi-Finalist Proposals Due	March 2022
Finalist Notification	March 2022
Artist Contract Signed	April-May 2022
Notice to Proceed: Artwork Kick-Off Meeting	May-June 2022
Concept Refinement	Summer 2022
Fabrication Period	TBD
Expected Installation Period	TBD
Opening/Unveiling	TBD

Artist Selection Committee Composition:

Each of the following seats receives one-vote in the Artist Selection Committee review process.

User Agency	St. Mary's College of Maryland
Design Representative	Architect & Landscape Architect
Building User	St. Mary's College of Maryland
Student Representative	St. Mary's College of Maryland Alum
Community Representative	St. Mary's County Arts Council
Visual Art Representatives	St. Mary's College of Maryland Vis. Art Dept. and St. Mary's College of Maryland Galleries and Collection.
Maryland Public Art Commission	Commission Members
Non-Voting	MSAC Public Art Program Staff

Questions and Inquiries:

All questions and inquiries must be in writing and directed to:

Ryan Patterson, Maryland State Arts Council, Public Art Project Manager,
ryan.patterson1@maryland.gov.

About the Maryland Public Art Across Maryland Program:

Established in 2013, Public Art Across Maryland is the State of Maryland's Percent-for-Art program. For all new or renovated State-owned buildings, a percentage of the construction budget is set aside for public art.

Independent artists apply for a project through an open Call to Artists and are selected by an artist selection committee. MSAC manages the process from artist selection, through design, fabrication, and installation and the work becomes part of the State public art collection. msac.org

-ATTACHMENTS FOLLOW-

List of Attachments:

- I. Architectural Exhibits:**
 1. New Auditorium and Academic Building Complex landscape plan with Potential Artwork Locations noted
 2. Exterior view looking south west towards Potential Locations 1 & 2.
 3. Exterior view looking east towards Potential Location 3 Lobby/"Prow".
 4. Interior finishes spec sheet for New Academic Building and Auditorium main building.

- II. Public Art Across Maryland: Artwork Commission Scoring Rubric**

- III. SAMPLE Public Art Across Maryland Artwork Commission Artist Agreement**

- IV. St. Mary's College of Maryland Supplementary Conditions**

- V. St. Mary's College of Maryland Bid Bond**

- VI. St. Mary's College of Maryland Bid/Proposal Affidavit**

- VII. St. Mary's College of Maryland General Conditions**



New Auditorium and Academic Building Complex

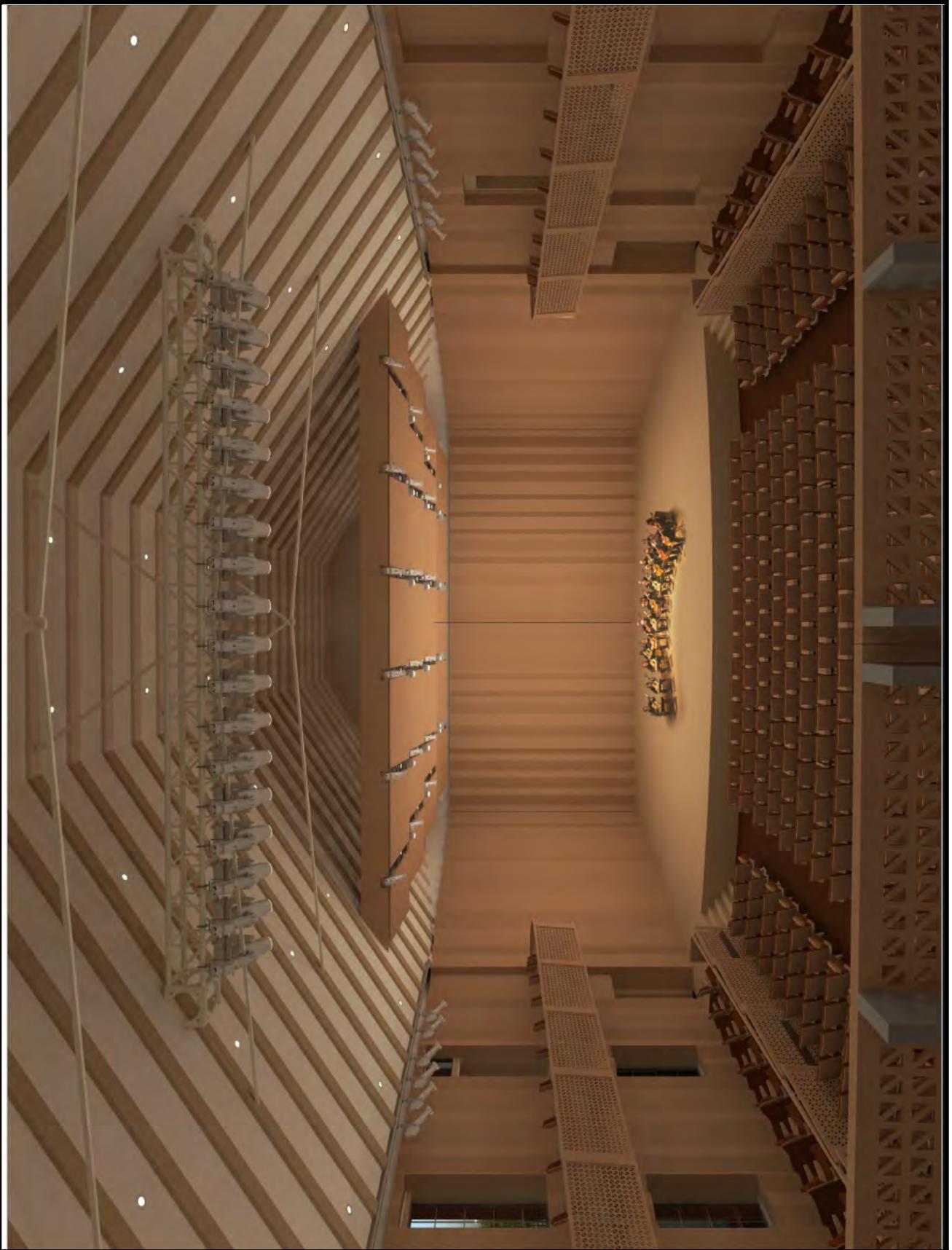
Potential Artwork Locations

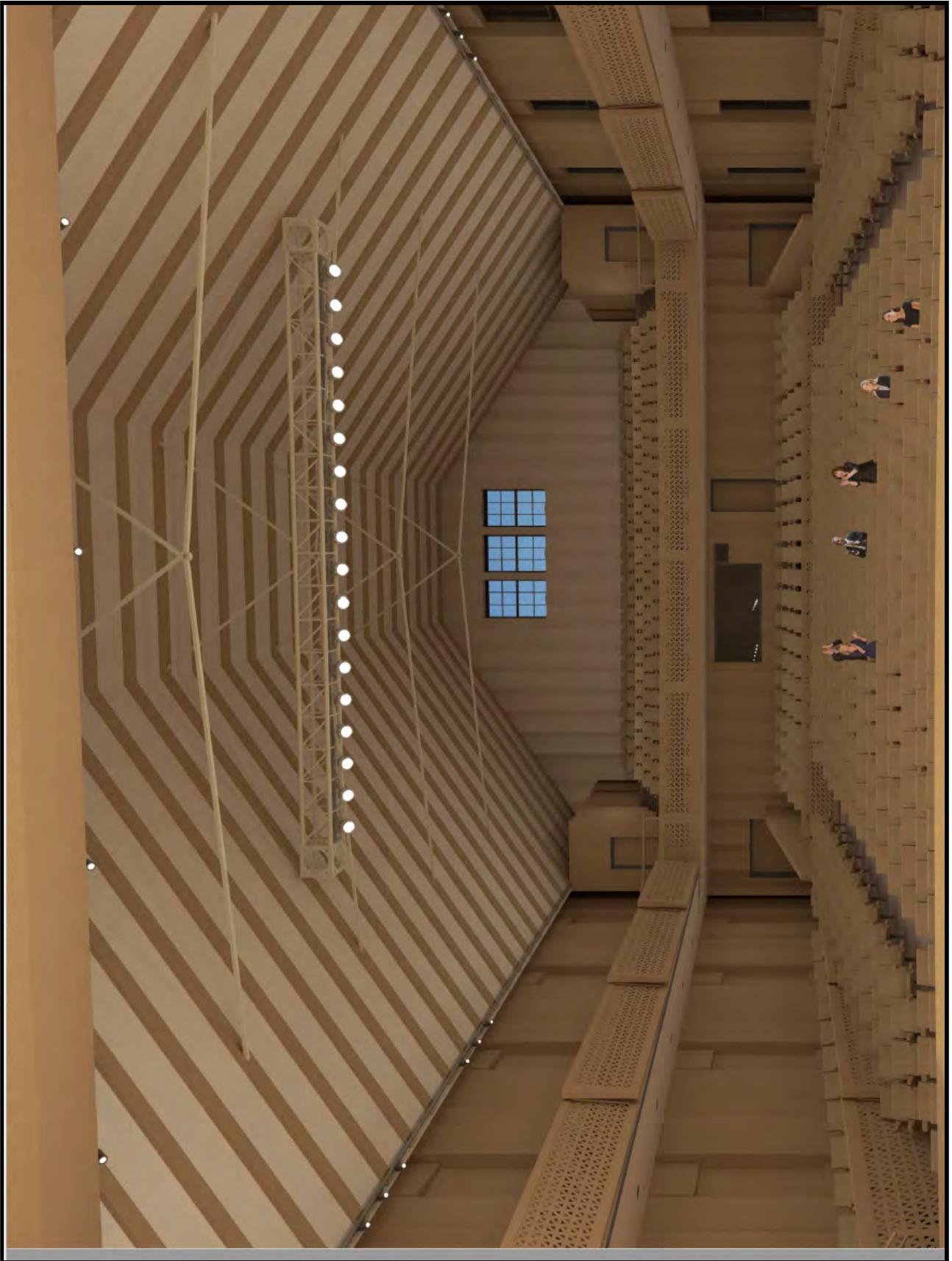
1. Precinct Entry/Patron Drop-off area
2. Stair Tower
3. Lobby "prow"













CLASSROOMS



TEACHING STUDIO



3. ACOUSTIC CEILING
Armstrong Ultima Regular



6. WALLS/ACOUSTIC CEILING
Benjamin Moore in White Dove



7. ACOUSTIC PANELS
Collad of Robine, Whisper in Dim



9. BASEBOARD
Johnsenite, Pearl



16. FLOOR, CARPET
Tarkus, Coastal II in Silver Gray



17. FLOOR, LVT
Tarkus, Legacy Stone in Somborn Agosz