

## SOKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER – FACT SHEET

Owner:	Soka University of America
Program Manager:	R. W. Buck & Associates
Architect:	ZGF Architects LLP
Acoustical Consultant:	Nagata Acoustics
Theater Consultant:	Auerbach Pollock Friedlander
Architectural Lighting	Auerbach Glasow French
MEP Engineer	Syska Hennessy Group, Inc.
Structural Engineer	John A. Martin & Associates, Inc.
Civil Engineer	RBF Consulting
Landscape Architect	SWA Group
Vertical Transportation	Lerch Bates Inc.
Geotechnical/Soils	Leighton Consulting, Inc.
A/V/Communication	Sonitus
General Contractor:	McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

- Groundbreaking took place on January 13, 2009
- Dedication took place on May 27, 2011 with the Commencement of the Class of 2011 – part of Soka University’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- 47,836 square foot, three-level Performing Arts Center with 1,032 seats and reception lobby
- 48,974 square foot, four-level classroom building with 11 classrooms, 29 faculty offices, 180-seat Black Box Theatre (5,600 square feet), five dressing rooms, rehearsal/dance studio and musician warm-up spaces
- Overall project cost for two buildings: \$73 million
- Built with a combination of structural concrete and structural steel frame
- Exterior of smooth plaster walls, travertine stone bands, aluminum curtain walls, clear glass glazing
- Green roofs to reduce cooling load and storm water run-off
- Solar panels generating 150,000 kwh of renewable solar electric power – about 15% of Center’s needs.
- Sustainability was a central component of the project, which received Gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

The Performing Arts Center is served by lobbies totaling 7,300 square feet, and a 2,100 square foot mezzanine. The Hall is configurable into 915 seat concert mode, 1,032 seat theater mode, and 1,200 seat convocation mode. The Hall features natural acoustics, designed by noted acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics. Concert mode provides a 3,059 square foot performance platform. Theater mode converts the performance platform to a thrust stage configuration of 1,856 square feet. The performance platform area is served by a dual overhead grid system. A structural grid for rigging, and a tension grid below the structural grid, for lighting, provides great flexibility in rigging and lighting various types of performances and productions.

The Black Box Theater, in Wangari Maathai Hall, is totally flexible in configuration, and features a full tension grid above. It can accommodate 180 seats, and is served by a 1,300 square foot lobby.

Both performance spaces are served by 13,000 square feet of common support spaces, including a loading dock, a green room, four multi-person dressing rooms each accommodating 10-12 persons, one smaller dressing room accommodating 1-4 persons, large and small musician warm-up rooms, a dance rehearsal studio, laundry facilities, and storage spaces.

The design, takes advantage of the site's natural slopes to achieve the hall seating riser configuration. The exterior materials use plaster with travertine accents that are expressed throughout the campus and are reminiscent of a Tuscan hillside village.

### **THE STAGE**

- Unfinished Alaskan white cedar chosen for the finest acoustical properties
- 2 types of stage configurations
  - Thrust Stage Configuration: 28' wide X 40' deep – accommodates more seating
  - Concert Stage Configuration: 66' wide x 51' deep – accommodates full symphony orchestra
- 3 stage lifts: two on the sides, one for the first two rows of seating
- Wagons of seats retract into alcoves on both sides
- 6 motorized line sets for drapery and screen (remote controlled)
- Acoustical draperies in ceiling can adjust the reverberation time of the Hall
- Tension grid (ceiling)—to hang lighting and other items (strong enough for people to walk on)
  - Control rooms at rear of house for video, sound, lighting, projection and follow spot
  - Distance from stage to the back– 85' (downstage center to last row)
  - Distance from stage to the side – 55' (center stage to last row)

### **INFORMATION ABOUT BACKSTAGE**

- Loading dock—a 40 foot truck can back into area and unload
- Area has direct access to the stage
- Storage rooms, equipment rooms, five dressing rooms, dance studio, two rehearsal studios, and laundry room

### **WANGARI MAATHAI HALL**

- 48,974-square-feet
- Includes 11 classrooms, 29 faculty offices, plus shared dressing rooms, rehearsal/dance studio and musician warm-up spaces, Black Box Theatre

**BLACK BOX THEATRE** (inside Wangari Maathai Hall adjacent to the Soka Performing Arts Center)

- Modular seating, reconfigurable, capacity of 180 depending on seating configuration
- Access to space above without need for ladders
- The tension grid made up of ¼ inch aircraft cables rated 2000+lbs each, so strong, each 10' x 10' section can hold 4 people at a time
- Both theatres connected electronically
- Black box can be a video overflow room for graduation using white curtains as screen
- Shared usage of dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms, etc. mentioned previously

**SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

- Sustainability was a central component of the project, which received Gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. Considered a model of sustainability, it is anticipated to consume about 28 percent less energy than if it had been built to conventional building codes.
- To that end, photovoltaic panels located along a top row of external sunshades for the Center's main lobby and on the Concert Hall's roof will generate an estimated 15 percent of the energy the facility uses. The fixed sunshades are designed to reduce heat gain in the main lobby yet permit visibility.
- The facility also employs an array of water-saving features, such as low-flow water fixtures and high-efficiency instantaneous gas water heaters. The latter units heat water only when called for, and save energy in areas like theater support spaces that are used only in conjunction with performances. The project is expected to use 45 percent less water than a conventionally designed building.
- The project's vegetated green roof atop both the Performing Arts Center and the Black Box Theater portion of Wangari Maathai Hall helps to manage and treat storm water runoff, as will a manmade swale behind the project's academic spaces. Light-colored paving and roofing materials also reduce the urban heat island effect.
- In addition, building materials include recycled content, and 75 percent of the project's construction waste was recycled. The project also is using certified wood and low-VOC adhesives, sealants, paints, carpet and composite wood products.

**PROJECT TIME LINE**

Ground Breaking:	January 13, 2009
Topping Ceremony:	October 15, 2009 (setting the last truss in the main hall)
Occupancy Permit:	December 1, 2010
Dedication and Commencement:	May 27, 2011
Grand Opening:	September 17, 2011