

Chapter 5: Program Initiatives to Improve Performance

Art & Applied Design Building

Priority: 6

➤ Describe Initiative

For many years, the Art & Applied Design Department has proposed (and will continue to request) a suitable facility for the visual arts. This initiative is in the planning stage, and is focused on approval in the next Bond. We will be continuing to develop our facilities plan in future Unit Plans.

◆ Why do it?

The need for an adequate and incorporated learning space for LCC's art curriculum dates all the way back to the construction of the campus in the 1960's. The majority of our classes have been and still are taught in Building 11 (formerly designated "Math and Art,") a building which was originally designed for lecture classrooms. Because of budget overruns, the ground floor of Building 11 was hastily remodeled, in an attempt to create art studio space. The requirements for effective studio spaces are very specific and completely different than the design of lecture classrooms. The attempt to modify an inappropriate structure into studio spaces created a woefully inadequate facility—one that was not even large enough to house the original LCC Art Department, so that Metals/Jewelry (a crucial part of our three-dimensional program) was located at the other side of campus in a shack.

The Art Department has struggled to provide quality instruction within this "retro-fitted" space for over thirty years. During that time, we have been enlarging and enhancing our curriculum, and meanwhile our facilities have been antiquating and deteriorating. In addition to the original two-dimensional, three-dimensional and ceramics curriculum, the Art & Applied Design Department now includes the pro/tech Graphic Design program, the pro/tech Multimedia program, and a broad and diverse Art History program. Currently our "department" is located in five or more inadequate spaces scattered across campus.

◆ What will be the product of this initiative be?

The College will be able to provide students and the community an integrated art facility which offers a safe and effective learning environment for the visual arts.

◆ What is the need or intended use?

Lane Community College needs an Art facility which is:

- ⇒ **Safe.** Students and faculty should expect a safe environment. This would include proper ventilation, the means to provide careful storage and disposal of hazardous materials, appropriate lighting, adequate space for instruction, and storage of materials and equipment. The dangers of our current spaces include poor (or non-existent) ventilation, no acceptable methods of handling hazardous materials, inadequate lighting, an art history classroom with desks that threaten to collapse and

a television/video stand blocking the doorway, and studio spaces so cramped that students can't enter or exit the class without climbing over easels, taborets, and drawing stands. Our weaving classes are being conducted in a room the size of a closet, with some students enrolled in the same course working in a room located in another building. The instructor power-walks between buildings in order to teach the class.

- ⇒ **An effective learning/teaching/administrative environment.** Students, the College, and the community will benefit from a facility that integrates the various disciplines in the visual arts, a vital art gallery that augments those disciplines, and centralized offices for administrative staff who can offer immediate and accessible assistance.

◆ **Is it feasible?**

Yes, with Bond funding.

◆ **What would be the campus location of this request/project?**

Location would obviously depend on the larger campus-wide plan for our College in the future. Important aspects to keep in mind include:

- ⇒ **Type of facility.** This will be a building with requirements similar to an industrial facility, such as: ventilation, waste management, and material transport. Vehicle access to a loading dock and outside storage accommodations are essential.
- ⇒ **Integration with MDTA.** Historically, the close connection between the Art Department and "Performing Arts" (now MDTA) has been highly successful in serving the interests of our community, with popular coordinated art gallery and performance openings. AAD and MDTA are now officially integrated in the College structure as the Arts Division. Strategic physical location of the future visual arts facility with the newly constructed/remodeled Performing Arts building is necessary for effective administration of the Arts Division, and also highly desirable: we could create an arts complex that would be the cultural "heart" of our College, a focal point that engages and brings together students, staff and community.

◆ **How many student (per year) will benefit?**

~217 students are designated Art majors

◆ **Describe the resources needed**

Faculty input, College support, Bond funding

◆ **List the possible funding sources**

⇒ **Can this project be partially funded?**

Some remodeling of the existing spaces is absolutely necessary and could ameliorate a few of our immediate and severe facility problems, but cannot provide more than a "band-aid" for us to continue to offer a safe and effective visual arts curriculum. Ultimately this is not a solution, nor is it a cost-effective.

⇒ **If so, what minimum cost?**

Unknown. We would need to research issues such as cost of automatic door installation, ventilation retrofitting, waste disposal, safe seating, etc.

♦ **Provide ORG & PROG codes**

621001 – ORG

111000 - Program

♦ **How does this project articulate with the College's vision, mission & goals and contribute toward meeting the President's/Board's approved goals?**