

February 7, 2014

Stage Lift Description
Natrona County High School

Natrona County High School's historic theatre will undergo a substantial renovation as part of the school remodel. Although the theatre will retain its historic appearance, much of the theatre operation, acoustics and accessibility will change.

New foyers will be added to the back of the theatre, separating lobby noise from the theatre. The audience area floor slope will be altered to allow full access to all areas of the theatre. Access to the stage will be from side aisles that are level with the new mid-cross aisle of the seating area. New rigging, catwalks, lighting and sound systems will greatly improve the theatre and music experience in the room.

Historic decorative plaster will be restored at the proscenium, balcony and ceiling. The auditorium seats will be replaced and reset to improve sight lines. The balcony will be upgraded to improve comfort, acoustics and sight lines. There will be 785 fixed seats in the theatre and 9 locations for wheelchairs.

The most dramatic change will be at the stage. Two lifts are proposed to expand the size of the stage to compensate for the original small stage size which limits both the number of students that can participate and the acoustical experience of the audience. Lift #1, the outer thrust lift, extends the stage so that a full orchestra, band and/or choir can sit comfortably on stage. Lift #2, the orchestra pit lift, is proposed to complete the stage in its full thrust position, or lower to accommodate a musical production that requires a full orchestra pit.

The cost of Lift #2 is not included in the project budget. If a lift is not funded through generous donors, the orchestra pit covers will be manually operated. Although the theatre will be able to function as desired, this will greatly reduce the convenience and regularity of using the stage flexibly. Bassetti Architects estimates the cost of the orchestra pit lift at \$300,000.

Attached are drawing that illustrate the use of the lifts. In **Configuration 1**, both lifts are in their highest position. This allows the maximum stage size, providing an excellent acoustic experience for large music groups.

Configuration 2 illustrates Lift 1 at audience seating level and the Lift 2 at the stage level. This configuration will accommodate many different drama, music and academic events. Seats can be added on top of Lift 1, increasing the total room seating to 844 seats (including wheelchair locations).

Configuration 3 illustrates Lift 1 at audience seating level and Lift 2 at Orchestra Pit level. Ideal for musicals, dance and multi-media presentations, this arrangement also has a room capacity of 844 seats.

The theatre is scheduled to be renovated during the 2015/2016 school year.