

# CUNY/Brooklyn College Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

Brooklyn, New York

**Client:** CUNY/Brooklyn College

**Completion:** Spring 2014

**Area:** 62,000 gsf

**Construction Cost:** \$55 M

## Project Team:

Pfeiffer Partners Architects

Norman Pfeiffer, FAIA, Design Principal

Jean Marie Gath, Project Director

Lorenzo Mattii, Designer

Han Kim, Project Architect

## Consultants:

ARUP - Structural & MEP Engineering,

Acoustics and Theater Consulting

Horton Lees Brogden - Lighting Design

Mathews Nielsen - Landscape Architecture

KSE Engineers - Civil Engineering

Designed by the New York office of Pfeiffer Partners Architects, the new Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts will significantly enhance the performance, instructional and rehearsal opportunities for students and faculty of the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music and the College's Theater Department. It will also be the College's first "green building" targeted for LEED Silver Certification

The Center features:

- 225-seat Flexible Performance Space with Variable Acoustics for Music and Theater
- Instrumental and Theater Rehearsal Rooms that double as Performance Venues
- State-of-the-Art Recording Studio
- Sound Simulation Lab
- Pima Center for Computer Music
- Choral Rehearsal room and over 30 Music Studios and Practice Rooms
- Scene Shop

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New Center for the Performing Arts Addition

Providing access throughout the building is the Center's two-story lobby—designed as both a venue for pre- and post-performance gatherings as well as for receptions and special events. Similarly, the floor-to-ceiling window of the 30' high instrument rehearsal room, with stunning views out to the campus, will be a popular location for College-wide activities.

The lobby of the new Center forms the interface between the campus and the community. With its transparent glass curtain wall replacing the somewhat enigmatic brick wall of the existing Gershwin Hall, demolished to make way for the Center, the building will transmit the energy and vitality of the arts within, creating a welcoming edge to the College along Campus Road. Respecting the architectural history of the campus with its predominance of brick buildings, the new Center will feature brick to match the color of the existing complex, but will use the material in a contemporary way. The interplay of the brick "columns," interspersed with metal panels and curtain wall spaced rhythmically along the building's façade, hint at the sense of anticipation one experiences as the curtain parts for a performance.

The Center also makes a major contribution to the overall life of the campus. With its 30-foot-high open portal, the Center provides



Performance Space with Flexible Stage



Two-story Lobby/Reception Space

an almost monumental gateway for pedestrians entering the College, replacing the current modest gate, security office and fence. The ceiling and lighting of the lobby appear to extend out into the portal, making the gateway as welcoming in the evening as it is in the day. A 70-foot-high stair tower and even taller triangularly shaped sign, lit from within, announces Brooklyn College to the community at large. Integrated LEDs will provide information on campus-wide activities on a daily basis as well as feature upcoming events at the Performing Arts Center.

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