



MUNROE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Munroe Center Stage
Summer Stage Proposal

The mission of the Munroe Center for the Arts (MCA) is to ignite curiosity and celebrate creativity by offering arts education, artist studios, and community experiences that are open and accessible to all.

PROGRAMMING

Summer Stage will take place in the front lawn of MCA, and operations will follow the model previously established by *Munroe Center Stage* (MCS) and over thirty years of summer camp programming, and will provide the community with a new civic performance space. **Munroe Center Stage** began hosting monthly performances at MCA in 2010 and ran for 10 years prior to the pandemic. It was created to support and cultivate area artists in an experimental, entertaining, intimate environment.

- The *Summer Stage* program will operate from May - October.
- Evening performances will end no later than 8:30pm.
- There will be no concurrent MCA events scheduled that would increase traffic.
- Two - three monthly performances will either be organized by MCA staff and the *Munroe Center Stage* Committee, or will be community-led performances (e.g., yoga, cultural performances, LHS Jazz).
- Weekly summer camp performances will continue at the end of each camp week from 2:30 - 3:00pm.

A *Munroe Center Stage* **calendar of events** will be established by its committee and staff, to provide a predictable schedule, and made publicly available online and in monthly MCA newsletters. Future *Munroe Center Stage* events calendars will be published starting in September. Community-led events will be published a minimum of two weeks in advance.

OUTDOOR VENUE

The design of a permanent outdoor stage and seasonal canopy creates a venue to accommodate existing summer camp performances and summer events in an accessible and sustainable way. It also provides a venue for programming of outdoor performances, an extension of the existing MCS programming.

The unique features of this design include:

- **Intimate outdoor setting** with 120 seats, each never more than 6 rows from the performers
- **Front-facing stage** with visibility of all performers
- **Accessible stage** for performers and participants by a wheelchair ramp or lift
- **Accessible seating space** for the audience via entry and flat seating surface made of brick (seen in the current Lexington streetscape)

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- **Coverage of performer and audience** with a canopy to provide shade during the day, cover during a slight rain, and protection of the space from rain earlier in the day of a performance
- **In-place canopy and audio/visual equipment** that does not require setup for each performance, making it practical for small groups
- **Stage proximity to the building** allows the use of nearby indoor performer preparation and waiting space (“green room”) and convenient access from summer camp classrooms

Additional design details:

- **Stage** - 25' w x 28' d, **seating** of 2,200 SF. (2,666 with aisles), and green **landscaping** of 5,312 SF.
- **Restrooms** - Accessible facilities are available inside the main building entrance on each floor.
- **Storage container** - A permanent container to hold A/V equipment, chairs, and other supplies will be located behind the building by the HVAC compressors and painted with a mural of garden greenery.
- **Lighting** - Dark Sky compliant, down-facing lighting mounted on canopy pylons (also replacing some existing building lights) will consist of warm-white light and will follow the town light ordinance.
- **Sound** - Speakers will be at the building, down and inward facing with landscaping around seating to help buffer sound. Amplification will be kept as low as possible while allowing all seats to equally hear performers. Town sound ordinance will be followed.
- **Fence** - A wrought iron fence, in keeping with similar fences in the East Lexington historic district, will be installed around the perimeter of the front yard for access and safety. Gates will be located at each sidewalk entrance and staffed during performances.
- **Canopy** will have a peak height of 26' down to 10' pylons to maintain a view of the building from the street with pylon structures remaining year-round and painted green in a similar value as the building.

PARKING & TRAFFIC

Existing parking includes 42 spaces in the **parking lot** behind the arts center, with additional parking along Massachusetts Avenue.

There are 64 free **public lot parking spaces** at the police station, additionally 23 more behind it, and another 41 behind/beside the Town Office Building (all are available after 4:30pm). These spaces are approximately a 3-10 minute walk from the arts center.

The Munroe Center for the Arts is accessible by the MBTA #76 and #62 **buses** (and LexPress weekdays until 4:30pm). There is **bike parking**, and the arts center is accessible to the Minuteman Bikeway with nearby exits at Woburn Street and Seasons Four, each approximately four blocks away on Massachusetts Ave.

Parking information will be published in advance of events on the MCA website and newsletter. Events will be limited to 120 guests and will require **registration** to manage seating and parking.

A *Munroe Center Stage* or community-led performance with a registration of 100 or more attendees will have a **police detail** for traffic control.