Overview
The Western Illinois University Performing Arts Center (PAC) will support the academic mission and programs in the WIU College of Fine Arts and Communication, as well as serve as a cultural and performing arts destination for the campus community, the City of Macomb and the entire region.

The PAC will be the first Macomb campus building constructed with public funds in nearly 40 years. The 130,000-square foot PAC will include a 1,400-seat proscenium theatre auditorium with two balconies, a 250-seat thrust theatre and a 150-seat studio theatre. The facility will also house dance, jazz and theatre rehearsal studios to fulfill the academic mission of the building.

Proscenium Theatre
This theatre will serve as the premier performing arts facility, on campus and in the region, for live theatre performances and major music performances. It will replace WIU’s Western Hall as the theatre and music venue for touring acts. The theatre will feature a modern theatre fly-loft and backstage area, superior sound and lighting systems, acoustic orchestra shell, climate-controlled piano storage and a large loading dock to allow the PAC to accommodate the often complex requirements of touring performances.

Thrust and Studio Theatres
The thrust theatre and the studio theatre will provide smaller, more intimate venues. The thrust theatre will feature fixed floor seating and a small balcony with views of three sides of the stage. It also retains the utility of a backstage area and a technical control booth found in modern thrust theatres.

The studio theatre will provide an extremely versatile rehearsal and performance space with flexible seating options that may be easily configured to facilitate dynamic performance requirements. The thrust theatre will replace a similar facility in Horrabin Hall.

Other Facilities
The PAC will include multiple-use spaces such as the lobby/gallery and a VIP room as well as two dance studios, a jazz rehearsal room, and two theatre rehearsal rooms that will serve those respective academic disciplines. The PAC box office will serve the ticketing needs of the campus and community and will feature ticket sales for all campus events. Dressing rooms adjacent to the theaters, a scenery/design workshop, a costume shop and PAC administrative offices will be located in the new facility. The dean’s offices of the College of Fine Arts and Communication will also relocate to the PAC, freeing much needed space in Browne Hall to allow the Department of Theatre and Dance to expand.

Location
The PAC will occupy a major footprint in the southwest portion of campus along Western Avenue between Browne Hall and the Corbin/Olson complex. The PAC will actually connect to Browne Hall and consolidate performance spaces close to instructional areas in Browne, Memorial and Sallee Halls. Upon completion, the PAC will represent the focal point of a large and dynamic arts and communication campus quad—a unique and distinguishing feature for a regional university.
Naming Opportunities

The PAC will include several commemorative-naming opportunities for the three performance venues, rehearsal spaces, the gallery, scene shop, lounges, VIP room and green rooms. Naming opportunities range from $50,000 to $7.5 million.

Patrons may also purchase commemorative naming rights to seats located in the proscenium and the thrust theatres. Seats in the proscenium theatre range in price from $500 to $1,000 per seat. Seats in the thrust theatre range in price from $250 to $500 per seat. Discounts are available for multiple seat purchases. A commemorative plaque will designate each named seat.

2002
December—Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recommends a $22.5 million FY2004 appropriation for partial PAC construction funding

2004
February—IBHE recommends the first phase of construction funding for PAC for the FY2005 budget

2006
February—$4 million released for the initial architectural and engineering planning
September—Capital Development Board (CDB) and WIU select PAC design team

2007
March—Full funding for the construction of the PAC FY2008 budget

2008
August—Final design concept selected from among three proposed concepts

2009
April—PAC concept design development finalized; begin construction document phase

2011
April—Ceremonial groundbreaking
November—PAC design team presents design finishes and materials concepts to the public

2012
September—LEED Silver Certification submitted for approval to U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
Fall—Award contract (single prime contract)

2013
January—Begin construction

2015
Summer—Complete construction
Fall—Facility Grand Opening

Architects & Design Team

Cannon Design
Pelli, Clarke, Pelli
Theatre Projects Consultants
Kirkegaard Assoc.
Affiliated Engineers Inc.
Thornton Thomassetti Inc.
David Mason Assoc.
Hitchcock Design Group
KJWW Engineering Consultants

Architect of Record
Design Architect
Theatre
A/V & Acoustician
MEP/HVAC & Technology
Structural Engineer
Civil Engineer
Landscape Architect
Commissioning Agent

Chicago, IL
New Haven, CT
Norwalk, CT
Chicago, IL
Madison, WI
Chicago, IL
Chicago, IL
Chicago, IL
Rock Island, IL

Inquiries
Development/Naming Opportunities
College of Fine Arts and Communication
116 Browne Hall
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 298-2620 or (309) 298-1618

Web updates and PAC renderings:
wiu.edu/university_planning/masterplanpac.php

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