



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Campus Facilities Planning Committee
Request for Project Approval Form**

1. **Project Number**
2. **Project Name** **Blaffer Gallery Renovation**
3. **Committee Date** **May 6, 2011**
4. **Requesting Department** **Fine Arts**
5. **Contact Name & Phone Number** **Claudia Schmuckli, x3-9522**
6. **Presenter:** **Claudia Schmuckli**
7. **Description of Request**

Approval of new entry and stair addition at the Blaffer Gallery located in Building 589 – Fine Arts Building

Background Information

The Blaffer Gallery has suffered for years from accessibility and visibility problems because it is nestled inside the Fine Arts Building. The renovation allows us to effectively tackle these challenges and improve internal circulation. The much-needed features of a street-side entrance, a café/lunch room with court yard access, ADA-compliant elevator and restroom, in combination with a new lighting system, new walls and an Art studio-gallery for the award-winning Young Artist Apprenticeship program, will significantly enhance the experience for visitors visiting the Gallery.

Design Overview

Because of a very limited budget, the design team was required to focus on relocation of the stairs; reworking the internal circulation and improving visibility to campus visitors, particularly from Entrance 16.

The interiors of the gallery will be renovated by creating a lobby that connects the new entry with the old courtyard entry. The lobby will have new lights and a new front desk. The new entry is defined by a canopy created by the relocation of the stair to the outside of the building, creating a signature façade easily visible from entrance 16. The relocation of the stairs to the exterior also increases the flexibility of the first and second floor north galleries.

The entry enclosure consists of channel glass and metal cladding. A concrete screening wall, triangular in shape, slopes from the entry until its point disappears at the sidewalk, providing screening for the loading dock.

The old entry on the building courtyard side will be converted into a café-lunch room open to the courtyard. The cafe/lunch room will consist of a small “kitchen” and seating area. The kitchen will have a serving area that can be used during opening nights.

The courtyard will be refreshed with new planting and ornamental pavers and new seating additions.

The courtyard will also include a fixed platform for band performances at art events. Connectors to support a removable canvas projection screen will be mounted on the west courtyard wall.

The second floor renovation will create three distinctive gallery spaces. The current south gallery will be split into two, converting one half of the space into a studio gallery space for outreach programs and the other half into a gallery dedicated to audio visual works of art or film. After the removal of the stairs the north gallery will become a bigger and more flexible space. A connector bridge by the new stair provides privacy to the administrative area by redirecting the visitor gallery circulation away from the internal administrative/staff circulation.

8. Proposed Start Date: Upon approval

Spencer Moore
Executive Director
Facilities Planning & Construction

Melissa Rockwell-Bellini
Executive Director
Facilities Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Attachments



Voting Results:

Motion Failed

Motion Passed

Motion Passed with the Following Modifications:

Motion Deferred to a Future Meeting Pending Receipt of Additional Information:
