

# Investment Fund for Core Needs (IFCN)

## Entry #134

### A. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

**Title: Multi-Purposing Tower 120**

**Project Lead Name:** Natalie Sarrazin  
Department of Theatre and Music Studies

**Project Lead email address:** nsarrazi@brockport.edu

**Amount Requested:** \$10463.62

**Name of Sponsor 1:** Darwin Prioleau  
The Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

**Name of Sponsor 2:**

**Name of Sponsor 3:**

#### A-1. Description of the Initiative

One of most significant issues on campus is a lack of suitable, multipurpose instructional space. This is particularly true for Tower's room 120, which accommodates Theatre and Music Studies, and is home to courses in Arts for Children, Psychology, and many others. Tower 120 is inadequate for the many functions it must accommodate. With a few creative alterations, Tower 120 would become a prime, usable lecture, recording, and alternate performance space, able to enhance its benefit to the College, its students, faculty, and programs.

This grant seeks the following alterations to Tower's Room 120:

Musician and student friendly desk-chairs to alleviate constant furniture changes

A lightweight, movable stage deck for recitals, lec-dems and other events

High-quality speakers for video and audio clarity

Acoustic paneling to reduce decibels for student ensembles to safe levels

Tower 120 serves over 500 students per semester as a lecture hall, rehearsal space, and class-performance venue. Courses using the room include: the College's Music Appreciation course with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (lecture demonstration series on Monday evenings in which RPO musicians perform for the class); Theatre and Politics course (which has a live performance element); Arts for Children activity courses; and Music Studies academic ensembles (rehearsal space for over 170 college students and community members in chorus, orchestra, jazz and contemporary ensembles). It

also serves as a rehearsal space for the theatre's mainstage musicals, senior project rehearsals and the Harlequins student drama group rehearsals and is the meeting space for BSG's Screaming Eagle Records.

In terms of rehearsal and performance space, Tower has only the MainStage or the Black Box, both of which are in almost constant use and require specialists to work the lighting, curtain, raise and lower the stage, and so forth. Having an alternate performance space in Tower 120 with proper seating, a movable stage deck, good speakers and acoustic tiles, would alleviate that problem - giving a high quality performance venue to students, ensembles, speakers, without overburdening the other two performance spaces.

## A-2. Impact Statement: What change will this project deliver in the short term? What are the expected longer term impacts?

This grant seeks enhancements for one of the most used rooms in Tower. Since Tower 120 serves multiple departments and college-community activities. Improving the functionality of the space will have a wide reaching impact on the college community and the community writ large. The impact of these room alterations will: reduce sound to safe levels during music ensemble rehearsals through the installation of acoustic paneling; allow appropriate and flexible seating to accommodate students and promote correct posture for musicians; provide adequate sound reinforcement through speakers so students can listen to and analyze music and understand video presentations for classes; and provide an alternate performance venue for recitals, senior projects, guest speakers, small ensembles, and support performance-based course learning through use of a raised platform.

**Seating:** Tower 120 is used daily for ensemble rehearsals. Changing from a classroom to rehearsal set up and back should be efficient in order to eliminate lost classroom time and rehearsal time. Currently, the room contains two sets of chairs: desk chairs with fixed arms that cannot be used by ensembles and plastic armless chairs that do not support proper posture or playing position for musicians in ensembles. Changing chairs each day takes up to 30 minutes of rehearsal time for setup and break down. Community members and students are required to help, and many have left the ensembles because of this.

Outfitting the room with 80 chairs equipped with foldable desks

Allows students to use one set of chairs in classroom and rehearsal settings that are comfortable and support proper posture for performers and their instruments.

Distributes current desk chairs to other classrooms on campus that need them

Removes stacks of plastic chairs, creating additional space in the room for increased activity, movement, and performances which could accommodate larger "P" classes (e.g. Dalcroze Eurhythmics, which could accommodate approximately 35 students).

**Speakers:** The current JBL speakers are inadequate for teaching and learning in the classroom as they have deteriorated and no longer produce clear sound. The RPO course and many upper division music courses rely on students to hear discrete sounds to analyze.

Acoustic Paneling: Current sound levels during instrumental rehearsals reach as high as 102 dB due to the shape of room 120 and the materials used in its construction. According to the World Health Organization, sustained sound levels over 85 dB are damaging to hearing and lead to long-term hearing loss. At 102 dB the maximum daily exposure should be limited to 10 minutes. Acoustic paneling will greatly reduce the sound levels in room 120 during rehearsals and help prevent student and faculty hearing loss.

Stage Deck: Because this room is used for many types of rehearsals and performance-related theatre and music activity, a lightweight, movable stage deck would be an excellent addition to the room. This would allow conductors and professors to use the platform to direct and teach, and allow visiting RPO musicians, small ensembles, and theatre students or classes with a performative element, to use it as a stage.

## B. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

### B-1. To be a Great College at which to Learn

### B-2. To be a College engaged with its Community

Tower 120 serves multiple departments and college-community activities, including BCCMI, the Brockport College-Community Music Institute geared towards bringing in community participants for music lessons, summer workshops and ensembles. Improving the functionality of the space will have a wide reaching impact on the college community and the community writ large, making it more user-friendly for community members in that the room will be set up prior to rehearsals, and dedicated to performance. The impact of these room alterations will: reduce sound to safe levels during music ensemble rehearsals through the installation of acoustic paneling; allow appropriate and flexible seating to accommodate students and promote correct posture for musicians; provide adequate sound reinforcement through speakers so students can listen to and analyze music and understand video presentations for classes; and provide an alternate performance venue for recitals, senior projects, guest speakers, small ensembles, and support performance-based course learning through use of a raised platform.

### B-3. To be a Sustainable Institution for the 21st Century

### B-4. To be a Great College at which to Work

The impact of these room alterations will: reduce sound to safe levels during music ensemble rehearsals through the installation of acoustic paneling; allow appropriate and flexible seating to accommodate students and promote correct posture for musicians; provide adequate sound reinforcement through speakers so students can listen to and analyze music and understand video presentations for classes; and provide an alternate performance venue for recitals, senior projects, guest speakers, small ensembles, and support performance-based course learning through use of a raised platform.

## C. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET

C-1. Identify the specific activities to be funded from the Investment Fund, estimated time-line for implementation, and for activities anticipated to be ongoing, plans for continued funding.

**Item 1:** Desks with folding arm desks (80 desks)

**Item 1 Amount:** \$3599.99

**Item 2:** JBL speaker monitors (pair)

**Item 2 Amount:** \$338

**Item 3:** Acoustic paneling (80 panels)

**Item 3 Amount:** \$3075.63

**Item 4:** Stage Deck (6 sections)

**Item 4 Amount:** \$3450

**Item 5:**

**Item 5 Amount:** \$

**Item 6:**

**Item 6 Amount:** \$

**Item 7:**

**Item 7 Amount:** \$

**Item 8:**

**Item 8 Amount:** \$

**Item 9:**

**Item 9 Amount:** \$

**Item 10:**

**Item 10 Amount:** \$

**TOTAL EXPENSES, ALL ITEMS:** \$10463.62

**Matching Fund:** \$

**In-Kind Services:** Provide FTE and name of personnel who have committed to in-kind services.

## D. ASSESSMENT PLAN:

### D-1. What are the anticipated outcomes and specific measurements for success?

Anticipated outcomes include:

Increased use of the room for performing arts and college-wide events

Use of the room for student recitals and theatrical productions

A space for BCCMI student recitals and rehearsals

Increased student ability to hear detail in music and video presentations

Decrease in damaging sound levels during rehearsals

More efficient use of rehearsal time due to proper seat arrangement and room set-up

Measurements for success are inherent in an increased use of the room for multiple functions.

We anticipate a tripling of the room's usage for guest speakers, music recitals, student recitals and other Arts and Campus-wide events within the first year.

The acoustic paneling will also enable the room to be used for recording purposes, which is not possible without a reduction in sound levels within the room. Music Studies ensembles, student groups and Screamin' Eagle Records will be able to use the space to record.

BCCMI will be able to hold Institute events, summer program recitals, etc. without having to book the MainStage that is already overbooked.

## E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### E-1. Please provide any additional information to assist in the review of the proposal, including why the initiative cannot be funded from divisional resources.

Tower 120 has been under consideration for many years for potential renovation. Registrar Peter Dowe and Chair Trish Ralph have advocated for some time that these issues be fixed, and each time the initiatives fall through due to changes of administration or lack of funding. Several years back, it was on Provost Huot's list of rooms to be fitted with more flexible furniture, which never materialized. This initiative cannot be funded from divisional resources due to its significant expense which far exceeds normal operating budgets. Since the room is "functional" at the most basic level it is constantly placed at the bottom of importance for divisional resources.

This proposal addresses the most significant issues with Tower 120 from harmful sound levels, to an inadequate sound system for educational use, to dozens of wasted student and faculty hours spent on room set-up, to furniture that does not promote healthy performance habits for student musicians.

Tower 120 is a highly-trafficked multipurpose room that must accommodate a variety of performance and course activities. It serves hundreds of students and multiple departments per semester as it is used for rehearsals, videos, audio listening, arts performances, and student theatre rehearsals. A re-outfitting of this room would allow for significant benefits to the pedagogical and performance needs of the students as well as have residual positive impact on the College as a whole as an acoustically sound performance space.

**Upload up to three supplemental files here (not required):** [On file]

**Signature of Project Lead:** [on file]

**Email:** nsarrazi@brockport.edu

**Signatures of sponsors are on file in the Administration and Finance Division.**

**Sponsor 1 Comments:**

**Sponsor 2 comments:**

**Sponsor 3 Comments:**

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