



Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance



* The New Facility Newsletter *

October 20, 2009

AACTMAD's New Dance Facility is progressing rapidly, and the enthusiasm and excitement among dancers has kept pace. As described below, we have accomplished quite a lot since our Business Plan was rolled out in July.

The Vote

Before making a formal decision on the new Dance Facility at Concourse Drive, the Board held a membership vote to assess the level of support in the organization for the project. The response was overwhelming with nearly 70% of members voting, which meant that dancers clearly care a lot about the new dance space. The final vote tally, held at the August 26 Board Meeting, revealed that 65% of the votes were in favor of the new Dance Facility at Concourse Drive and 35% were opposed. Armed with this strong and compelling result, the Board made the decision to proceed with the project.

The "Bare Walls" Fundraiser

The October 2 Membership Party and "Bare Walls" Fundraiser held at the Concourse Drive building was a great success. The evening program included lots of music and dancing and was an opportunity to see the building renovation in progress. By party time, a flat and level concrete floor had been poured as the base for the sprung wood dance floor. The separation wall between our dance space and the non-AACTMAD area helped define visually how much room there will be for dancing. Wall construction for the equipment storage and meeting rooms and for the insulation of the exterior walls was also underway. With the portable stage set up, a dozen tables, plus strings of lights and lots of decorations, the dance space took shape even in the "bare walls" condition. Gathering and socializing at 7:30 PM included music, dancing, and singing plus performances of Scottish, Morris, and swing. Participatory contra, English Country, International, and swing dancing continued past 11:00 PM, and a late night swing dance party continued until after 3:00 AM. By the end of the evening we collected \$12,389 in cash and \$23,675 in pledges, plus our builder donated the kitchen renovation, estimated to be about \$10,000. Several anonymous donors made a combined pledge to match all of these donations, bringing the evening's fundraising total to \$92,128! With the \$62,850 raised prior to October 2, the total fundraised amount was \$154,978, over halfway to our goal of \$300,000. Since then, additional cash donations and pledges now bring our fundraising total to \$240,000. These funds are now sufficient to complete the renovation. Our "Bare Walls" Fundraising Party and other fundraising efforts have been very successful, but we have more fundraising to do. We still need funds to cover operating expenses during the first year start-up period. Please consider giving a donation using the attached pledge form.

The Renovation

With the renovation design and blueprints in hand, the construction work began very soon after the Board decided to move forward with the project. In the three weeks since the "Bare Walls" Fundraising Party, significant progress has continued: Most of the electrical wiring was roughed in including a new electrical feed to the building. The HVAC unit was installed on the roof, as has much of the ductwork. The stairway to the second floor balcony and office/library area was constructed, and the big garage door has been removed to allow for the glass door installation.



A view from the Balcony A. Liskow (c) 2009.

In addition to the renovation, a major task is to plan the logistics of managing the use of the space. This plan will include our current activities as well as many new AACTMAD activities and events that will use the dance space when it is ready. Our plan will accommodate growth of our organization and make the space available to third party users. In other words, we will implement our Business Plan.



Stairs to the Balcony A. Liskow (c) 2009.

Legal Agreements

Although the Business Plan was modeled on a 10% AACTMAD ownership in the Concourse property, we are now pursuing a 50% ownership. The small financial risk of this increased ownership is very much outweighed by the benefits of equal ownership from legal and logistics considerations. To accomplish this, the Purchase Agreement, Operating Agreement, and Lease documents are in the final round of review by our legal counsel and should be ready to execute by Board by end of October.

Questions? Send an email to facilities@aactmad.org or contact Nawal Motawi, nawalandglen@tds.net, or Mark Hillemonds, mhillemonds@comcast.net.



Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance New Facility Campaign Pledge Form

To help renovate and secure a new Facility to better perpetuate, preserve, and promote traditional music, dance, and song, my / our contribution is:



- \$200
- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$2,500

- \$5,000
- \$10,000
- \$20,000
- \$ _____ Other



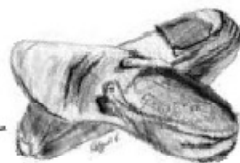
Payment

- My full contribution is enclosed.
- Please bill me for 4 quarterly payments. My first installment of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Please bill me for 8 quarterly payments. My first installment of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Recognition

- Please list my/our name(s) in the following way in acknowledgement of this gift:

- This gift is in honor of in memory of



My Contact Information

Name(s)

Street Address

City/State Zip

E-mail

Phone

Today's Date

Please make checks payable to:

AACTMAD

Mail checks and pledge forms to:

AACTMAD Facility Campaign

4531 Concourse Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Please direct questions to:

facilities@aactmad.org