

Testimony of Mayor John M. Picard
City of West Haven

Proposed Bill No. 5016
AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE
TO THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN FOR THE WEST HAVEN ARTS CENTER.

Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

I am in support of Proposed Bill No. 5016 which will authorize \$1 million in bond funding for the transformation of the old Masonic Hall located in our central business district into the West Haven Arts Center.

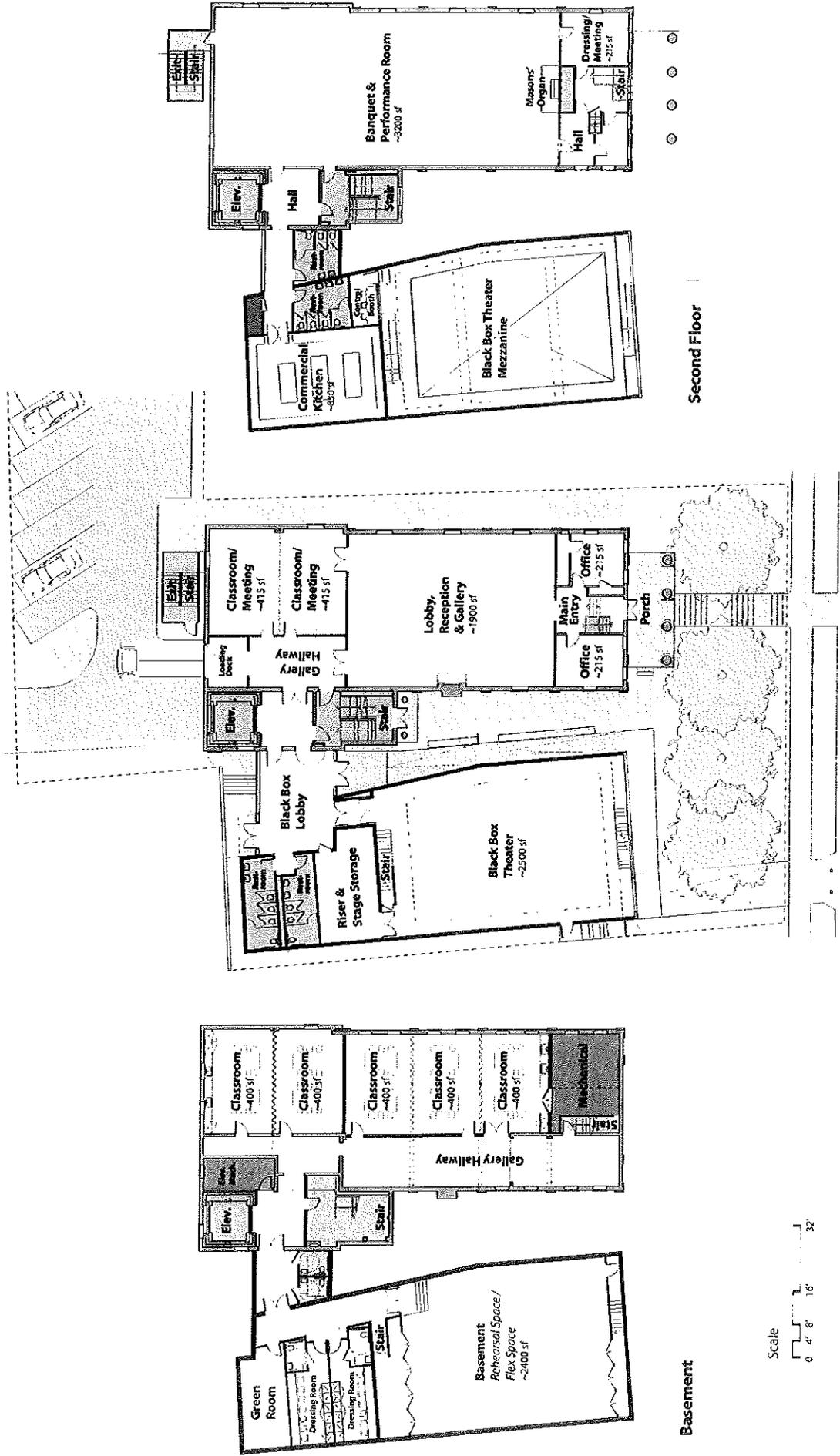
In 2007, the City of West Haven purchased the Masonic Hall on Center Street, an early 20th Century Structure located in the heart of downtown West Haven. This purchase was the initial step in the creation of a first-class Arts Center that acts as an effective engine for investment in and redevelopment of downtown West Haven.

Since then, the City has secured and dedicated resources from a variety of partners to move this project forward. The building's interior has been gutted and all hazardous building materials have been removed or abated. A new, energy-efficient roof has been installed that includes solar panels that will contribute power to the facility. The schematic design phase of the architectural redevelopment has been completed, reflecting the knowledge and talents of local arts agencies and faculty members from Yale and the University of New Haven.

The Arts Center is located only one half-mile from West Haven's new \$100 million train station, scheduled for completion in Spring, 2013. The City is in the process of developing a Transit Oriented Development District Master Plan for the area surrounding the Train Station, and completion of the Arts Center is a critical element to developing a natural link from the Station to downtown West Haven.

The new Arts Center will be home to many artistic endeavors including children's educational programs, plays, lecture series, local artist displays, rehearsal space for adults and senior civic chorus and orchestra, and will house a summer youth theater program. The Center will be a dynamic environment, constantly displaying new art and artists on a rotating basis, and will serve as an economic draw which will bring people back to our downtown and assist in the redevelopment of area businesses.

I hope you will consider a favorable vote for Proposed Bill No. 5016. Thank you for your time and attention.



Basement

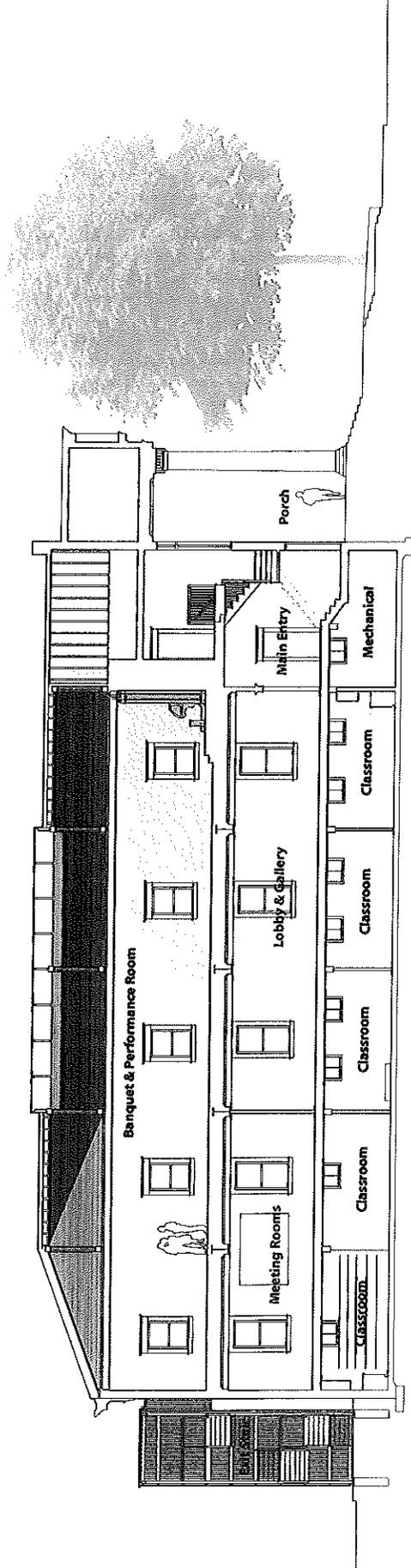
First Floor

Second Floor

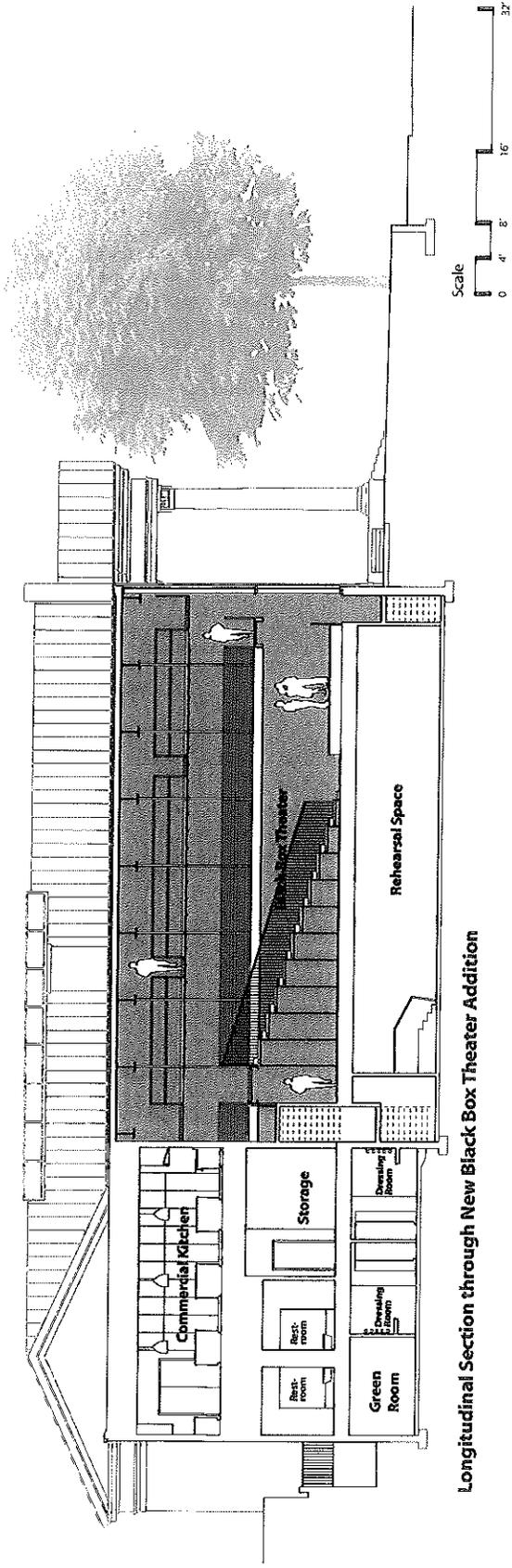
Proposed Floor Plans West Haven Center for the Arts

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 Department of Economic Development, Office of Cultural Affairs



Longitudinal Section through Existing Masonic Temple Building



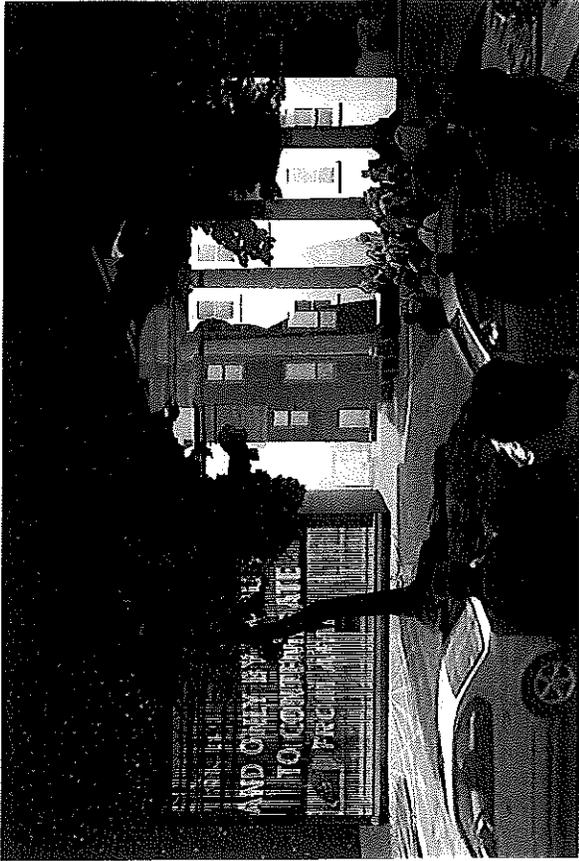
Longitudinal Section through New Black Box Theater Addition

Proposed Sections through Black Box West Haven Center for the Arts

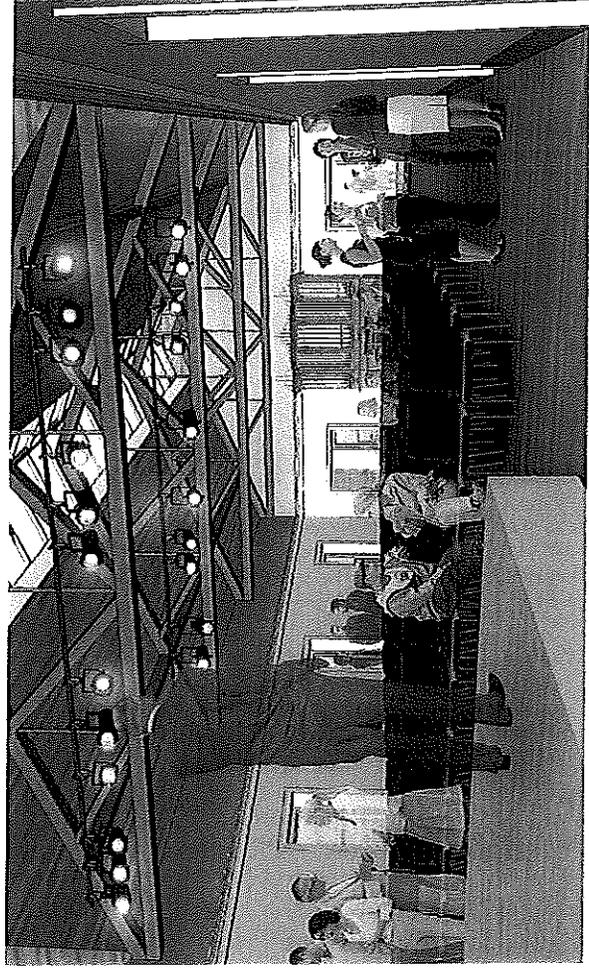
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Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
 Department of Economic Development, Office of the Secretary

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Night view of the Center for the Arts from Center Street



Interior view of the Performance & Banquet Room in the former Masons' Lodge Room



Interior view of the Black Box Theater during the day - set for a public discussion

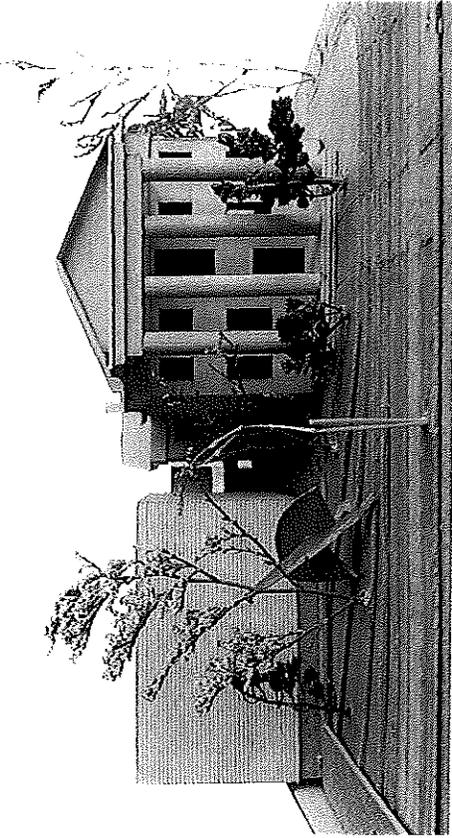


Interior view of the Black Box Theater during the evening - set for a performance

Renderings West Haven Center for the Arts

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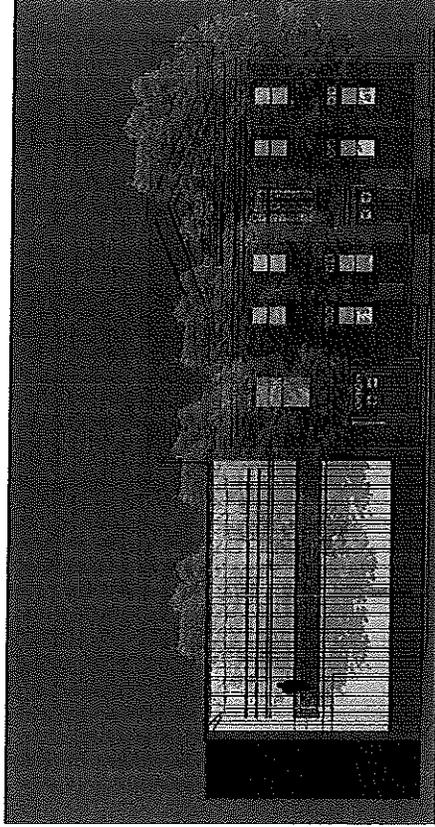
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
 The West Haven Center for the Arts is a project of the West Haven Center for the Arts, Inc. 1000 West Street, West Haven, CT 06490



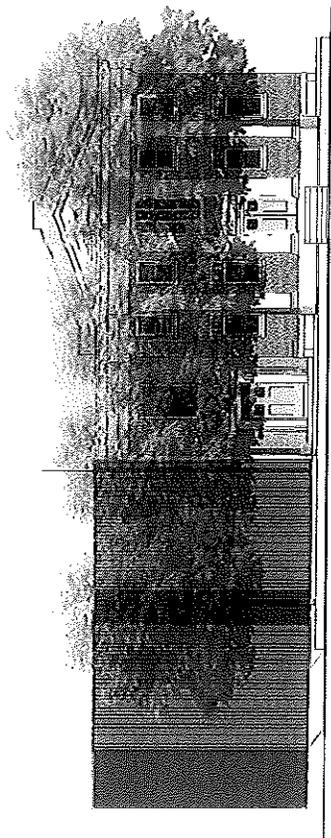
Model Photo - View from Center Street



Cross Section of New and Existing Buildings



North Elevation - Nighttime



North Elevation - Daytime

Elevations and Sections West Haven Center for the Arts

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