

A Unified Creative Community: UF College of the Arts RTS Facility Proposal

Context:

With the twenty-first century came a number of transformations in American and global culture that, in turn, have transformed public higher education. Among these are a new focus placed on creativity and interdisciplinarity to drive innovation and address grand challenges, which has challenged both the disciplinary barriers within higher education as well as universities' relationships within the communities they serve. While this manifests differently from field to field, within this new reality ***the Artist has become a collaborative and community asset, an interdisciplinary resource, and a professional agent of aesthetic, social, physical, environmental, and economic change***. Arts colleges are working to secure the resources, facilities, spaces, and community relationships to reflect this new and transformative reality.

Goal:

The UF College of the Arts' seeks to provide relevant, community-facing and collaborative training for students within the above context. Securing this facility would allow UF College of the Arts to:

- Capitalize on the City of Gainesville and Alachua County's strategic investments in downtown Gainesville and further our joint goal of an activated, economically and creatively thriving community
- Better serve numerous not-for-profits, local government agencies, local arts organizations, and businesses
- Provide the greater Gainesville community opportunities to engage meaningfully with leading artists
- Provide students opportunities in community-engaged curricula and training to remain competitive with peer institutions
- Create an "arts village" of makers and experts

Occupants and Uses

- Undergraduate student studios
- Graduate student studios
- Art faculty individual studios
- Community-facing collision environment for making, instruction, dance/performance, and community-partnerships/workshops/events
- Art Education
- Critique and gallery space

