



The Cinema, at the Film & Media Arts department, University of Utah

The Cinema at the Film & Media Arts department was envisioned as a conduit where the film interests of Salt Lake residents meet the interests of film students and teachers. My predecessor hoped that Sundance, The Film Center, Slamdance and others would use the Cinema in a way that benefits both communities, and the Film & Media Arts department would use the Cinema to speak directly to the larger community.

As first imagined the remodel of the space would also have provided office space for the department. As the responsible parties worked towards a design that would accommodate both new uses of the space it became increasingly clear that we needed a lot more money to accomplish all of our goals. I believe that was the direction we were moving in when we asked for an extension (to January 2025).

As the current steward of the Cinema project, it seemed obvious to me that we were risking losing sight of our original inspiration for creating a Cinema and that it looked increasingly like we might fail to build a facility with such great potential as first imagined. So, after consultation with Mark Grabl, the project manager and John Scheib, Dean of the College of fine arts we readjusted our plan and changed the scope of the project to include only the Cinema. This Cinema will have:

- Better Acoustics
- A first-rate Digital Projector and DCP (Digital Cinema Package) system
- Theatrical quality 35mm film projection
- Theatrical quality 16mm film projection
- Big Screen/Wide Screen capacity
- Motion Picture Theater Seating
- Easier and better access for all people of all abilities
- More space specifically for wheelchairs
- A new light tight and sound proofed entrance and vestibule designed to make the audience experience perfect even when some come late to the show.

The Cinema project will not include offices or any other multi-purpose space. We can build it with the resources we currently have control over (2.6 million dollars, 150,000 of which comes from the TRCC). The project manager believes we can begin construction in May 2025 and finish in time to use the facility in the Fall of 2025.

We're back on track to accomplishing our original goals and doing it in a timely fashion.

— Kevin Hanson, Chair

Film * & Media Arts