

## University of Nevada, Reno: University Arts Building

The new, energy-efficient 42,500 SF University Arts Building emerges as the epicenter for the University's School of the Arts, opening the way for enhanced musical and visual arts. The three-story facility features a 287-seat recital hall, museum of art, fabrication (fab) lab, electroacoustic composition (EAC) lab, soundproof rehearsal spaces, music practice rooms, faculty office spaces, and a recording studio. Combining these spaces into a single building creates opportunities for learning, collaboration, and partnerships.

Engaging the topography of the site, the design forms an active outdoor plaza that links to campus pedestrian walkways and preserves a large grass hill. A raised walkway connects the original Church Fine Arts building with the new facility, bridging the University's legacy with its newest chapter of expanded visual and performing arts programs. Upon entering the University Arts Building, visitors are greeted by a multitiered lobby, connecting to the plaza, street, and bridge levels and serving as a hub and showcase for performance, display, and learning.

The **recital hall** employs diffusive wood and seating arrangements that simultaneously foster enhanced acoustics and provide opportunities for flexible teaching configurations. The hall's narrow bowl shape creates reverberation and the effect of being enveloped by sound. Lower wooden walls in the space are highly diffusive, broadcasting sound in many directions; upper side walls conceal variable acoustic drapery and acoustic diffusive panels. To accommodate a variety of performance needs, the room can be tuned and adjusted for reverb time without impacting the warm wood aesthetic. The recital hall's wraparound balcony affords audiences a unique perspective and can also provide students closer views of musician hand positions and conductor gestures.

The **EAC lab**, a first-of-its-kind in Nevada, is highly flexible, with deeply embedded technology and infrastructure that allow for a wide array of digital music composition, playback, and enhanced cross-discipline collaboration between musicians, and students in video production, visual arts, and engineering. The window into the corridor gives students a chance to see the process live without being in the room, furthering the University's principle of exposing the arts to a larger audience. Designed as a utilitarian workshop, the **fab lab** offers a working area and display area, bound by glass and jutting into the plaza level lobby allowing a strong connection to and understanding of the making of art.

The **Lilley Museum of Art** features atmospheric and security protocols necessary to house and display oversized objects, antique and climate-sensitive artworks, and items of significant value, improving the University's ability to borrow artwork from collectors and museums and to show more works from its permanent collection. An extension of the lobby, the museum allows patrons to connect with the art while attending a music performance. Its north-facing position allows abundant daylight to enter the upper level and creates a front porch effect at the lower level. At night, the north-facing window creates a beacon of light, illuminating the art objects and giving the effect that the building is glowing with artwork.