

# MSU INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

## PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

<b>Title</b>	VCB Photo Space Renovation	<b>Request Date</b>	12/20/2011
<b>Department</b>	School of Film & Photography	<b>Email</b>	rfarnold@montana.edu
<b>Requestor</b>	Ian van Coller/Robert Arnold	<b>Phone</b>	406-994-7588

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

**Core Themes and Objectives (check all that apply)**

### Educate Students

- Our graduates will have achieved mastery in their major disciplines
- Our graduates will become active citizens and leaders
- Our graduates will have a multicultural and global perspective
- Our graduates will understand the ways that knowledge & art are created and applied in a variety of disciplines
- Our graduates are prepared for careers in their field
- We will provide increased access to our educational programs
- Communities and external stake holders benefit from broadly defined education partnerships with MSU

### Create Knowledge and Art

- Students, faculty, and staff will create knowledge and art that is communicated widely

### Serve Communities

- We help meet a fundamental need of the citizens of Montana by providing degree programs for our students
- We help meet the educational needs of the citizens of Montana by providing a wide range of educational opportunities to a variety of students
- Our students, faculty, staff, and administrators reach out to engage and serve communities
- Our students, faculty, staff, and administrator reach in to build the university community

### Integrate Learning, Discovery, and Engagement

- Each graduate will have had experiences that integrate learning, discovery and engagement
- Outreach activities will educate students and address the needs of the communities we serve
- Students, faculty, and staff will create knowledge and art that addresses societal needs
- MSU is a community that will be characterized by synergy within and across disciplines, roles and functions.

### Stewardship

- The public trusts the institution to operate openly and use resources wisely
- The faculty and staff are well-qualified and supported
- MSU will support Native American students, programs, and communities
- MSU will be an inclusive community, supporting and encouraging diversity
- Our publicly provided resources are used efficiently and effectively
- Natural resources are used efficiently and sustainably
- MSU nurtures a culture of resource conservation and ecological literacy among students, faculty and staff
- Our physical infrastructure (e.g., building, equipment, open spaces) will be well-maintained and useful

**INSITUTIONAL BENEFIT**

**Campuses**       Bozeman     Billings     Havre     Great Falls     FSTS     Extension     MAES

**Cross Depts**      Please List:

**TIMEFRAME**

**Proposed Dates**      Start:                  ASAP                          End:

**COST AND REQUIREMENTS**

Funding Type	One-Time (\$)	Multi-Year (\$)			Base (\$)	FTE
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		
Personnel (w/benefits)						
Materials & Supplies						
Travel						
Contracted Services						
Capital	\$158,022*					
Other Operations						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$158,022*</b>					

\*Based on 2007 project estimate. Costs will be higher but the scope of the work in the initial plan has also changed in ways that would reduce overall costs.

Detailed budget information included in proposal description below.

Please comment, if necessary, regarding cost and requirements.

**SCHOOL OF FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY (SFP) PHOTO LAB RENOVATION PROPOSAL**

RE: Request for funds for the remodeling of outdated purpose-built space into a multi-use classroom/workroom to accommodate the current and future needs of the photography program and provide more classroom scheduling flexibility to the School of Film and Photography.

### Project Overview

The Visual Communications Building opened in 1985 with spaces designed for state-of-the-art film and photographic practices. The rapid development of digital technology in the past decade has fundamentally changed how photography is taught and explored, however, and some of the purpose-built spaces in VCB now provide very limited utility. Newer production methods required conversion of classroom space into dedicated lab space. These related changes have occurred at a time when space needs have increased enormously. Current and future instruction and exploration in photography requires additional, more flexible space than currently exists in VCB, while a large volume of space in VCB is now under-utilized due to its limited functionality. Specifically, an area that is compartmentalized into 16 small individual photographic darkrooms no longer serves the needs of our students but is useful for little else. Converting half of this space into a single, large, multi-use classroom/workroom will meet current needs and provide flexibility for future needs, and alleviate some of the classroom scheduling problems in the School of Film and Photography.

In recent years the photographic industry has gone through radical changes as advances in technology have resulted in a transition from traditional ('wet' darkroom) media to new digital (computer based) media. The traditional way of chemically processing color prints required individual, light-tight, darkrooms. Eighteen of these individual darkrooms were provided in the original design of VCB. With most color photography now being done digitally, however, these individual wet darkrooms are underutilized. These spaces can be renovated and converted into a single, more flexible environment for teaching and exploring different modes of photography transcending the physical barriers between traditional wet darkroom processes and new digital technologies. This renovation aligns with the mission of the School of Film and Photography to provide opportunities to students to understand Film and Photography as evolving contemporary arts and technologies rooted in history.

In alignment with MSU's strategic goals of educating students and promoting discovery, facilitating the production of knowledge and art, in addition to our stewardship responsibility to maintain useful physical resources, our physical resources must evolve in relation to changes in our disciplines. There have been few changes in any discipline as profound as the impact of digital technology upon photography. Current and future learning and discovery requires more flexible spaces and more collaborative learning environments. Twenty-seven year old purpose-built spaces are an obstacle to achieving the best use of our resources to facilitate instruction and learning.

Renovation Plan

The project proposes to convert one side (8 individual darkrooms, rooms 111-121) of the current advanced darkroom cluster into a single workspace/classroom. The renovation plan involves the removal of walls, moving of darkroom sinks, re-plumbing, and installing updated ventilation. Essentially, the space that is now broken up into individual darkrooms would be opened up into a single communal teaching and production space. The plan also includes flexible lighting for critical evaluation of photographs, and an overhead LCD projector and projection screen.

The department has had preliminary but detailed plans drawn up in 2007 for the proposed renovation. The estimate of \$158,022.00 is for a well conceived plan that will give us a teaching space that will be an effective learning space for students and serve us well into the future.

**Budget Summary (based on 2007 estimate)**

Construction Costs:	101,691
Consultant Fees:	20,338
Bidding Costs:	900
Project Contingency Fee:	19,505
Project Administration Fees:	4,487
Furniture	4,000
Digital projector and screen, etc.	<u>7,101</u>

**Total Estimated Cost:** \$158,022

The consultant fees, bidding costs, project administration fees, and contingency fees are all MSU-required charges.

## **PROPOSAL SCOPE**

### **Describe the broader impacts and benefits of this proposal**

The proposed renovation will permit the School of Film and Photography to perform its core goals of education, discovery, engagement, and the production of knowledge and art, better. As film and photography have evolved and have been transformed by the introduction of digital technologies since the construction of the Visual Communications Building, our ability to keep pace with these changes and to provide optimum environments to explore these art forms and produce knowledge of them and art using them, has become limited by the design of our facilities. Converting under-utilized, outdated, purpose-built space into flexible, multi-use space, will enhance our ability to achieve the mission of the School of Film and Photography and contribute to the Core themes of Montana State University in concrete ways.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Implementation Plan *(Please describe with timelines)*

This project can begin at any time, the sooner the better. Ideally, the renovation would be performed during summer to reduce the need to schedule classes elsewhere.

### Assessment Plan *(Please describe with indicators)*

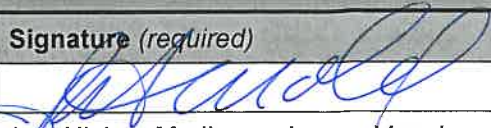
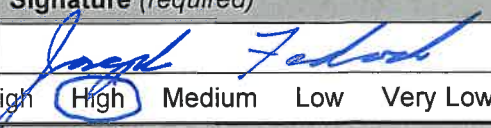
We would expect the quality of instruction and the quality of student performance to improve, evident in evaluations of teaching performance and learning assessment data.

A frequent theme of student evaluation comments in our courses relates to the (perceived) quality of our facilities and equipment. Students recognize that their education and creativity is enhanced or limited by the resources available to them, independent of the quality of instruction. The need for more flexible space in photography is clearly evident in student comments. We would expect this to change in a positive direction.

Otherwise, it is hard to imagine how a more flexible, open space will ever become less useful than the compartmentalized spaces that will be replaced. As our needs continue to evolve, the different uses served by the renovated space will provide a positive indication of the value of the project.

### **If assessed objectives are not met in the timeframe outlined, what is the plan to sunset this proposal?**

It is difficult to imagine how a more flexible, open space will ever become less useful than the compartmentalized spaces that will be replaced. As our needs continue to evolve, the different uses served by the renovated space will provide a positive indication of the value of the project.

SIGNATURES					
Department Head (please print)	Signature (required)			Date	
Robert Arnold				12/22/11	
Dept Head Priority (please circle one):	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Dean/Director (please print)	Signature (required)			Date	
Joseph Fedock				12/30/11	
Dean/Director Priority (please circle one):	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Executive/VP (please print)	Signatures (required)			Date	
Executive/VP Priority (please circle one):	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low