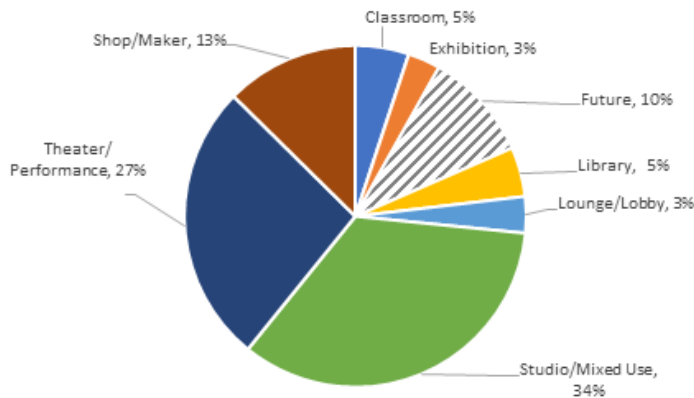


Brown University

Brown Arts Initiative Space Utilization Analysis

Providence, Rhode Island



Project Information

Completion Date
December 2020

Services Provided
Instructional Space Utilization Analysis

In September 2020, Brown University engaged Rickes Associates to conduct a utilization analysis of its primary arts-related instructional, event, and amenity spaces, as part of a broader assessment of all University arts-related spaces.

The utilization assessment of Brown's primary arts-related spaces was undertaken concurrently with other University efforts focusing on staffing needs and shop-related functions. Guided by four interrelated strategic principles, each intended to nurture the future flourishing of arts-related instruction, research, and programming at a moment of significant change for the University, these initiatives sought to:

- Strengthen management of arts facilities as a common good
- Foster expanded and transparent access to space and programs
- Promote equity and inclusion across arts units at Brown
- Support excellence and dynamism of current and future instruction and programming

In order to illustrate how spaces were utilized, Rickes Associates amalgamated several key data sets, including Registrar course scheduling data, departmental scheduling data, and arts-related space inventory data for roughly 120,000 ASF distributed across 21 buildings on Brown's historic campus. Review and synthesis of these data sets resulted in a composite snapshot of formal utilization for all spaces within the purview of this analysis.

As a complement to the scheduling analysis, a series of 10 interviews were conducted with key faculty, staff, and student stakeholders in order to better understand issues relating to space use, condition, and scheduling factors. A survey of roughly 40 faculty and staff affiliated with arts-related disciplines was also initiated in order to provide perspective about current space and scheduling opportunities and challenges, interdisciplinary collaboration, and unmet space needs.

Developed in partnership with key University stakeholders, targeted recommendations emerging from these efforts centered on removal of impediments to access, optimizing use of existing spaces, and resolving unmet space needs, all in support of the project's guiding principles.