

Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod and Members of the committee:

For the record my name is Ethan Seltzer and I'm an Emeritus Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at PSU. I'm here today asking for your support for PSU's Gateway Center and a new home for PSU's school of Art+Design.

During my years at PSU I had the privilege of serving at different times as both the Director of the School of Urban Studies and Planning and of the School of Art+Design. Both schools are home to nationally ranked programs, and both schools have deep ties to the community and to employers in the region.

The School of Urban Studies and Planning was fortunate to move into wonderful new space in 2000, the Urban Center Building. The impact has been amazing, providing students with a home-base on campus, locating all faculty with each other, and providing the kinds of work spaces, resources, and classrooms that keep programs at the forefront of their fields and that help to recruit highly sought faculty and students.

Now it's time to do the same for the School of Art+Design. Currently faculty are spread around the campus in 4 different locations, the only unit at PSU where faculty are not able to share the same space and see each other on a daily basis. Students have nowhere to gather, no places to store their work. The current facilities were, in most cases, never designed for the uses they're required to serve.

Today, the School of Art+Design is the 5th largest program, by number of majors, at PSU. It also engages a steady stream of designers and artists from the community as adjuncts, recruiters, and as visiting speakers and critics, and what they see is far below the industry standards that they're used to.

Fortunately, the Art+Design community at PSU is a strong and resilient one. About 70% of our students come to PSU as transfer students. Over 40% of our students are under-represented minorities and many are first-generation college students. The programs in Art+Design are magnets for motivated and entrepreneurial students. We want the very best from them, and they do not disappoint.

Simply put, the Gateway Center will be a gateway to higher education, to new partnerships, and to competitiveness. We're very good already but the Gateway Center will create the kind of space needed by our faculty and students to innovate and to reach the next level. With your support, we can make it so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.