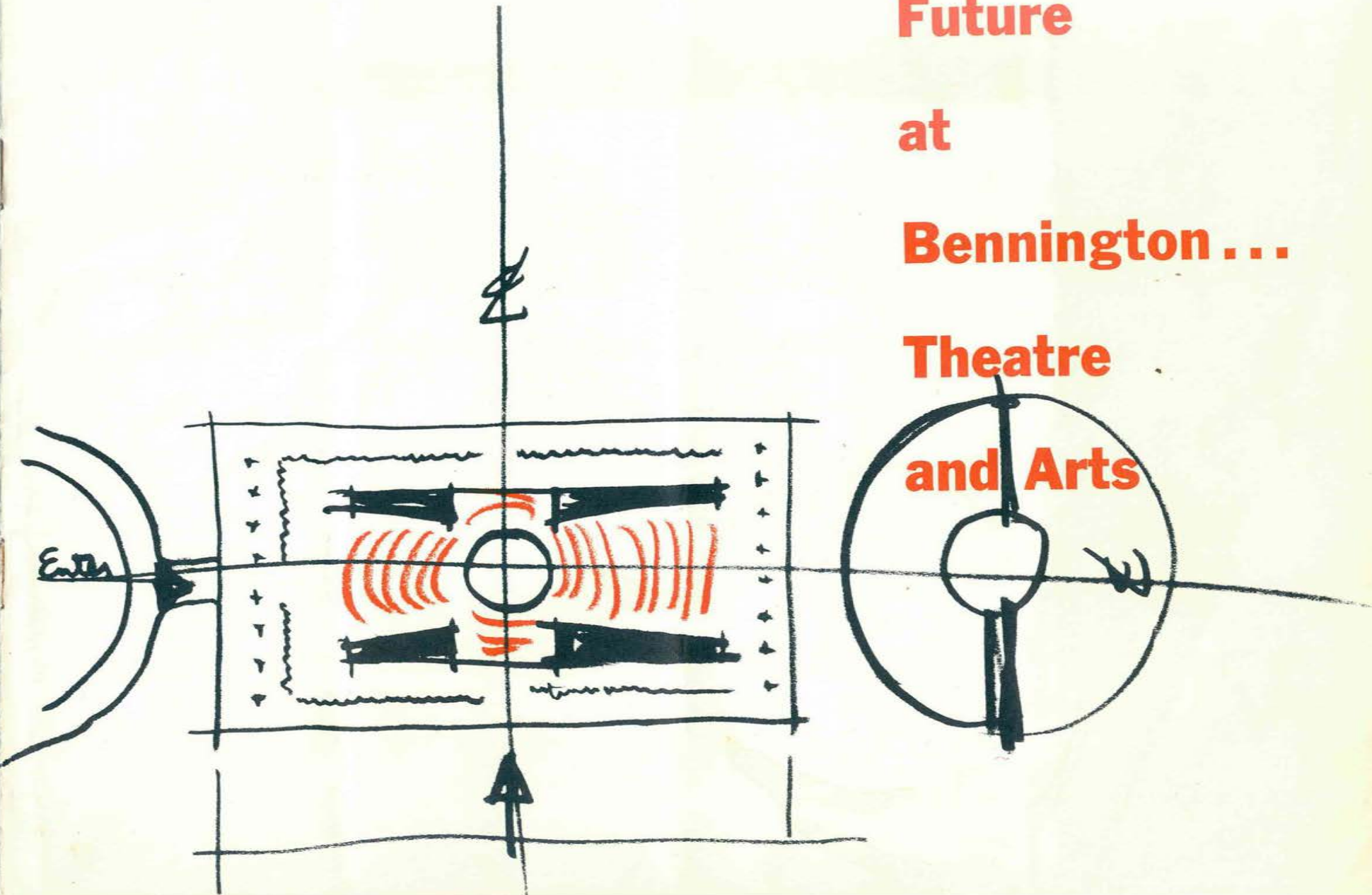


**Future
at
Bennington...**

**Theatre
and Arts**



Twenty-five years ago Bennington College made educational history by

placing creative work in the arts on an equal footing with the more traditional subjects

in the belief that through the arts the lasting values of civilization are revealed. Through

a program which has attracted to its faculty a large group of outstanding artists who are

also experienced teachers, the College has become a center of creative activity in the arts.

We are proud of the part Bennington continues to play in restoring the arts to their

rightful place in education and in the public mind.

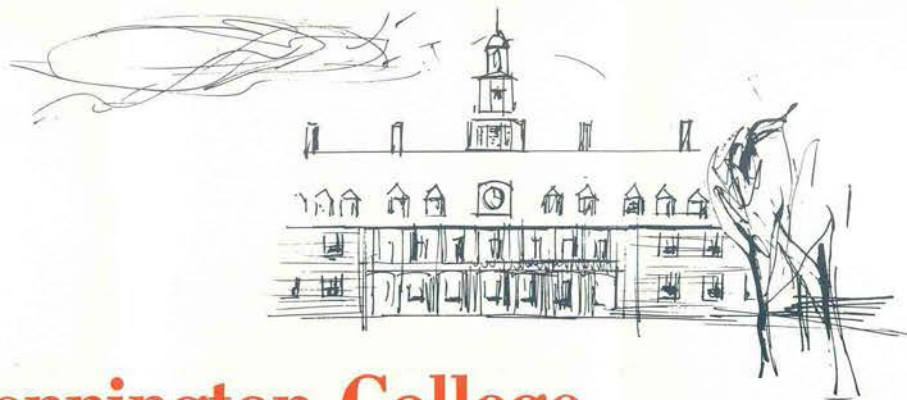
The Bennington idea has received increasing recognition. Poets, painters,

playwrights and composers have become teachers on many campuses. This has great significance for the national community. Now a whole generation of Americans forms a new audience for the theatre, music and the visual arts, an audience with greater understanding and awareness of what the artist is trying to express as well as a greater desire to see and hear it.

An ever increasing segment of our population has a knowledge of past forms and traditions and a new concept of the significant role the arts can play in the world at large. This must, of necessity, have a healthy effect on standards of performance and the level of national taste.

In this day of specialization the problems of communication are becoming increasingly

difficult. We believe that only through the creative media the student in any field can escape his isolation and again find his relationship to a common human purpose. Today, as our leaders look at our nation's position in the world and search for methods to increase our prestige and demonstrate our way of life to a sometimes hostile world, the arts become a potent weapon in world diplomacy, for the language of the arts is internationally understood, and in them we find our newest and most influential ambassadors.



Bennington College

opened its doors in 1932, on a converted farm, without endowment, and without reserves. Its strength lay in the vigor and soundness of its educational ideas. In twenty-five years, Bennington has made a name for itself as an outstanding liberal arts college for women, with a unique educational program.

The goal of Bennington College is the education of intellectually and emotionally mature young women, capable of independent thinking, who will be prepared to continue their education throughout their adult lives and who are morally aware of their responsibility to participate constructively as citizens in a modern democratic society. This concept of the development of the whole person is a cardinal principle of education at Bennington and it is toward this end that the arts have been given a substantial place in the curriculum.

Last year, proud of its record and confident in the support of its friends, the College embarked on its first major fund-raising campaign since it was founded. A \$2,000,000 25th Anniversary Fund was started. Some of the important needs of the College have now been met as the half-way mark of the Fund is reached. The College has been able to improve the salary level of its faculty, and to make its scholarship program more secure.

The concern of this committee is to raise a fund of \$1,000,000 to build and to provide maintenance for a Theatre and Arts Center for Bennington—a building to house talents already at work; facilities to increase the scope of the present program in the performing and visual arts. The need is urgent!

The present theatre at Bennington is housed in a third floor walk-up loft.

It still has the same stage, lighting equipment, scene and costume shops which were improvised twenty-five years ago.

- The auditorium seats little more than half the college community on benches and folding chairs and must also serve as dance classroom and rehearsal space. Ventilation is poor. Acoustics are bad.
- There is no hall or gallery for the proper exhibition of student and professional works of art.
- The fact that exciting theatre, music, dance and art have been produced in spite of these inadequacies testifies to the vigor and ingenuity of faculty and students.



The need is urgent

Many purposes will be served by this Theatre and Arts Center:

an auditorium A general meeting place for college functions—lectures, forums, entertainments.
750 seats

A theatre—for productions in all performing arts by faculty and students, with professionally equipped stage and shops.

A center—for performances by visiting professional theatre companies, dancers, musicians.

A home for future festivals of the arts.

art gallery A gallery for the exhibition of painting, sculpture, graphic arts.

rehearsal rooms As workshops, studios, rehearsal rooms.

studios As a laboratory for experiment in new and old media of communication—
theatre, radio, television and films.

It is a privilege and a duty for those who know and understand the importance of the

arts in education and in the world at large to support in any way they can the development of new centers in which creative experience can be nurtured. Bennington College is one of the few campuses which offers such an opportunity.

- The Bennington idea continues to go forward as a pilot program—testing and proving both new methods in teaching and new art forms. At this time its most urgent need is for patrons who will assure for Bennington that the idea will be maintained and strengthened in the years ahead.
- The new building which is planned will offer memorial opportunities in order that individuals and families may create significant and lasting testaments to their effective interest in education and the arts.
- Scholarships may be established.
- Endowments may be made to bring to Bennington outstanding artists and teachers in the performing and visual arts.
- It will cost \$1,000,000 to build and maintain the Bennington Theatre Arts Center.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE, Bennington, Vermont

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