

OCT 27 1959

DEBEVOISE, PLIMPTON & McLEAN

20 EXCHANGE PLACE

NEW YORK 5

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TELEPHONE  
DIGBY 4-9400  
CABLE ADDRESS: DEBSTEVE

October 23, 1959

Mr. William C. Fels  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Bill:

Now that the library is so magnificently and successfully behind us, I think it is time to start active planning on a building for the performing arts, including the community theatre.

While, in a sense, this anticipates a conclusion which I am confident will be reached by Jessie Emmet's special committee, namely, that such a building is required, I think it exceedingly desirable to get started on accumulating some of the preliminary information in order to save as much time as possible.

Maybe I am overly optimistic, but, as you know, I am not concerned about the availability of money for this building. By the time we are ready actually to let out contracts for the building of it, I believe we will find that we have the funds.

In any event, it might be useful to begin some of the preliminary planning and obtain the thoughts of the Art, Drama and Dance Departments, for example, as to how much space and of what kind they would desire.

My objective is to be able, before the academic year is out, to commission architects to work on preliminary drawings and site selection.

Mr. William C. Fels

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October 23, 1959

I do hope you don't think that this is too precipitate, but I sensed what a tremendous lift the new library has given to the College and I would like to keep the momentum going by working actively for the theatre building.

All my best.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Oscar". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "O" and a cursive "scar".

Oscar M. Ruebhausen

cc Mrs. Richard S. Emmet

November 16, 1959

William Alton, Drama  
Ruth Carrier, Dance  
Tony Smith, Art

Lisa Tate  
(Admin. Asst., President's office)

The enclosed copy of a recent letter from Oscar Ruebhausen should be self-explanatory and encouraging to you and your respective Divisions. Mr. Fels thinks you should start talking now about what each Division would need and like to have in such a new building. Please let this office know how your initial plans are progressing before you leave campus for Christmas vacation - or come in any time before then if you have questions.