



joshua m. freeman center for the arts

selbyville, delaware

The Freeman Center for the Arts has been designed as a unique convertible venue to satisfy the needs of both a summer based resort community / area and a year round agricultural community. Interviews were conducted with scores of regional artists, local and national presenters and community leaders to ascertain their needs. Additionally numerous town hall meetings were held wherein not only members of cultural or civic entities participated but also members of the community at large who voiced their opinions as to what types of activities and venues were most needed in the area.

At the same time over several recent summers the Freeman Foundation presented everything from plays produced by area schools to major headliners like Sheryl Crow in their existing modest venue to crowds from a few hundred to 2,500 (with the help of a temporary bleacher system for the major acts) all with a constant fear of rain outs as only a 20' x 40' stage area was covered.

The one of a kind transformable solution created will serve as an enclosed theater for 500 persons with a stepped audience chamber, a flat floor venue for dinners for 350 to 400 persons (non-existent currently in the community) a tiered cabaret setting or as 500 seats under cover when the venue opens to include 2000 additional lawn seats for the summer series. In addition several hundred seats will be partially under cover sheltered by the walls when they are in the up and open position. The planning of the overall venue / site allows for the creation of a large entrance plaza facing the entry road into the Bayside Community and an education / administration area. These program elements share an entrance area with the main performance venue and help define a street edge relating to a future mixed use downtown core for the overall community. The architecture complements the overall aesthetic of the community yet through the use of extensive glazing and varied forms and materials announces itself as a special building within the overall resort community and region.

Project Information

Area:	38,500 sq. ft.
Scope:	New Construction
Services:	Complete Architectural Services
Completion Date:	2014 (study)
Client:	Joshua M. Freeman Foundation
Contact:	Patti Grimes 302.436.3015
Contractor:	TBD
Construction Cost	TBD

