

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**Fletcher Hall Auditorium Digital Lighting Upgrade**

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Title

**Shannon R. Miller**

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Name of Submitter

*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

**Performing Arts, UL Lafayette**

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Organization

Title: Fletcher Hall Auditorium Digital Lighting Upgrade Date: July 10, 2017  
Name (Contact Person): Shannon R. Miller  
Address: Burke Hawthorne Hall Room 128  
Phone Number: 2-5730 Email: Srm5913@louisiana.edu  
Department/College/Org: Performing Arts

**ABSTRACT (250 words or less):**

This proposal seeks \$9250 for College of the Arts School of Music and Performing Arts to retrofit an out-of-date theatrical lighting dimmer control unit with state of the art digital dimming controls. The present control unit has been obsolete since 1992 and is not compatible with any lighting console on the market or presently in use in other venues on the UL campus.

## **a. Purpose of the Grant and Impact to Student Body as a Whole**

The purpose of this grant is to upgrade end of life equipment to current standards and specifications while keeping the cost low by converting old the analog dimming systems to new digital lighting control by way of a retrofit kit. For a small fraction of a completely new installation, the upgrade will bring Fletcher Hall Auditorium into compatibility with Burke Theatre and Angelle Hall. The theatre design and technology software already procured and implemented in the Performing Arts classrooms and control booths in Burke and Angelle Hall provide a training ground for designers and technician to serve projects, productions, and events in Fletcher Hall Auditorium.

Fletcher Hall Auditorium is used as a classroom, a meeting space, a rehearsal hall, and a performance venue by undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and student organizations from across campus, as well as several community arts groups. The present system was installed in the early 1980's. It uses Analog Multiplex protocol (AMX192). AMX was made obsolete by 1992 by Digital Multiplex (DMX512). All modern computerized lighting consoles use DMX or DMX over Cat5 via Network node.

UL Performing Arts has available digital consoles and network nodes for use with contemporary moving lights and LED technologies. The AMX system is not compatible. This retrofit will bring the outdated system up to current compatibility with industry standard DMX 512 control specifications to allow for easy expansion and control of existing and future lighting fixtures, including low cost energy efficient LED and automated lighting.

Instruction and training is offered in theatre design and technology classes to provide designers and technicians for all users of the facility. Theatre and Dance Majors take a series of classes in Theatre Design and Technology including Stagecraft, Scenic Design, Lighting Design, and Sound Design as a part of their matriculation sequence. These classes typically include majors, minors, and non-majors seeking an elective. Students trained in the classes are able to serve as auditorium staff in Burke Theatre, Angelle hall, and Fletcher Auditorium.

This upgrade will allow Fletcher Hall Auditorium to serve as a viable public performance space. We estimate that over 10,000 people make their way through our auditoriums annually for various events. The growth of the university has increased the demand for available performance space. Even with the re-opening of the Bayou Bijou Theatre in the Student Union, the student groups that need a performance venue are challenged to find a suitable space. This upgrade will make the facility more user-friendly.

The Performing Arts produces four main stage productions per academic year and two student showcases. As well, Performing Arts and School of Music collaborate to produce an opera and a musical each semester. Over 300 Students from all academic disciplines enrolled in THEA 161 Theatre Appreciation are required to attend these productions as a part of for the classes. Over 500 students in School of Music are required to attend various productions and recitals in both auditoriums. In addition to these immediate students, productions are free to all students currently enrolled in the university. Beyond the immediate use and hands on experience for Theatre and Dance majors and the production values observed by the attending student

audiences, both auditoriums serve as student organizations and groups venues. Both auditoriums provide guest lectures, various meetings, guest artists, and university orientation functions through the year. During graduation, several colleges used the facilities for awards ceremonies.

Fletcher Hall auditorium is used during enrollments, orientations, and various high school activities. Potential students, and their families observe the facility. The general public also attends the various productions and presentation within normal university functions and collaborations during the festivals hosted in Lafayette. Frequently, when the facilities are available, various community organizations produce a wide array of event in our venues.

### **b. Projected Lifetime of Enhancement**

10 years for digital dimming upgrades under normal use.

### **c. Persons Responsible for Implementation, Maintenance, Operation, and Training**

- i. Shannon R. Miller, Assistant Professor Theatre Design and Technology, Technical Director
- ii. Kenneth Harrelson, Technical Director/Facilities Manager, Angelle Hall.

### **d. Budget Narrative**

#### **Digital Dimming Retrofit/Upgrade**

C21 Retrofit Processor Kit for current CD80SV Rack Processor Housing  
Single Electronics Vision.net Power Supply, Control Harnes, and Thermal Switch  
Onsite Services Provided by Strand Certified Technician  
Travel expense for one 1-day site visit

\$8,6000\*

#### **Control Lines**

Replace existing analog control cable in existing conduit with Belkin RS485 cable and Cat 5  
To be completed by campus electricians via work-order.

\$650.00\*\*

*\*Reflects recent quotes valid for 30days.*

*\*\* Estimate from a similar project in Burke Theatre 2015*

## Budget Proposal

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1.	Equipment	\$8600.00
2.	Software	\$
3.	Supplies	\$
4.	Maintenance	\$
5.	Personnel	\$
6.	Other	\$650.00

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**TOTAL:** \$9250.00

**Additional Information Relevant to application:**

**Performing Arts will provide a new computerized lighting board.**

The lighting board in Angelle was replaced by STEP in 2006 for \$11,500 and replaced again within the past 3 years due to a water leak. The present lighting control is an industry standard ETC ION. The ETC Congo Jr. lighting board in Burke Hawthorne was provided by STEP in 2006 as a part of the overall renovation to the facilities. The console, which ran under windows XP, failed in 2014. Performing Arts has since replace the Congo Jr. with an ETC Ion to match Angelle Hall. The broken Congo Jr. has been repaired and upgraded to the industry standard Cobalt operating system. The plan is to transfer the Congo Jr. running Cobalt to Fletcher once the dimmers are upgraded.

(1) ETC Congo Jr upgraded to Cobalt	\$7500.00
(1) Universal Fader Wing	\$1887.60

Shannon R. Miller the principle investigator for this proposal. He was appointed, Fall 2014, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Design Technology in Performing Arts. He has over thirty years experience in touring, educational, community, and regional professional theatre. His service to UL Lafayette performance venues include regular updates and maintenance to theatrical equipment and associated systems including but not limited to Lighting, Sound, Projection, Counterweight Fly systems, and automation. This proposal is part of an initiative to bring performance infrastructure in Burke Hawthorne Theatre, Angelle Auditorium, and Fletcher Auditorium up to industry standard, integrate new energy efficient technology, ensure the safe and reliable operations of all equipment to meet student learning objectives established by the curriculum and mission of the college.