



October 3, 2017

To: Mayor Tim Kabat, City of La Crosse Council Members, Steve Carlyon & Board of Park Commissioners

From: Consortium of Wendell Anderson Riverside Park Band Shell Users, representing La Crosse Concert Band, Moon Tunes, River Fest, La Crosse Jazz Orchestra, Coulee Chordsmen, Explore La Crosse, Rotary Lights and many other community minded concerned citizens

Re: Immediate improvements needed to the Wendell A. Anderson Band Shell in Riverside Park with the 2018 La Crosse City Capital Improvements Budget requested Funds of \$1.2 million:

- 1) Re-establish elevation and drainage around the band shell performance area.
- 2) Install new metal benches from storage including proper cement base.
- 3) Upgrade electrical for safety; improve stage lighting; increase power available; and include wiring for future PA system improvements.
- 4) Resurface stage area for safety; extend top two tiers of risers by 1' (one foot) each, making each wider and deeper.
- 5) Improve accessibility with steps to top risers; make ADA accessible with a ramp to the stage.
- 6) Build foundation for future improvements including a stage cover (shell).

None of the improvements would significantly change the historic aspects of the property. Improvements 1-6 could be done in a short timeframe so as not to disrupt 2018 season plans of current users.

The newly formed Consortium will establish a 501(c) 3 non-profit to solicit private contributions for further improvements. Several invested organizations are also willing to contribute significant funds and participate in fundraising. Community leaders are ready to act immediately to move forward with additional improvements. Proposed improvements would benefit the entire community, not just one group of users.

Additional improvements from privately raised funds would include but are not limited to:

- 7) Stage cover—an actual band “shell” to protect performers from elements and most importantly to improve acoustics.
- 8) Toilets and dressing rooms close to the stage for performers.
- 9) Storage for stage equipment.
- 10) Restoring historical aspects by replacing 1986 concrete with matching Winona quarry stone.



Rendering of Historic Wendell & Anderson Bandstand with New Acoustical Shell

Structural Diagram



Bandshell structure in elevation

Design Concept: Our bandshell design reflects the graceful arch and trusses of La Crosse's iconic paired bridges, complimenting and reinforcing the city's brand and Riverside Park as the city's living room. WholeTrees proposes to harvest resilient and rot-resistant white oak trees from local forests, and design and engineer custom timber trusses. A wooden shell-roof structure floats well-over the preserved historic stone bandstand protecting it and the performers from rain and sun. Acoustic hardwoods reflect sound to the audience and performers while providing a warm locally sourced ceiling. Proposed roof materials are durable fish-scale copper or a living roof. Additional bathrooms, greenrooms and storage are added to the south with complimentary roof forms and walls emulating the bandstand.

WholeTrees is a local design/build firm specializing in sustainable structures. WholeTrees has designed the Cameron Park Market canopy and is working with Myrick Hixon EcoPark on interior remodeling and the Forest Scramble. For more information visit: www.wholetrees.com.

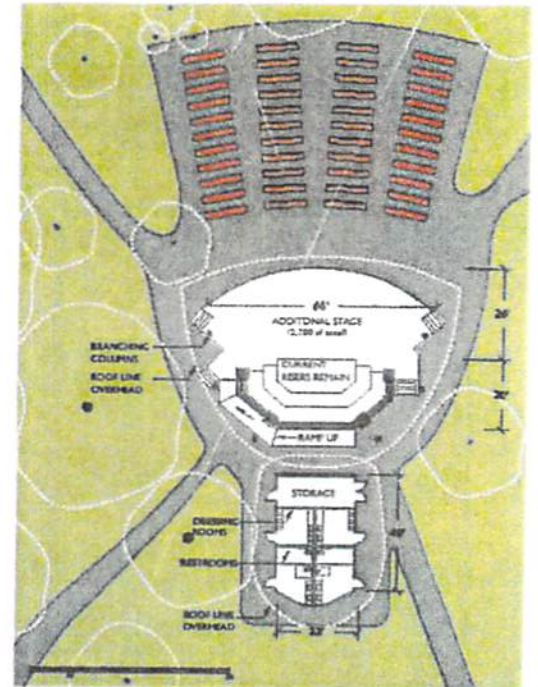
New Programmatic Elements:

- Curved Wood Acoustical Shell
- Extended Stage Area (2,100sf total)
- Dressing Rooms
- ADA Accessible Restrooms & Stage
- Large Instrument Storage
- Performance Lighting & Sound System
- Restored Stone Pillasters & Stage Walls
- Landscaping & Redefined Sidewalks



View from South with Material Palette

Section Sketch 1



Roof Plan Detail



WholeTrees Team:
Rosalie Gunderson, AIA - Architect, WholeTrees

Amelia Baxton, Project Manager - WholeTrees

Jim Jendusa, Engineer - Jendusa Design & Engineering

Acoustical Engineer - TBD

Landscape Designer - TBD

La Crosse Bandshell
Riverside Park, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Suggestions:

- * Extend top two tiers one foot each
- * Put ADA compliant ramp on east entrance
- * Add steps going to top tiers on each side

Wendall A. Anderson Band Shell

