

Millennium Youth Entertainment Center Theater and Skating Arena Renovation Project and ADA Improvements

Description

The Millennium Youth Entertainment Center (MYEC) is a 55,000 sq. ft. entertainment facility that opened to the public in June 1999. The facility features a 154-seat movie theater, roller skating arena, 16 bowling lanes, video arcade, children’s play area, and a food court. The Millennium serves as a place for youth to skate, bowl, play video games, or have birthday parties, and in addition, hosts special events, job fairs, private receptions, and movie festivals.



ASM Global, a venue management and services company, and the current manager of MYEC, requested upgrades to the theater and the skating arena to be able to offer a variety of recreational activities to patrons in a comfortable environment within an updated, state of the art facility. The proposed modernization of the theater and skating arena will include improvements to the audio, sound, visual, and lighting systems, flooring upgrades and a portable stage for live performances.

Project Scope

Earlier this year (June 2020), the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) completed work on the replacement of the MYEC skating rink’s flooring system with new hardwood floors in order to accommodate skating, basketball, and other event activities.



Currently, PARD’s project team is working with ASM Global to finalize the specifications for the audio-visual equipment preferred for the facility. A solicitation plan and schedule have also been developed to request proposals from vendors specializing in this type of entertainment and theatrical production equipment.

The skating arena upgrades include converting the existing lights to modern LED lighting, and providing an advanced DMX controller to control equipment including lights, fog machines, strobe lights and music-driven flashing colored lights. These individual lights may be hung directly or suspended between roof trusses. Spacing will be determined based on desired visual effects and number of units. A lighting truss for stage lights may be utilized for live venue performances. In addition, video wall panels and cameras with a DMX controller will be installed to display stage performance, lighting effects and arena visitors to enhance the visual experience.

Audio and sound equipment would be upgraded and installed into the interior open roof truss system to avoid damage during regular activities in the skating arena (basketballs and pucks). The facility will also provide microphones with stands, an audio console controller to manage the stage performance and PA system. The equipment installation will adhere to all safety standards applicable to the entertainment business. The proposed sound, audio, and visual upgrades, lighting effects and atmospherics, are expected to create a high-energy environment for visually advanced lightshows that will continue to provide excitement for skating and live performance events.

The MYEC theater upgrades include the replacement of the existing sound system with new audio and sound equipment. A lighting truss system with stage lights will be suspended over the stage area, and a new DMX controller will control the audio and stage lights from the control room. In order to accommodate live performances, an ADA accessible and movable event stage would be provided that could be setup in front of the movie screen.

PARD is preparing the solicitation process for vendor proposals for the equipment and installation. The goal is to review the proposals and select a vendor by the end of 2020. City Council authorization to

negotiate the contract with the vendor is expected in winter of 2021, and project completion is anticipated by late spring or early summer of 2021.

In addition, PARD conducted a preliminary review of the non-compliant items that were identified during the 2016 ADA assessment of the facility. The majority of the items are related to the restrooms throughout MYEC and involve non-compliant mounting heights for signage and mirrors, inadequate clearance space, protruding objects, and non-compliant plumbing fixtures. Other items relate to accessible routes and ramps. Further upgrades will be necessary for the facility to meet current accessibility standards. PARD will solicit the services of design professionals and will coordinate the work with the ARCDC Board and the Facility Manager. This work should be in the design phase this winter and most repairs could be completed by the summer of 2021.

Budget

In FY 2018, City Council approved \$280,630 to fund the theater and skating arena upgrades at MYEC.

The preliminary cost estimate for the ADA upgrades is approximately \$200,000. Funding will be provided from the 2018 G.O. Bond.

Partnerships

- Austin-Rosewood Community Development Corporation, a local government corporation charged with overseeing the operation of MYEC.
- ASM Global, MYEC recreational venue manager

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