

February 12, 1980

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SPACE NEEDS DIT
CONCERNING VISUAL ARTS SPACES

Attachment

A number of serious space and facility problems continue to trouble visual arts programs at Evergreen. There is inadequate space in the Lab Building for existing programs doing drawing, painting, and design. The spaces for these programs have been in widely dispersed and sometimes unsuitable locations. The Lab Annex, originally designed as a sculpture studio, has been and continues to be called upon to accommodate a number of varied activities ranging from boat building to solar collector construction. This has usually been at the expense of art programs, with the result that the facility is not fully available as a sculpture studio for the visual arts. Although some rooms in the Lab Building have been used continuously by the arts since the day the building opened, general policies have stopped short of treating these as dedicated spaces with the result that the room can be neither fully nor effectively utilized. Collectively these problems adversely affect the quality of our art programs. They also affect curricular design in the arts and our ability to attract and hold students.

This proposal offers some practical solutions to these problems, consistent with both the contingencies of overall space planning and the necessities of curricular demands. The proposed expansion and remodeling of the Set and Model Shop in the Library basement and the contemplated consolidation of SPU facilities in the ground floor wing of Lab II make it possible to make space changes in the Lab Annex and Lab Building, which would help to alleviate the visual arts space problems.

The visual arts faculty recommend the following changes:

1. That the proposed expansion of the Set and Model Shop be used to establish a general Wood and Metal Shop. This shop would primarily accommodate non-art programs that have need for fabrication facilities. To help furnish this shop, some of the metal working equipment now in the Lab Annex would be moved to the Library, and some of the wood working equipment now in the Library would be moved to the Lab Annex to make room. This change will create a good climate for program work in both spaces. It will allow students to work on long-term projects without fear of interruption. This change also has two particularly persuasive budgetary advantages: There are funds available now to remodel the Set and Model Shop. Making it a general Wood and Metal Shop would preclude the need to do expensive, major renovation of the 201 Building.
2. That the Lab Annex become a dedicated general Sculpture Studio for the visual arts. This would be implemented by the tool moves described above. Re-establishing the Lab Annex as a sculpture studio will have several important benefits. It will allow closer supervision of sculpture activities, which is important for the good teaching and safety of the students. It will allow closer coordination among different arts programs doing sculpture. And most importantly, it will centralize sculpture activities within the structure specifically designed for sculpture.
3. That suites 1040/46/50 and 1037 through 1051 in Lab Building I be dedicated art studios, consolidating the painting and drawing rooms on one floor of Lab I. This consolidation will resolve a perennial critical space shortage. Visual art programs using these rooms will be able to share activities, faculty and equipment. Students in these programs will have the reinforcement of a large creatively oriented environment.

4. That Lab 1065 (currently an unreserved seminar room) be dedicated as a visual art reading/seminar room.
5. Ceramics - no changes, except as noted below.
6. Metals - no change.
7. Design - At this time no constructive alternative can be seen to the shared use of Lab 2223 with the Environmental Design program. A clean studio area will be necessary for design work while this room will still be the only feasible location for fiber work. Development of facilities in Lab I for painting and drawing should take some pressure off this area, but even with that option, this will probably continue as a shared space for design, fiber, and group oriented program activities with a primary emphasis on the needs of the environmental design people.

These changes will make it possible to meet existing needs in the visual arts. There will still be a shortage of space in the next few years if the college meets the goals for growth set by the CPR. Through the last few years, the demand for visual arts programs has been greater than we could meet with existing resources. The demand has slackened somewhat, but will become a problem again if enrollment increases. There is a need to plan now for the construction of an Art Building on campus, for the addition of art studios to the proposed Phase II of the Seminar Building.

The changes proposed here for Lab I and the Lab Annex can be accomplished initially without any investment for improvements. However, some remodeling such as the removal of walls will be needed and should be considered in any detailed planning. Also some remodeling may be necessary for the future maintenance and safe use of the ceramics area.

The visual arts faculty are committed to an ongoing curriculum which annually includes an Introductory Program (on the model of FOVA), an Interdisciplinary Collaborative Program, at least two intermediate level Group Contracts, and approximately 15-20 modules per year. Next year's programs will include the following:

Explorations & Perception - Mary Nelson
FOVA - Jean Mandenberg and Dave Gallagher
Images - Mark Levensky and Marilyn Frasca
Vision & Expression - Paul Sparks
Camera Work - Kirk Thompson

This is the basic structure of the visual art curriculum for the next several years. The curriculum will expand if new faculty hiring becomes possible. Our basic curriculum will make full use of the revised studio space described above. Individual Contract students in art will continue to be at a disadvantage for space.

The visual arts faculty as a group are pleased that consideration is being made of our problems. This proposal obviates the need for a great deal of detailed planning once we are able to move towards these goals. We eagerly look forward towards that time, and would like to be included in any further discussions of these issues.