

“Nonprofit. Film. Education. Community.”

The above moniker best describes what this concept is about. It has been borrowed from The Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Lab in Pleasantville, NY.

Film Centers across the United States rely on the foundations of community and education. It is primarily these two particular factors that provide the base for the ‘art’ in film and purpose.

Art theaters are the cornerstone of the culture of media arts; they provide community destination, and assist in identity and pride.

Nassau & Suffolk Counties form the early definition of US suburbia, in the shadows of the most culturally diverse and film-documented cities in the world. With this opportunity, and the depth of colleges and K-12 school savvy students and large base of theater-going communities, art theaters and media labs are a necessary complement to the Fine Arts.

For the past four years The Suffolk County Film Commission (SCFC) has been searching for a location to house a Media Art Center that would fulfill its mission to “further the interests of industries allied with the motion picture and television industries by articulating and advocating for the industries' needs and opportunities.”

Media productions have been a proven economic stimulant, bringing global attention to communities, as well as a promising traffic flow to local businesses.

Media Art Labs have a multi-faceted approach to their outreach to the community. Not only can they provide educational programs for k-12 children and college/ university age adults but also family and other adult programs that not only teach the mechanics of film product, but also provide the venue for educating through art films, documentaries and local short-film competitions. Educational programs do also provide creative outlets for members of under-served communities, and a basis for a potential career. Many programs also reach-out to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other community-based groups.

The business community will also benefit with Professional Development programs which provide a local facility to local businesses to intellectually invest in their employees and keep the skilled and talented well-trained, here on Long Island, and not commuting to Manhattan.

Additionally, Media Art Labs provide state-of-the-art facilities for established filmmakers, providing prestige and income for the Arts. Third-floor living units (residential) for rent to filmmakers will bring additional income and use to the potential of this well-established concept.

Art theaters are typically located in ‘downtown areas’, generally alive with local commerce and strong, prideful communities. Nassau and Suffolk County are certainly not short of providing areas for this. The

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handfuls that exist on Long Island are Huntington Cinema Arts Center and the several theaters in the Hamptons that combine for festivals.

Nowhere on Long Island does a multi-screen art theater (theaters smaller than 75 seats) exist that is conjoined to a Media Art Lab. This concept, similar to the Burns Film Center, provides many of the “needs and opportunities” that in the eyes of the SCFC, can include amenities such as:

1. Coffee house lounge (provides WiFi, 3rd Place, internet access, and video exhibition space)
2. Media Arts supply and bookstore
3. Community meeting rooms (with presentation development support by the education programs)
4. Fund-raising facilities for non-profit events and support
5. Office and support services for incubator film media start-ups
6. An education center for all ages for cutting edge media in all its forms (film, TV, radio, internet, web design, social networking, online conferencing, PR through blogging, podcasts, twitter, filkr, etc) educating annually up to 100 teachers and 20,000 students with its connection to Suffolk County schools (K-12), communities and colleges.
7. A training center for media professionals through the SC Department of Labor (SCDOL) workforce training programs
8. A production facility and media supply and rental house for all media professionals - art, music and industrial
9. A triple-screen art house cinema center with programming that would include daily screening of independent films, annual film festivals, programs ranging from artistic narratives to documentaries covering global topics and local environmental issues, as well as community-based programming (church groups, youth and senior groups, clubs, agencies, industries, businesses, societies, artists, musicians, poets, theatre and dance companies, and art councils) serving an estimated 300,000 audience members, Presentations and classes given by film directors, producers and artists, as well as book authors.

Using the financial structure of the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville New York (population 7,700), an hour train ride out of New York (www.burnsfilmcenter.org/), the Media Art Center in Patchogue (population 12,000) would operate 365 days a year, day and night as a 501 (c) 3, under two umbrellas: **The Media Lab**, would depend 80% on individual donors, partnerships with corporations and county educational institutions, government funding and government stimulus money and 20% on memberships and classes. The triple screen **Art House Cinema Center** through screening of special films, guest speaker programs and community-based events would depend 80% on ticket sales and concessions, and 20% on co-sponsorships and donations. Together the estimated operational budget of roughly \$5M, would be evenly split 50-50 between earned income and campaign funding drives. Also, like the Jacob Burns Center, all structures would be certified by The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (*LEED*).

Key community attributes for a Media Arts Lab and triple-screen Theater:

1. Downtown LI location
2. Underserved community
3. Possible building re-use or renovation

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4. Access to mass transit (bus, train, etc)
5. Availability to 'partner' the multi-screen theater with a Media Lab; share facilities, adjoined property, media arts office space. And media arts businesses.
6. Available parking to host:
 - a. Film Festivals
 - b. School bus drop-off area
 - c. 'Walkable' campus
 - d. Areas to congregate and relax on a 'break'

As a gateway to Patchogue Village where a cultural renaissance is happening with the 45 unit Artspace residence, The Patchogue Theater for the Performing Arts, the many new bars, restaurants, budding music scene, and the new Patchogue Arts Council with its innovative Art Walking tour that reaches to the West of town at Briarcliff College, East Patchogue calls for a revitalization plan that both complements and accommodates Patchogue villagers that will not only make our area an attraction but a destination.