

December 2020

Due to the pandemic and its devastating impact on live theater worldwide, we remain on “pause” with our Kalita Master Plan; however, there is still some activity to share.

Last week Jennifer Scripps, the Director of the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, made a presentation for the City Council’s Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee about the status of the Master Plan.

Dallas Theater Center and the City remain committed to continuing with the Master Plan process, which will re-start within six months of the resumption of DTC’s normal business operations (i.e., when we are allowed to operate our theater for live audiences at full capacity). The original goal was to deliver the completed plan to the City by the end of 2020. The new deadline for delivering the plan to the City will be 10 months after the re-start date. When we re-start the Master Plan process we will resume opportunities for public engagement and input.

We’ve also continued to be in touch with Diller Scofidio + Renfro, who remain enthusiastic for the project to resume and are brimming with creative ideas. You may have seen Charles Renfro, who is the lead for our Master Plan, on CNN this weekend in episode 2 of *Saved by the Future*, a new series exploring how today’s innovations will influence how we live in the future. You can get a taste of the episode on these two Facebook pages:

CNN International: <https://www.facebook.com/18793419640/posts/10158866830714641>

CNN: <https://www.facebook.com/5550296508/posts/10161457620856509>

Meanwhile, all of us at DTC are eager to welcome live audiences back into our theater buildings as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, we’re creating smaller projects which we’re filming, such as our one-time version of *A Christmas Carol*, titled, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, which we will release digitally in early December, as well as interactive theatrical events and concerts for small, outdoors, socially distanced audiences in the winter, and a hoped-for return to live performances for physically distanced audiences in the spring. By the time we eventually re-open for live, indoor audiences, it will be more than a year since audience members last stepped foot into either the Kalita or the Wyly - which is the first time in either building’s history that they have been dormant for so long. As you can imagine, this has been traumatic for our staff, artists, and audiences alike. With no income from ticket sales since March, our operating budget has been cut by 40%. Through the generosity of community members, we have been able to continue paying our staff and artists, which has allowed us to continue to serve our community through artistic, education and community engagement programs (mostly virtual) throughout the pandemic. There has never been a worse time for the arts in America, and yet we are determined not just to survive but to return to full operations for and with our community as soon as possible.

So, we’re still on pause with the Master Plan, but with vaccines on the horizon, I am more hopeful than I have been in a long time.

I send all of you my best wishes as the holidays approach and I look forward to collaborating with you on the Kalita Master Plan when we resume in the coming months.

Stay safe.

Kevin