

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-2008-R0523

Request for Authorization to Program, Plan, and Design an Addition for Montana PBS; Montana State University

THAT

Consistent with MCA 20-25-302 (6), the Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to expend up to \$2,000,000 for planning, programming, design, and associated pre-construction activities for an addition for Montana PBS at the Visual Communication Communications Building.

EXPLANATION

1. Montana PBS is in the process of completing a \$16 million fundraising campaign to construct new and improved space at the Visual Communications Building on the Bozeman campus.
2. Established in 1984, Montana PBS has outgrown its space within the Visual Communications Building, and dated infrastructure is insufficient to meet the needs of current and future technology to serve Montana residents.
3. Media is rapidly changing with the proliferation of video streaming services and the advent of the NextGen TV broadcast standards; as such, Montana PBS must adapt to these new technologies with a forward-looking facility.
4. The new Montana PBS Public Media Center will support more local documentaries, arts, performance, and cultural programming to serve the 275,000 viewers that watch Montana PBS every week.
5. New space will allow Montana PBS to increase the number of local journalists telling Montana stories, enhance the quality of in-depth reporting, and place greater focus on community issues. Montana PBS will produce even more Emmy® Award-winning films for the people of Montana.
6. The new Montana PBS Public Media Center will expand upon the Film School's long-standing reputation of offering co-curricular, hands-on professional experiences for MSU students working with a PBS station.
7. The new, public-facing facility will be leveraged to secure additional support from Montana PBS's more than 21,000 members that expect their public television station to keep pace in the changing media landscape.
8. The facility will inspire educators and engage families with more functional space for professional development of K-12 teachers, childcare providers, and training for parents around PBS KIDS high quality educational programs.
9. The facilities will be designed to be efficient and flexible so that space may be used for multiple functions including live broadcasts, public screenings, community events, and the first large classroom in the Visual Communications Building.
10. This request is for planning, design, and pre-construction only and will be used to define the project scope and develop plans for the improved facility.
11. MSU will request additional construction authority at a later date.
12. This project will be paid for with private donations.

ATTACHMENTS

None