

## SPECIMEN MUSEUM MEETING NOTES

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**PROJECT:** University of Wisconsin – La Crosse  
PRAIRIE SPRINGS SCIENCE CENTER – PHASE II  
La Crosse, WI

**DFD PROJECT NO:** 19G1J  
**RA PROJECT NO:** 1290E

**MEETING DATE:** October 6, 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 11:00am-12:30pm

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### ATTENDANCE:

Cathy Weiss	UW-System Administration	<a href="mailto:cweiss@uwsa.edu">cweiss@uwsa.edu</a>
Scott Schumacher	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:sschumacher@uwlax.edu">sschumacher@uwlax.edu</a>
Mike Abler	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:mabler@uwlax.edu">mabler@uwlax.edu</a>
Barrett Klein	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:bklein@uwlax.edu">bklein@uwlax.edu</a>
Basudeb Bhattacharyya	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:bbhattacharyya@uwlax.edu">bbhattacharyya@uwlax.edu</a>
Colin Belby	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:cbelby@uwlax.edu">cbelby@uwlax.edu</a>
Mike Adler	River Architects	<a href="mailto:m.adler@river-architects.com">m.adler@river-architects.com</a>
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Chris Endicott	Ring & DuChateau	<a href="mailto:cendicott@ringdu.com">cendicott@ringdu.com</a>

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### OVERALL PLAN REVIEW:

1. The overall plans of each floor level were presented. The following items were noted:
    - a. No comments.
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**DESIGN REVIEW:**

1. Program Summary:
  - a. The space tabulation for the Specimen Museum was provided as a reference. No comments.
  
2. Herbarium:
  - a. Work area to west, collection to the east.
  - b. Mike Abler to verify if any special temperature or humidity limits are required. Scott noted issues in buildings with low humidity levels in winter months.
  - c. Compact shelving solution discussed. Further discussion needed.
  - d. Movable storage provided under workstations.
  - e. Services: Electrical only. No gas or air required.
  - f. Provide viewing panel in door.
  - g. Transparency along west wall into Herbarium to be determined.
  - h. Refrigerator not required.
  - i. Table and bench space is adequate for drying.
  
3. Museum:
  - a. Barrett noted that the insect collection has recently changed. Barrett to send Scott the current information to pass along to the design team.
  - b. Barrett expressed concerns regarding fungi. Discussion needed with others. Cannot be located in this space. Mike Abler commented that the fungal biologists need to be mindful of location and advised that one cabinet be provided in Mycology or Botany prep space rather than in the museum area.
  - c. Storage under tables to be determined.
  - d. Movable tables to be determined.
  - e. Switch six butterfly cabinets with mineral cabinets? To be determined.
  - f. How small could the prep space be and retain functionality?
  - g. Sinks: one ADA sink to be provided.
  - h. Butterfly display – deeper storage and occasional display.
  - i. Potential future display locations in the hallways to be identified as collection grows in the future.
  - j. Areas discussed where more of a permanent display is provided need to be mindful of effects of UV light and need to be within dust-free cases (well-sealed, negative pressure not required).
  - k. North wall could provide opportunity for both display and storage. Further discussion needed.
  - l. Scott noted the desire for transparency needs to be fully endorsed as the campus will not support covering the glass if transparency into the spaces is not desired in the future.
  - m. Existing bird cases have 22" swinging doors.
  - n. Birds and butterflies in display cabinets.
  - o. Display case specifics:
    - No backlighting.
    - Activities occurring opposite the display may impact the viewing.
    - Modular shelving.
    - Versatile backing with the ability to switch colors or background.
    - Scott noted dust control in custom-built cases will be challenging.
    - Displays could be changed as much as every semester but most will be permanent.

4. Southwest Entrance:
    - a. Video wall could create opportunity for various displays.
    - b. Seating to be incorporated in this area.
    - c. Opportunity for impactful first impression of the sciences.
    - d. Barrett noted concerns regarding maintaining this area and keeping it fresh and updated.
    - e. Design team to share examples of other projects.
    - f. Department representation?
    - g. Interaction?
    - h. Biophilia?
    - i. Less technology and more hands-on?
  
  5. A copy of the presentation and additional notes can be found here: <https://river-architects.sharefile.com/d-sdae93068a6664f42ba554650d4369947>
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**SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS:**

1. Design team to revise plans based on discussions held.
  2. Next meeting to be scheduled in 3 to 4 weeks to review specifics.
  3. UWL to provide equipment selections and specs for the SmithGroup SharePoint site for all university-provided equipment.
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ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY		
1	Equipment selections and specifications to SharePoint	UWL

*Note: This constitutes our understanding of the issues presented. Contact River Architects, Inc. via phone at (608) 785-2217, or e-mail [m.adler@river-architects.com](mailto:m.adler@river-architects.com) if there are any discrepancies.*