



**Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA)**

97 N Broad St, Hillsdale, MI 49242

[tifa@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:tifa@cityofhillsdale.org)

## **Dawn Theater Governance Board – Minutes**

**December 30, 2025, 5:30 PM**

**Hillsdale City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

### **I. Call to Order at 5:31 PM**

- a. Roll Call
  - i. Members Present: James Brandon, Felicia Finch, Ron Scholl (by phone), Tim Sullivan, Chris Bahash
  - ii. Members Absent: None
  - iii. Others Present: Andrew Gelzer (TIFA), Aidan Sullivan (Friends of the Dawn Theater), Jack McLain, and Olivia Smith (Zoning Administrator)

### **II. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Agenda
  - i. Amended to add MACC Grant to New Business
  - ii. Motion by Finch to approve agenda as amended. Second Sullivan. 5-0. Motion carried.
- b. Approval of Minutes from November 25, 2025 Meeting
  - i. Motion by Sullivan. Second Brandon. Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. New Business**

- a. Management Search Update
  - i. Board asked for update from Bahash/Gelzer as representatives of the TIFA Targeted Development Committee. 3 letters of interest received. 2 candidates completed a walkthrough of the venue with Gelzer so far. Targeted Development will engage directly with the candidates in the near future with input from Dawn Theater Governance Board and Friends of the Dawn Theater.
- b. MACC Grant – Friends of the Dawn Theater
  - i. Asking for approval from TIFA due to the work funded by grant (alterations to the building) violating limited use agreement between TIFA and Friends.
  - ii. Grant to help fund a movie screen system
  - iii. Received MACC grants in the past
  - iv. Available FY26 funding: facility enhancements and equipment purchases up to \$30,000
  - v. Grant applications due by January 22, 2026
  - vi. Equipment specifics are not verified. Friends conducted an on-site meeting with equipment provider for a ballpark for grant purposes.
  - vii. Finch suggested that multiple pieces of equipment be asked for – screen and sound system
  - viii. Questions by Gelzer and Sullivan to Friends
  - ix. Brandon suggests that, with recent changes in funding sources, it behooves that Friends “strike while the iron is hot.”

- x. Motion by Sullivan to grant Friends of the Dawn Theater to apply for the MACC grant. Second Finch. 3-1. Motion passed.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- a. Approval of Hillsdale Renaissance's Folk Festival – March 7, 2026
  - i. Finch presented the Board with the additional information requested of Hillsdale Renaissance
  - ii. Lengthy discussion took place regarding event fee schedule, liquor sales, liability, and orders of operation.
  - iii. Motion by Sullivan to approve the event. Second Finch. 3-1. Motion carried.
- b. Final Phase of Organ Installation
  - i. Lengthy discussion took place regarding location of blower room, other elements of installation, cost, permits, communication, and keyed access for alterations.
  - ii. *Refer to attached emails for additional information.*
  - iii. Motion by Finch to recommend approval to the full TIFA board for the execution of the structural alterations needed to complete the final phase of the organ installation. A mutually agreed upon location will be chosen for the blower room. Second Bahash. 4-0. Motion carried.

*Finch left meeting at 6:46 PM*

#### **V. Public Comment**

- a. McLain – Would like to see financial reports from the Friends of the Dawn Theater. Specifically with the context of grant monies. Concerns about 1/3 of the net profit for TIFA and the Friends' involvement. Would like to see more events for minors. Believes that majority of events, with exception of two are 21+. Should aim to function like the Sauk Theater.

#### **VI. Theater Update – Informational**

- a. Organ Installation Timeline – *see IV.b.*
- b. Progress on Projector/Screen and Sound – *see III.b.*
- c. Upcoming Events – None

#### **VII. Member Round Table Discussion**

- a. Sullivan – Friends of the Dawn Theater should have key. Seems like a reasonable request.
  - i. Aidan Sullivan stated that the Friends of the Dawn Theater do not need a key and found that the current key loaning system worked well.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Chair Brandon adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM
- b. Next meeting: January 26, 2026 at 5:30 PM

## **Olivia Smith**

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**From:** James Brandon <jbrandon@hillsdale.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2025 10:51 AM  
**To:** Mary  
**Cc:** Andrew Gelzer; Tim Sullivan; rjscholl60@gmail.com; Hillsdale Brewing Co; Chris Bahash; Olivia Smith; Calvin Stockdale; Calvin Stockdale; John Ourensma  
**Subject:** Re: Dawn Organ Install 1/12

I will add the MACC Grant Proposal  
To New Business. See you all at 5:30! JMB

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**From:** Mary <marybwolfram@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2025 7:39:33 AM  
**To:** James Brandon <jbrandon@hillsdale.edu>  
**Cc:** Andrew Gelzer <adgelzer@gmail.com>; Tim Sullivan <tpjsullivan@yahoo.com>; rjscholl60@gmail.com <rjscholl60@gmail.com>; Hillsdale Brewing Co <hillsdalebrewingcompany@yahoo.com>; Chris Bahash <chris.bahash@hillsdalejewelers.com>; Olivia Jones Smith <osmith@cityofhillsdale.org>; Calvin Stockdale <calvinjs@gmail.com>; Calvin Stockdale <cstockdale@hillsdale.edu>; John Ourensma <JWourens55@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Dawn Organ Install 1/12

Governance Board,  
Attached is an informational sheet about the Folk Fest. It is our best guess as to the numbers.

I would also like to ask permission to apply for a grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) for a movie screen in the Dawn. The grant application deadline is Jan. 21, 2026. This is their annual arts grant and will not be available for application again until next year.

Thanks,  
Mary

On Sat, Dec 27, 2025 at 2:28 PM James Brandon <[jbrandon@hillsdale.edu](mailto:jbrandon@hillsdale.edu)> wrote:

Here is our agenda for Tuesday. I look forward to seeing you there. JMB

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. James M. Brandon

Professor of Theatre

Department of Theatre and Dance

Hillsdale College

33 E. College St.

Hillsdale, MI 49242

(517) 607-2413

[jbrandon@hillsdale.edu](mailto:jbrandon@hillsdale.edu)

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**From:** Andrew Gelzer <[adgelzer@gmail.com](mailto:adgelzer@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2025 12:04 PM

**To:** Mary <[marybwolfram@gmail.com](mailto:marybwolfram@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** James Brandon <[jbrandon@hillsdale.edu](mailto:jbrandon@hillsdale.edu)>; Tim Sullivan <[tpjsullivan@yahoo.com](mailto:tpjsullivan@yahoo.com)>; [rjscholl60@gmail.com](mailto:rjscholl60@gmail.com); Hillsdale Brewing Co <[hillsdalebrewingcompany@yahoo.com](mailto:hillsdalebrewingcompany@yahoo.com)>; Chris Bahash <[chris.bahash@hillsdalejewelers.com](mailto:chris.bahash@hillsdalejewelers.com)>; Olivia Jones Smith <[osmith@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:osmith@cityofhillsdale.org)>; Calvin Stockdale <[calvinjs@gmail.com](mailto:calvinjs@gmail.com)>; Calvin Stockdale <[cstockdale@hillsdale.edu](mailto:cstockdale@hillsdale.edu)>; John Ourensma <[JWourens55@gmail.com](mailto:JWourens55@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Dawn Organ Install 1/12

Hello,

As you may or may not read below, I wrote previously to outline the issue, state my understanding of the factors and timeline, and that I would coordinate sorting this out upon my return to Hillsdale on the 30th. This issue arose from an email chain that I first saw on December 23, asking for keyed access for this work to be done on January 12.

Running a PVC air-line down unusable space underneath the main house from the stage to the front basement does not represent a structural change, and has been implicitly and explicitly approved.

Construction of a structure (I am assuming in the basement near where the blower motor is sitting) to house a mechanism in the basement needs to be fully understood. The TIFA Board has been informed in a sidebar fashion of this plan, but has never seen a written proposal to consider and approve. TIFA has not agreed to any structural alteration to the building.

## Olivia Smith

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**From:** John Ourensma <jwourens55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2025 9:42 PM  
**To:** Andrew Gelzer  
**Cc:** Mary; James Brandon; Tim Sullivan; rjscholl60@gmail.com; Hillsdale Brewing Co; Chris Bahash; Olivia Smith; Calvin Stockdale; Calvin Stockdale  
**Subject:** Re: Dawn Organ Install 1/12  
**Attachments:** Governance Board Report 8.28.24.docx

Hi Andrew and all,

Mary has asked me to response to some of technical questions you raise in your email. I looked at my records, as did Mary, and we both had copies of a detailed memo I wrote to the Governance Board which, according to Mary, was received and approved by the board on 8.29.24. These items have always been considered part of the overall organ installation project and have been discussed many times by various parties involved. Some of the work in the building, as you know, has already been completed and all of the organ is actually in the Dawn save the pipes. Original plans called for the remaining work on our part to be accomplished well before now, and the whole project finished, but things have been delayed due to various schedule conflicts and supply delays with Elias McConnell.

The refurbished organ blower was delivered to the theater this past April, and is right now located roughly where it will

be installed. As outlined in a previous communication to the Governance Board, the blower will be placed on a 4"-5" cement pad and encased in a wooden enclosure with an access door for service. A room surrounding the blower is customary in organ building to as to isolate the blower from the surrounding area, both for safety, cleanliness and sound absorption. This "room" was specified originally as 6' by 6' and should fit just under the ceiling height. Subsequent discussions have indicated it could be as small as 4' by 4', and placed as close as possible to the crawl space and side wall. As noted, see the blower's location right now, and imagine it enclosed in a 4' by 4' box with a door facing the stairs for access to the blower for service.. It should be located as far as "forward" as the basement excavation will allow.

The 10" PVC pipe will come out of the crawl space chase and enter the back side of the blower enclosure and connect to the blower. Also part of the blower installation will be electrical supply of 220 3 phase, with a contactor and a local disconnect switch. Additionally there will be an as yet uninstalled conduit connecting the blower contactor to the organ console, running from the blower room forward, then under the stage and terminating near the console. There will also be a service light and on/off switch installed in the blower room.

Conduit specified from the very beginning by JL Weiler (low voltage and 110 VAC) has already been installed as well as conduit connecting the two organ chambers and the computer cabinet

on the north stage wall. All specified electrical work has for some time been contracted to Heath Electric. Karl has been in touch with JL Weiler and Elias McConnell on coordinating this work thus far and is doing it to proper specifications and code. We will be in touch with him as Elias finishes his work so Karl can make his final installations. Karl knows the blower motor specifications and has a plan to hook it up, as he's indicated, with no concerns about available service. Any further detailed questions about the electrical specifications would best be answered directly by Karl Heath.

I'm happy to walk through this scenario with you in person, if you wish. I am home from now until January 6, at which time I'll be headed out of town for some work.

I've included the 8.28.24 memo below.

Thanks,

John

**Jan (John) Ourensma**  
**10941 Aspen Trail**  
**Zeeland, MI 49464**  
**712.210.6814**  
**JWourens55@gmail.com**

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On Dec 27, 2025, at 12:03 PM, Andrew Gelzer <[adgelzer@gmail.com](mailto:adgelzer@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

As you may or may not read below, I wrote previously to outline the issue, state my understanding of the factors and timeline, and that I would coordinate sorting this out upon my return to Hillsdale on the 30th. This issue arose from an email chain that I first saw on December 23, asking for keyed access for this work to be done on January 12.

Running a PVC air-line down unusable space underneath the main house from the stage to the front basement does not represent a structural change, and has been implicitly and explicitly approved.

Construction of a structure (I am assuming in the basement near where the blower motor is sitting) to house a mechanism in the basement needs to be fully understood. The TIFA Board has been informed in a sidebar fashion of this plan, but has never seen a written proposal to consider and approve. TIFA has not agreed to any structural alteration to the building.

What is the power draw of the blower? Which electrical service panel does Elias intend on connecting this to (the large panel installed on stage, or one of the two 200Amp subpanels in the basement in the front of the building towards Broad street, Both)?

The power demand of the unit will have an effect on the total amperage demand in place for the building, working towards the upper limit of what is possible, electrically, for the Dawn. This needs to be known and understood.

Where is the proposed location for this blower room? What are the dimensions of this structure? Will it be floor-to-ceiling? Is it a box built around the assembly? Where will the electrical wire be mounted? Will it be metal clad, or housed in pvc?

The TIFA Board needs to understand this to consider and give written approval. How will this impact building maintenance or future alterations that TIFA or a new operator may want to execute? The blower itself is a piece of machinery that will need to be maintained, and the structure to house it will have a direct affect how the basement can be developed in the future.

None of this is to say that the TIFA Board is in opposition by default. It is good that there has been close communication between Weiler (the organ restorer), Hillsdale Handyman (the contractor who will do the work), and the Friends (in this instance, the client paying for the work being done). It is also understood that in this particular instance that all parties are acting in good faith. However, the property owner (the TIFA Board), has not been officially consulted, nor given written permission for structural alterations to the Dawn. If anyone believes that I am incorrect on this, please show me meeting minutes and you will have my sincerest apologies.

Again, I understand that there are fast-approaching time constraints. Again, I will gladly work to coordinate with all relevant parties upon my return back to Hillsdale on the 30th.

The “plan”, moving forward with a new operator, is for The Dawn Theatre Governance Board to act as the representative of TIFA regarding anything that occurs from the Dawn Theatre. As it stands today, it is my belief that they have the authority to recommend structural alterations and improvements for the Dawn to the full TIFA Board, not authorize and execute them. As such I encourage you to place this on the Governance board agenda for the 30th for recommendation.

Best,

Andrew Gelzer

On Dec 27, 2025, at 9:03 AM, Mary <[marybwolfram@gmail.com](mailto:marybwolfram@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Dawn Theater Governance Board,  
I am forwarding this email from Andrew Gelzer, even though it may seem very out of order.

This springs from the recent communication from our contractor, The Hillsdale Handyman, Elias McConnell, that he can finally get to our work, starting January 12, to finish the infrastructure work in the Dawn Theater to install the Wurlitzer organ. This work consists of building the blower room in the basement and then running the PVC pipe work in the crawl space under the house of the theater to the stage, and then splitting the pipe to go to either side of the stage and up to the organ chambers, and out to the organ console. Part of this work was completed back in the spring, before any of the organ parts were delivered into the organ chambers. And, The Friends made a \$16,000 down payment to Elias in June 2025 to buy the pipe necessary because he was supposed to get to this by August 1, 2025.

I am sorry for the poor communication. I thought that you all knew that this final infrastructure work still needed to be done, and had implicitly, or explicitly, approved it some time ago.

Can we please add this to the Agenda for your meeting on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 for specific approval? Again, I thought that you were all aware that this work needed to be completed. The installation of the pipework in this manner does not preclude the eventual placement of the organ console into a pit at some future date. The Friends, The Hillsdale Handyman, and JL Weiler, the restoration company, have been in close communication about this question.

I beg your forgiveness and ask that you understand that this has been a long and arduous process to get The Hillsdale Handyman into the Dawn to complete this work. If I have to tell him that the process has been delayed from our end, he is likely to walk away and never complete this work. We can work around the issue of "keyed access". Elias or I can pick up and return the key each day.

Thank you,  
Mary

This from Andrew:

Apologies, I meant to save this as a draft and send this as a complete thought. Oh well.

Hello everyone,

The Letter of Understanding that TIFA has with the Friends of the Dawn and the Limited Use Agreement we have agreed to between us allows for the Friends to have keyed access to the Theater for purposes directly related to scheduled, Friends-sponsored events only. The Nutcracker event was the last scheduled, on December 7th.

I very much appreciate the energy of the Friends of the Dawn, and their efforts in support of the Dawn Theater. It is important to note that there is an order to operations here, and if we are to move forward in a constructive fashion we must do so in a more collaborative manner.

Within the framework of our two agreements, the "question" of keyed access is not specifically answered. In our documented meetings speaking to how our

relationship would work, it was specifically stated and recorded in our meeting minutes that Keyed Access was for events and their immediate-setup only.

At this time, access to the Dawn by the Friends is restricted for all purposes not directly related to the hosting of a specific event. It will not be issued for organizational meetings of the Friends of the Dawn, nor will it be made available for structural alterations without consultation and written approval from the TIFA Board.

Similarly, the TIFA Board has not agreed to any future structural alterations or improvements at this time.

The portions of the Wurlitzer organ that have been installed already are in areas that were specifically designed to house them (overhead chambers above the stage). The console itself is in a temporary spot on the main floor, due to Weiler-related issues. The Board needs to understand how the construction of a blower room and installation of the wind system will affect the rest of the Theatre, and agree to them.

I understand that Hillsdale Handyman is extremely busy and difficult to schedule, and that there are restricted grant funds for this project. However, throwing this together on the fly is not how we are going to operate. We will need to get together after the holidays to sort this out. I will reach out to the relevant parties on the 30th to schedule a meeting to sort this out.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gelzer

On Dec 23, 2025, at 8:55 AM, Calvin Stockdale  
<[calvinjs@gmail.com](mailto:calvinjs@gmail.com)> wrote:

I'll be delivering the key for the Dawn back this morning. Thank you!

Calvin

On Dec 23, 2025, at 8:51 AM, Olivia Smith <[osmith@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:osmith@cityofhillsdale.org)> wrote:

Good morning,

I am sure that is something that can be arranged. We have worked with Elias and he is reputable.

Regarding the key – I was not made aware of the need for the key for a walk-through for a sound system. I had never met Mr. Stockdale and was not aware of his need for the key. Mr. Stockdale checked out the key on the 19<sup>th</sup> and has yet to return it. We need to be made aware of all pre-arrangements. City Staff currently has one key.

Thank you,

**Olivia Smith, MCAO**

Zoning Administrator

97 N Broad Street

Hillsdale, Michigan 49242

517-437-6449

[zoning@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:zoning@cityofhillsdale.org)

<image001.png>

**From:** Mary  
[marybwolfram@gmail.com](mailto:marybwolfram@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2025 6:25 AM  
**To:** Andrew Gelzer  
[adgelzer@gmail.com](mailto:adgelzer@gmail.com); Olivia Smith  
[osmith@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:osmith@cityofhillsdale.org)  
**Cc:** Calvin Stockdale

<[calvinjs@gmail.com](mailto:calvinjs@gmail.com)>; Calvin Stockdale

<[cstockdale@hillsdale.edu](mailto:cstockdale@hillsdale.edu)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Dawn Organ Install 1/12

Andrew and Olivia,

Elias McConnell expects to get started on his work in the Dawn Theater on Jan. 12, 2026 to build the blower room and wind system in the basement., ultimately allowing the reinstallation of the organ.. It makes sense to give him a key to the Dawn that entire week to be efficient about getting in early and working late. Can we arrange for that?

I can pick up the key and get it to him if you agree.

Thanks,

Mary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elias McConnell**

<[ejm@thehillsdalehandyman.com](mailto:ejm@thehillsdalehandyman.com)>

Date: Sat, Dec 20, 2025 at 11:29 AM

Subject: Dawn Organ Install 1/12

To: Calvin Stockdale

<[cstockdale@hillsdale.edu](mailto:cstockdale@hillsdale.edu)>, Mary

<[marybwolfram@gmail.com](mailto:marybwolfram@gmail.com)>

Hello to you both,

It is my goal to keep this email as short and concise and to the minimal amount of people necessary. As has been told to Calvin, we will start our organ process on 1/12. I will need either keys or someone to lock up and unlock for us daily that week. We will also need in the week before to get my project managers and plumbers up to speed - I don't know

when that will be. I think having a key handed to us in the new year would be our best bet.

Our working hours will be 7a-7p to get this project completed - it's my guess no one is wanting to have to show up or leave that late with us.

Thanks,

Elias

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## Friends Of The Dawn Theater Event

Event Folk Fest

Date/s March 7, 2026

Projected Numbers (Y or N) 500 Or Final Numbers (Y Or N)

Room Rental  Per Hour X  Hours = Total  Or

Room Rental \$1,100 Full Day X 1 Day/s

Set Up Fees/Needs (Tables, linens, chairs, buffet, etc.)

TBD: Linens: \$8.00 each  
tablecloth

Cleaning Costs \$100

Bar Open (Y or N) Yes, add \$250 liability insurance

Bartending Costs (Bartender & Liquor) Renter  
responsibility

Bar Sales go to the renter

Ticket Sales go to the renter

\*\*\*\*\*

Money IN \$1,100 plus \$250 for insurance, plus \$8.00/ tablecloth

Money Out \$100 cleaning, plus \$250 for insurance, plus  
\$8.00/tablecloth

Total Revenue \$1,000

TIFA 1/3 Cut \$333

Friends Raised \$667

## Wurlitzer Pipe Organ Installation Overview

### BACKGROUND NARRATIVE

The beginnings of the Dawn Wurlitzer Pipe Organ restoration took form while the Dawn Theater restoration was still underway. Several key factors influenced what may now be looked back upon as not the very best coordination between the two restoration projects. First, at the time, the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ had not been officially donated to the Friends of the Dawn and thus no one could be completely certain that the organ would/could even be returned to the Dawn. Second, even though JL Weiler and Associates had been retained as organ consultant by the Friends of the Dawn, and despite numerous efforts on Weiler's part to communicate with the Dawn restoration project architect to consider ways the building could be more economically and efficiently made ready for the *possible* re-installation of the Wurlitzer, it was made very clear to the Friends that the architect's scope of work did not include any aspects of the Wurlitzer organ project.

Instead, Weiler and the Friends spoke at length with Matt Taylor of Foulke Construction about the communication issues as well as various possibilities related to the organ that might best be accomplished while the Dawn was still being renovated so as to avoid major issues later on. Matt determined that the existing organ chamber structures on either side of the stage needed to be strengthened anyway, so they might as well be rebuilt to improved specifications. Thus the chambers on both sides were rebuilt and given enlarged tone openings toward the audience. Service lighting and electrical plugs were installed as well. No other items related to the organ (electrical conduits, PVC windline, blower room, etc.) were installed due to uncertainties about the organ project at that time, as well as the fact that the organ project was not under the umbrella of the architect and the theater's general restoration.

In due course, the Wurlitzer was donated to the Friends of the Dawn, fund raising efforts began, and an organ renovation contract was signed with JL Weiler. As part of this official relationship with JL Weiler, more aspects of the organ installation were determined, a number of which were not part of the organ restoration contract, but fell to the Friends of the Dawn to accomplish prior to the actual installation of the organ. This is somewhat typical in the pipe organ industry given that organ builders do not carry the proper licensing and liability for those trades required. Among these were those items mentioned earlier – electrical conduits, a blower room in the basement at the street end of the building, PVC windline connecting the blower with the organ components in both chambers, and restoring the organ pit just in front of the stage at house left. Various discussions and cost estimates for this work have been ongoing by the Friends of the Dawn.

Here follows a general description of the Wurlitzer restoration/installation project as it has developed.

## THE CHAMBERS CONTAINING THE SOUND PRODUCING PORTIONS OF THE ORGAN

The chamber on house left will hold all the 300 pipes of the organ, all standing on a winchest(s) that control air flow to individual pipes, enabling these pipes to sound as the organist plays the keys. The chamber stage on house right will contain all the fun toys typically found in the classic theater organ – literally bells, whistles, drums, cymbals, horse hooves, car horn, siren, etc., as well as the original 12VDC “relay” which is a mechanical computer that takes all the electrical signals from the organ console and distributes them to the proper pipes or theatrical sounds.

## THE CONSOLE IS THE CONTROL CENTER FOR THE ENTIRE INSTRUMENT

The console, with two keyboards and pedal board is to be located in its original position by the stage at house left. Evidence of the organ pit was found there during theater renovations. Ideally this pit would be constructed, however, the console could also be permanently or temporarily placed directly on the floor as is. It will roughly take up an area of six feet by six feet, and if the pit is reconstructed, would be recessed into the floor about 18-20 inches. In both scenarios some seating capacity is affected; if the console remains on the floor level, its profile will rise about the stage to some degree and block stage floor view for a segment of the floor seating. A simple cardboard profile is being kept backstage at the theater to demonstrate the organ console profile in relation to the stage.

## THE DIGITAL PLAYBACK SYSTEM

Part of the Friends of the Dawn’s vision for the restored Wurlitzer is that it have a digital playback system installed in order that anything played on the organ may be digitally recorded and stored, so that the organ may be “played” by anyone who can turn on the computer, bring up a library of musical selections, make a play list, and push “play.” This is not a digital *audio* recording but a digital electrical signal recording from the organ’s existing internal playing system. In the end the organ doesn’t really know if it’s being played by a computer or a live organist. The idea is that this will enable the organ to be far more used on various occasions when a live organist is not available. This system consists of a metal box at a convenient location on the stage left wall. From there it is connected to the organ with a simple CAT 5 data cable.

## INFRASTRUCTURE ITEMS (not part of the Wurlitzer restoration contract)

**Blower Room** – a 6’ by 6’ and floor to ceiling wooden enclosure to be located roughly at the foot of the stairs going down to the basement. Here the organ blower will be located, supplying air for the organ’s pipes and pneumatic systems under a static pressure of roughly 10”-12” WC. The blower is to be supplied with a contactor and 220 3-phase power, switchable from the organ console. The blower room design has been submitted by JL Weiler.

## **Windline**

From the blower a 10" PVC pipe will convey the air under pressure through the chase under the floor on house right to the front of the building where it will "T" up to the house right chamber through the stage floor right behind the rear chamber wall, continue under the stage to the a similar "T" up the back wall of the house left chamber. The exposed PVC is intended to be painted flat black and will not cause significant visual issues. Additionally, a smaller "T" will come off the PVC line under the stage to supply the organ console.

## **Organ system conduit**

The console, both chambers, the playback system and the blower all need to be connected together with wiring to operate as one unit. This requires various conduits from one component to the other as specified by JL Weiler.

## **Electrical Supply**

In addition to conduit for the organ's operating system, each location mentioned will require live as well as switched electrical circuits. Additional conduits will be required for those runs and connections as specified by JL Weiler.

## **Chamber Openings**

Although early on Matt Taylor, of Foulke Construction, did the best he could with the dimensions of the chamber openings out to the room as anticipated by JL Weiler at the time the chamber structures were rebuilt Subsequent refinements now require that the house left chamber opening be widened by approximately 5".