

Reaching Out to Other Clubs that Might Be Interested in Using a PAC (Performing Arts Center) In Sun City

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT
Sun Cities Orchestra	Gale Wolfe
Sun City Concert Band	Jim Wise
Sun City Women's Chorus	Annette McConnell
Handbell Ringers	Doreen Chereb
Ukulele Club	Trudy Bryson
Tip Top Dance Club	Lynne Wandrey
Sun City Poms	Larissa Burgess
Sun City Players	Jim McConnell

On Apr 22, 2023, at 8:46 AM, Co-Chair Fast wrote:

Dear Fellow Members,

My name is John Fast and I am an RCSC board member and a co-chair of the Strategic Alternatives Committee (SAC). SAC is generating and evaluating strategic alternatives for Mountain View Option 2 /Lakeview Pickleball Courts. SAC team members requested that I contact you regarding whether you would use a high-quality PAC to perform in and if so, how much (i.e., days used for rehearsals, performances and other.)

Could you please give this some thoughts and let me know so I can report back to the SAC team members.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

John Fast

Sent: Mon, May 29, 2023 11:42 pm

John,

Subject: Performing Arts Center (OAC) - Usage by your club - Handbell Ringers

Thank you very much for contacting our club, the Handbell Ringers. (Our club is currently off for the summer.) We appreciate that you are seeking feedback from us and other performing groups. Our President, Debbie Thompson, has asked me to respond to your request. As Past President, I have been in conversation with representatives from the Sun City Players in recent years, providing our club's perspective.

One of Sun City's oldest clubs, the Handbell Ringers of Sun City have been continuously performing for over 55 years. We have a unique perspective when it comes to the Performing Arts Center because RCSC does not currently have an adequate venue for us to perform in. Mountain View is currently too small. We performed at Sundial over 20 years ago, but it is a poor venue for handbells, both acoustically and logistically. At the end of Covid restrictions, we had

two small "concerts" in the Music Room at Fairway (where we rehearse), but this was more like a classroom setting rather than a performance, and could only accommodate a very small audience.

As a result, we perform two major concerts per year at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, where the acoustics are excellent and the seating is comfortable for our audience. We incur significant costs to use the venue each time. We are unable to take advantage of the RCSC club benefit of one free concert per year, or the associated RCSC advertising. So, if there were a good alternative at an RCSC facility, we would surely welcome it.

We are definitely in favor of a new Performing Arts Center - not only to support our group, but because it will likely increase attendance and the quality of all performing arts events in Sun City. Sundial is no comparison to an actual PAC.

RCSC has put so much work into Mountain View to date, and as I have been informed, this planning has been going on for many, many years. We understand the preference to build the PAC at Mountain View, where the current plans have been drawn and the SC Players call "home." However, we also encourage the SAC to consider the fact that a more centrally located venue in Sun City, if available, could be more attractive, draw the highest attendance, and be more readily accessible to everyone. Many of our club members have expressed concerns about the location of Mountain View. Something to think about.

Our club's PAC usage would likely be at least one concert per year (possibly 2), with a dress rehearsal two days before each performance. Prior to the dress rehearsal, we would move all our equipment, including over 300 handbells and 250 chimes, from the Music Room at Fairway to the concert venue. This is a major undertaking. After dress rehearsal, we would ask for a location to securely lock up all equipment on site until the concert.

In terms of facility design, we need a performing stage that is approximately 30 feet by 30 feet, or similar square footage (not counting the director). An orchestra pit that rose to floor level could also be counted as part of that square footage. Our concert attendance over the years has varied from 400 to as high as 700 before covid.

I must say we are very much encouraged by the fact that a sound, collaborative business model is being used to make final decisions. We trust that you will evaluate all options and make decisions in the best interest of our community.

Please feel free to contact me, if I can answer other questions or assist in any way. Hope my feedback is helpful.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doreen Chereb
Immediate Past President, Handbell Ringers of Sun City