

Faculty Project Information

Designing, Pitching, and Fundraising for Creative Infrastructure: A Small Acoustic Theatre for Kunqu	
Faculty Name:	Kim Hunter Gordon, Ph.D.
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Research Field:	Cultural innovation and digital media production (global audience development for Chinese arts)
Brief Description	
<p>This project explores how a small pure-acoustic indoor theatre based on traditional Chinese architectural methods could be designed and made viable in partnership with a local cultural development zone. China currently lacks venues that are purpose-built for unamplified traditional performance and designed according to both acoustic science and traditional architectural principles. Students will investigate how that gap might be addressed in practice, working with a local government-directed project developing a theatre village in the area near DKU. Students will: (1) study a small number of benchmark venues across the world that support unamplified performance and summarize the basic spatial and acoustic ideas that make them work; (2) map potential users, partners and revenue streams for a small acoustic theatre in Kunshan (3) help prepare a concise slide deck and take part in a live pitch to both investors and the development zone partner during the project period. The project connects research on performance space with practical questions of business and partnership models, and gives students experience in taking a cultural concept from initial research to an actual proposal to potential backers.</p>	
Expected Outcome(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A short case-study report on selected small venues for unamplified performance, with a summary of key spatial and acoustic principles.• A functional brief and outline concept for a small pure-acoustic indoor theatre based on traditional Chinese architectural methods.• A concise slide deck for use in meetings with investors and the development zone partner.• A record of the live pitch session (meeting notes and reflections on feedback) and a brief written	

reflection by the student team on what they learned from the process.

Requirements for Student Applicants

- Interest in at least one of the following: theatre or music, creative industries, architecture or space design, cultural heritage, or business.
- Useful but not essential skills include simple drawing or layout (hand sketches, PowerPoint, Canva or similar), and any experience with business cases, feasibility studies or basic financial modelling.