

【Make new theater as a hub for delivering cultural arts!】

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

About 'Okayama Art Theater (tentative name)' which will be built in Omote-cho Sennichimae area, exchange-of-rights plan associated with urban redevelopment project was approved on October 24th.

Okayama City got the right to acquire the reserved floor space as scheduled by this and the project will get started toward opening in the autumn of 2022.

This new theater with six stories above the ground and two stories below has a floor space of around 19,600 square meters. The strongest point of this building is to be filled with "functions to support creative activities" that no existing institutions nearby have, including a large hall (about 1,750 seats,) a medium hall (around 800 seats,) a large studio, various size of practice rooms, atelier and gallery.

First, according to the basic concept, the new theater is to "fascinate."

At large/medium hall, the widened stage and improved function make it possible to have large-scale performing arts such as Opera.

In addition, the stages will be convenient for users by the arrangement such as some greenrooms around the stage and delivery entrances of the same height as the stage.

Second, the new theater has the function to "gather."

It will be a place where people visit casually and have a cup of coffee even when no performance is scheduled, providing the large wellhole-style area (Nigiwai-space) which connects the north building of business and the south building of hall with large roof, the open lobby and gallery.

Last, the new theater is a place to "create."

In large studio, it is possible to use the same size of space as the main stage of the large hall, do practice and rehearsal in a condition similar to the performance. Also, the studio accommodates up to around 300 people and makes audiences feel a sense of

closeness nearby the performers.

In large practice room, it is possible to use the same size of space as the main stage of the medium hall and use the rooftop garden together. Not only you can practice in open space with natural light but also you can give a performance and reception by blocking the light.

In medium/small practice room including various sizes of fifteen rooms, as an all-purpose room, you can do practice and rehearsal before the performance, do creative activities and hold meetings for hobbies and workshops.

We estimate the acquisition cost for the reserved floor space, with these new functions, at around 23.5 billion yen and it exceeds the original plan by far. However, it is possible to cover the cost with profitable financial resource like merger promotion bond.

The project starts to move toward completion in the end of fiscal 2021 and opening in the autumn of 2022. The demolition work and investigation of cultural assets will start in next January and construction will be initiated in the next autumn.

I expect that the new facilities make many people come around Omote-cho, create a huge crowd and deliver various plays and music to Okayama. For that purpose, there is something more important than tangible side of things such as equipment and facilities.

It would be necessary to enrich intangible side of things such as human resource development of next generation who will become the leader of cultural arts, support to promote citizens' creative activities and network system among various organizations/facilities.

We aim to build the “creative theater” which represents Chugoku/Shikoku region, produce cultural arts of Okayama and deliver them at home and abroad, with various specialists and all citizens. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your continuous help and support.

※Please access the address below (in small letters) to find the image of the facility.

<http://www.city.okayama.jp/contents/000350383.pdf>