



Overview

The historic Grand Opera House and Marks-Rothenberg Building are once again getting a chance to draw people to downtown Meridian, Mississippi. Upon completion in early fall 2006 after a \$24.8 million renovation, the new Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts will offer performing arts presentations, educational programs, facilitate major conferences and meetings, and be a new downtown center for social interaction and cultural enrichment.

Theater Space

At the heart of the Riley Center is the restoration of the historic Grand Opera House, which will host a variety of performing arts programming designed to entertain and enrich audiences of all ages, backgrounds and interests.

- 1,000-seat opera house restored to its 1890's decor and featuring state-of-the-art technical capabilities and latest in modern conveniences and amenities
- A 250-seat multi-purpose studio theatre that can be used for a variety of local events and small shows
- A full-service computerized box office allowing patrons to walk in and purchase tickets at a service window, call in by phone or purchase tickets online

Conference Facilities

The Riley Center will include a state-of-the-art facility suited to meet a variety of meeting and conference needs.

- 30,000 square feet covering four floors and 16 meeting rooms of various sizes designed to accommodate exhibit, meeting, banquet, theatre and classroom settings
- 1,000 seat theatre and 200+ seat multi-use studio theatre fully equipped for show business as well as conference presentations and events
- Equipped with latest technology, including wireless online connectivity and superior audio, video and conferencing capabilities
- An audio and video recording studio space allows events to be recorded and broadcast and will serve as a focal point for a degree program offered by Mississippi State University & Meridian Community College
- Fully trained staff combined with technical capabilities allow us to create show business and make meetings shine

Community Impact

The Riley Center for Education & Performing Arts will truly be "the center" for social interaction and community development for Meridian, Mississippi and the South.

- Generate significant impact on downtown revitalization efforts and economic development for the Meridian area
- Estimated to draw 40,000 to 60,000 people annually to Meridian
- Total economic impact estimated in the region of \$4.7 million a year and support 59 regional jobs



Conference Space Specifications

Proposed From Drawings - October 2005

	Approx. Sq. Footage	Room Capacities According to Room Set Up				
		Banquet	Classroom	Theatre	Boardroom	Reception
First Floor						
Exhibit Hall	5,200	546		505		745
Ballroom/Studio Theatre	2,500	200	125	250		400
Grand Lobby	2,225					315
Second Floor						
Opera House (fixed theatre seats)	7,340			1,000		
Meeting Room 2-A	800	68	40	70		115
Meeting Room 2-B	1,200	115	70	125		170
Meeting Room 2-C	750	60	40	70		100
Meeting Room 2-D	700	45	36	50		100
Third Floor						
Board Room 3-A	960				25	
Meeting Room 3-B	1,030	76	48	84		145
Classroom 3-C (stadium seating)	1,485		50			
Meeting Room 3-D	835	52	39	60		115
Fourth Floor						
Gallery Lobby	845					120
Board Room 4-A	640				20	20
Total Listed Conference Space	26,510	1,162	448	2,214	45	2,345
Trap Level (extra over flow)						
Chorus Dressing West	685		30	45		
Chorus Dressing East	520		20	35		
Green Room	1,703	65	50	85		150
Total Potential Conference Space	29,418	1,227	548	2,379	45	2,495
Room Types						
Theatre			2			
Board Room			2			
Meeting Room			6			
Ballroom			1			
Exhibit Hall			1			
* Extra Rooms & Lobbies			5			
Total function spaces			16			