

## Arts Centre Project - Construction Update for Dec 16 to 21, 2019

### **Arts Centre Expansion – Construction Update November 29, 2019**

Dalhousie is building a three-storey addition to the Seymour Street side of the Dalhousie Arts Centre, with an anticipated completion of fall 2021. This work will involve construction noise throughout the project. The main activity between now and March 2020 will be preparing the foundation. This will involve rock-breaking and instances of localized blasting.

#### **1. Excavation, Rock Breaking, Drilling & Blasting**

- The excavation, intermittent rock breaking and removal of soils and rock will continue this upcoming week. The rock breaking is being scheduled around critical activities/classes/exams for FSPA and Cohn practices & performances.
- The HRM Blasting Permit has been approved and the Earthwork Contractor started drilling on Dec 11, 2019. See below detail regarding the process.
- Now that the Permit is in hand, we have mobilized a drilling rig on site **and blasting is now scheduled to begin as early as December 11, 2019**. They will start with one unit and increase to two if space allows. The average drilling depth will be 12' and the noise level may be slightly less disruptive than the rock breaking. Once a few locations are ready, the Certified Blasting Contractor will place the explosives in preparation of ignition. They will cover the blasting zone with heavy rubber blankets to contain rock fragments. Just prior to detonation, if the blasting zone is adjacent to Seymour St., they will have traffic control in place to hold pedestrian and vehicular traffic for the short duration (5 to 10 minutes) while the explosives are detonated. The Blasting Contractor will give advance notice that they are about to detonate with 3 long horn blasts (The horn signals may not be audible in all parts of the building.). We will then hear a very short bang as well as feel vibrations in the local vicinity of the site. The Blasting Contractor will then blast his horn one more time to advise the event is complete.
- The Contractor is planning to prepare and blast 2 to 3 times a day. Please note this will not be everyday as we are working around the required quiet times for FSPA & Cohn. There will also be days when they are just hauling the released rock from site. The initial drilling and blasting will give us a better idea of the noise and vibration levels we will experience as we move forward.
- The HRM Blasting by-laws restricts the blasting distances from adjacent structures. There will be no blasting within 30' of the Environmental, Health & Safety Office and the Utilities under Seymour Street. The Blaster will need to complete a few small blasts next to the northeast corner of the Arts Centre as the rock is too hard to hammer. The Blaster has received approval to do so.

#### **2. Construction Tendering**

##### **Existing Arts Centre**

- We have released tenders for the Mechanical AHU upgrades, Demolition, Electrical, Fire Suppression, and most Interior Finish Packages in the existing Arts Centre. The remaining tenders to be released late next week. Most tenders will close in early to mid-Jan 2020.
- Please note that work in the Existing Arts Centre will not begin until May 2020.

##### **New Arts Centre - FSPA**

- We released tenders for Formwork & Concrete Placing, Reinforcing Steel, Structural Steel, Concrete Finishing & Foundation Waterproofing. Elevator will go out next week. We are hoping these will close prior to the Christmas break but will depend on the level of questions from the trades. The Mechanical, Electrical, Fire Suppression will be release in the next few weeks.
- A good portion of the remaining tenders for Exterior Cladding, Masonry, Curtain Wall, Interior Finishes, Interior Glazing should be released prior to Christmas but close in the new year. The remaining Performance Equipment, Audio/Video/Rigging, Seating and such will follow.

The Fountain School of Performing Arts, located in the current Arts Centre, is hosting a dynamic webpage with content updated daily. Please visit that website for the most current information: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/school-of-performing-arts/about/facilities/contructionupdates.html>

For an overview on the project and high-level updates please visit [dal.ca/artsexpansion](https://www.dal.ca/artsexpansion) For any questions that may arise over the course of this work please contact [community.relations@dal.ca](mailto:community.relations@dal.ca).