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Final Proposal

Abstract

The Tunxis Campus of CT State Community College is not known for its musical endeavors. The music department is rather small and underwhelming. This proposal evaluates the creation of a professional music studio as an addition to the school. The rationale behind such a project will be discussed throughout this document as well as the plan, budget, and timeline. A music studio would not only address the issues of the music department, but also of the community, helping the campus thrive. With the purchase of professional equipment, the construction of this project strives to meet the needs of the students, faculty, and the school longevity.

Problem Summary

Tunxis Community College needs an upgraded music department. The current music studio available is of poor quality and is not open access to everyone on campus. With such a lackluster focus on music, Tunxis does not attract music students. Many potential students are lost, opting for other colleges with more decorated music programs such as Berkshire Community College instead. Those enrolled at Tunxis that do show interest in the music field are left with an underdeveloped education due to the campus' resources.

The campus also has a shortage of community building and self-expression which can't help the fact that 44% of college students in the U.S. experience symptoms of depression, 37% suffer from extreme stress and anxiety and 15% have seriously considered suicide (Alonso). Studies show, however, that music can help with problems like these. Playing an instrument, making a song, and other musical activities can boost feelings of self-esteem and social connection (Table 1).

Outside of the student lounge, a location largely designated for playing games such as pool, table tennis, or video games like Super Smash Bros, there is no bonding space or activities on campus. When entering the lounge, the one available space for such activities, it's not uncommon to find it already packed. It's a small space with such few activities that it easily gets filled up with no more room for others. On top of this, the select few activities previously mentioned are not the interests of everyone, leaving those who don't enjoy said games with nowhere to go. A music studio would serve as a perfect alternative.

Table 1.

Summary of available evidence about the psychosocial mechanisms by which music activities affect health and well-being.

Mechanism	Receptive music listening	Intentional music listening	Shared music listening (live, radio)	Instrumental music playing	Group singing	Lyrics; rapping	Music and movement/dance	Composition/songwriting/improvisation
Physiological arousal	+/-	+/-		+				-
Emotion/mood	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cognitive (e.g., memory)		+	+	+	+	+	+/-	
Self-esteem/achievement				+	+	+		+
Physical activation	+	+	+	+		+	+/-	
Social connection	+		+	+	+	+	+	+
Identity			+		+	+	+	+

Key: +, studies reviewed showed positive evidence; +/-, some studies reviewed showed positive evidence some studies found no evidence; -, studies reviewed found no evidence; blank means the studies reviewed did not measure this.

Proposed Solution

Adding a high-quality space for students to express themselves musically would help decrease anxiety, improve student satisfaction, and contribute to music education. We propose the creation of a professional-quality music studio that is open to all students. By allowing any student to use the studio, it will also attract musicians who are pursuing other degrees.

Other colleges have had success with free music studios on campus. Berkshire Community College has a near-professional quality studio on campus that is free and open to both students and the public, although their studio provides few instruments. Grace Hopper College also has a music studio open to all students, though it has limited equipment and no isolation booth.

To best serve and attract students, we recommend that Tunxis construct a complete, industry quality studio, including recording and production equipment, instruments, and an isolation booth. First, a suitable space would need to be located on campus. Either a classroom could be repurposed, or the studio could be constructed within the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center which currently has plenty of available space. A detailed internal layout would have to be planned based on the space, designating space for the isolation booth, work, and storage spaces. A contractor would be hired to construct the booth and do any other modifications to the space. Finally, equipment would be purchased and set up.

Pricing

The cost of installation is highly flexible based on the college's budget and resources. The table below shows approximate budgeting for a mid-range to high-end industry-grade studio.

Table 2.

Studio Budget.

ITEM	MID-RANGE	HIGH-END	SOURCES
Reaper DAW	\$60/license x1	\$60/license x5	https://www.reaper.fm/purchase.php
Microphones	\$8000	\$12,000	https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/C12--telefunken-c12-large-diaphragm-tube-condenser-microphone
Microphone stands	\$100 x6	\$150 x10	K&M Microphone Stands - Sweetwater
Drum Mics	\$500	\$1000	https://www.sweetwater.com/c982-Drum Microphone Bundles

Audio Interface	\$1000	\$3000	https://vintageking.com/recording/computer-audio/audio-interfaces
Studio Monitors	\$500 x2	\$1500 x2	https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/A8HLeft--adam-audio-a8h-l-8-inch-3-way-powered-studio-monitor-left https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/IN8v2--kali-audio-in-8-v2-8-inch-powered-studio-monitor
Headphones	\$100 x8	\$200 x8	https://www.amazon.com/Sony-MDR7506-Professional-Diaphragm-Headphone/dp/B000AJIF4E https://www.amazon.com/beyerdyn-amic-Over-Ear-Studio-Headphones-construction/dp/B0011UB9CQ
Console	\$10,000	\$30,000	https://www.sweetwater.com/c1214--Recording_Consoles
Assorted Analog FX	\$1000	\$5000	Amazon.com
Room Treatment	\$2000	\$6000	https://eqacoustics.com/blogs/news/how-much-does-acoustic-treatment-cost-in-2023?srsltid=AfmBOorfNWKPGM8GlgqrwdL9cOkbuGv0r2EQ1d-Mc7ofbCa7Sgl04OES
Computers	\$1000	\$7000	Sweetwater
Recording Booth	\$2,000 x1	\$10,000 x 1	https://www.vocalbooth.com/vocal-booth-pricing
MIDI keyboard	\$200 x 1	\$600 x 1	Guitar Center
Drums	\$1,000 x 1	\$2,000 x 1	Sweetwater
Electric Guitar(s)	\$500 x 3	\$1,000 x3	Sweetwater
Acoustic Guitar(s)	\$500 x 1	\$800 x 1	Guitar Center
Piano	Repurpose campus piano	Repurpose campus piano	
Electric Bass	\$700 x 1	\$1,200 x 1	Guitar Center
Assorted Small Instruments	\$100	\$500	https://www.sweetwater.com/c1507--Classroom_Percussion_Bundles

Desks, Shelving, Organization	\$500	\$1000	Guitar Center Sweetwater
TOTAL BUDGET	\$32,460	\$89,500	

Proposed Schedule



Conclusion

The community of Tunxis needs a change, a big one. A professional music studio is the perfect solution. Not only would a studio benefit the students, but the school as well. Tunxis would gain traction with music students and have more enrollments. Students would be given a better education in the music field and even those that aren't in music classes get to enjoy! Community and bonding would be fostered while the college student mental health crisis would be healing at the same time. With such a flexible budget and a short construction time, this deal is a no brainer.

Sources

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