JENISON CENTER FOR THE ARTS
8375 20th Ave.
Jenison, MI 49428

JEN POSTEMA
(616) 843-5465
jpostema@jpsonline.org

Jenison Center for the Arts - Lighting Systems – Funding Request

To: Jenison Public Schools Board of Education
From: Jen Postema, Interim JCA Manager
Date: November 4, 2026
Requested Funding: Not to exceed $100,000

Purpose and Need:
The Jenison Center for the Arts (JCA) is requesting funding to update its lighting control system and equipment. Much of our current lighting inventory is original to the building or has been in service for more than 13 years. As equipment continues to age, reliability, maintenance, and performance capabilities have become increasing concerns.

These upgrades are important not only to maintain a dependable performance space, but also to provide our students with opportunities to learn and work with current theatrical technology.

Proposed Improvements:

1. Lighting Control Console:
Our current lighting console is original to the building and operates on Windows XP. The system is no longer able to receive software updates, and additional software cannot be installed. We have experienced repeated issues with the console losing control of the lighting system, including instances when lights have unexpectedly shut off during performances.

These interruptions raise concerns about the continued reliability of the system and the possibility of increasingly frequent failures. Replacing the console would provide a more dependable, modern platform for operating and programming our lighting system.

A new lighting console is estimated to cost up to $20,000, pending a formal quote and equipment recommendations.

From an educational standpoint, an updated console would allow students to learn current industry-standard technology, develop lighting designs more efficiently, and gain practical

experience that better prepares them for future education and careers in technical theater and live production.

2. Lighting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades:

In addition to the console, several lighting instruments need to be replaced or upgraded. This includes:

- Spotlights: Updated equipment to improve performance capabilities and provide more reliable coverage.
- Moving Wash Lights: Replacement of existing moving wash fixtures, many of which are failing.
- Lighting Fixtures: Replacement of aging fixtures to improve lighting quality, flexibility, and reliability.

Some of our current equipment was previously used in the high school auditorium and is more than 13 years old. Other fixtures are no longer manufactured, making replacement parts and repairs increasingly difficult. We have also sent equipment out for repair only to experience continued failures afterward.

Updating this equipment would expand our production capabilities, reduce ongoing repair concerns, and give students more opportunities to work with the tools and technology used in today's performance venues.

Educational and Operational Benefits:

These improvements will:

- Provide a more reliable lighting system and reduce the risk of interruptions during performances.
- Give students hands-on experience with current theatrical and stage lighting technology.
- Improve opportunities for students to learn lighting design, programming, and live production.
- Expand the JCA's capabilities for concerts, theater productions, presentations, and other events.
- Reduce ongoing repair costs and dependence on outdated or discontinued equipment.
- Better prepare students for future opportunities in technical theater and the performing arts.

Funding Request and Next Steps:

The JCA is requesting approval for an expenditure not to exceed $100,000 for lighting system upgrade.

Before finalizing equipment selections, I plan to bring in a professional lighting designer or lighting specialist to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the JCA's lighting system and performance spaces. This evaluation would include the current lighting console, fixtures, electrical and dimming infrastructure, lighting positions, cabling, system compatibility, and opportunities for future expansion.

The goal is to develop a coordinated, long-term lighting plan that addresses our immediate equipment needs while ensuring that any new purchases work together effectively and support the future needs of the facility. I will also reach out to other school districts to learn from their experiences and gather recommendations.

We will obtain formal quotes and compare equipment options, compatibility, installation needs, warranties, and long-term support before making final purchasing decisions. The lighting console alone may cost up to $20,000, with the remaining investment directed at the equipment and improvements recommended for our facility.

This is an opportunity to make a thoughtful, long-term investment in the JCA. By updating our lighting system, we can improve the reliability and quality of our performances while providing students with valuable, hands-on experience using up to date technology.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Jenison Center for the Arts.