REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING DATE: November 26, 2009

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<th>Session:</th>
<th>Public Session</th>
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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Wolf Performance Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared By:</td>
<td>Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, Margaret Mitchell, Terry Wilkes</td>
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<td>Presented By:</td>
<td>Susanna Hubbard Krimmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purpose of Report:</td>
<td>For Decision:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Receive ✓</td>
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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that this report be received.

**Issue / Opportunity**

In June 2009, the Wolf Family Foundation approached the Library regarding potential enhancements to improve the overall experience of patrons of the Wolf Performance Hall. Given the interest of the Foundation and the fact that the Hall was approaching its 7th year of operation, Library Administration felt this was an opportune time to review the functionality, accessibility and aesthetics of the Hall to ensure its ongoing quality and demand. The Library subsequently identified a list of desired enhancements and reviewed them for impact and cost.

**Background & Review**

The Wolf Performance Hall was developed as part of the overall Central Library redevelopment project. The hall was officially opened in September 2002.

The Wolf Performance Hall was an expansion of the original budgeted concept for an auditorium for the Central Library. Over $1.5 million were raised to support the building of the Hall. The Wolf Family Foundation was the major donor, contributing $500,000, received the naming rights to the Hall.

Since its opening, the Wolf Performance Hall has become one of the preferred venues for events and programs in downtown London. The attributes of the Hall make it a popular place for people to enjoy the creative arts and to support local artists. The Library has been able to feature a diversity of programming from author readings to cultural celebrations to musical performances to live theatre and much more. Over the past three years, the Hall has been booked for over 300 sessions annually. Approximately one half
of those sessions are rentals. The quality of the Hall is regularly commented on by renters, audiences and performers alike.

Since 2002, maintenance for the Hall has included: regular repair/maintenance schedules, scheduled bulb replacement, some equipment upgrades, floor painting and the installation of hand rails.

**Upgrade Plan**

The elements of the Upgrade Plan are found in Appendix 1.

The plan was developed with the assistance of John Nicholson of Malhotra Nicholson Sheffield Architects Inc. (MNSA) and his consultants. MNSA was the original architectural firm overseeing the Central Library project in partnership with Shore Tilbe Irwin Architects Inc. The plan incorporates improvements design to:

- Ensure that the Hall its lobby space is welcoming, “fresh” and aesthetically pleasing;
- Address the functional aspects of sound and light in the Hall; and
- Improve the physical accessibility of the Hall and, as possible, anticipate future accessibility standards for built environments.

Drawings prepared by the architect are presented in Appendix 2.

**Sources of Funding**

The following sources of funding are identified to complete the project:

- Wolf Family Foundation $24,500
- Library Trust Funds $15,500

The generosity of the Wolf Family Foundation is supporting the Library in the achievement of overall plan.

**Time Lines**

It is expected that the work will be undertaken in the first quarter of 2010.
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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>EXPLANATION/DETAIL</th>
<th>EST. COST</th>
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| VESTIBULE            | To create a welcoming, accessible transition space from the lobby into the WPH  
  Action: Update floor finishes using slate, pulling flow of slate from the Passageway into the north and south vestibules and across the upper corridor space in the Hall; install transition strip at top of stairs for visibility/accessibility  
  Action: Drywall walls which are currently concrete and paint drawing colours from Library palette | $8,000    |
| WPH LOBBY            | To create a refreshed lobby space used for registration/ticketing space, gathering space and crush space and for events that are part of WPH events  
  Action: Update a central section of floor finish of using slate, pulling flow of slate from the Passageway  
  Action: Design and build a moveable desk unit with millwork that is complementary to the WPH and Library finishes  
  Action: Paint and refresh area, install poster display units to promote programs | $16,000   |
| ACOUSTICS: PERFORMERS| To improve the level of sound of artists speaking, e.g. at intervals in performances  
  Action: Acquire additional, quality lapel microphones | $500      |
| ACOUSTICS/LIGHT: DOORS to WPH | To improve acoustics by improving sound seal; to improve light seal  
  Action: Upgrades to perimeter seals, door closers and thresholds; replacement of Dundas Street doors | $7,500    |
| ACOUSTICS: AIR RETURN| To improve acoustics (air noise) and HVAC by preventing paper (e.g. program flyers) and debris from entering air return system  
  Action: Install mesh | $2,000    |
| ACCESSIBILITY        | To improve accessibility and safety of WPH patrons moving down the stairs to their seats; LPL previously installed purpose designed handrail on one side  
  Action: To install handrail on second side of WPH | $6,500    |
| STAGE REFRESH        | To refresh the quality of the stage in terms of appearance and functionality  
  Action: Paint using specialized stage paint | $1,000    |
| TOTAL COSTS          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | $41,500   |