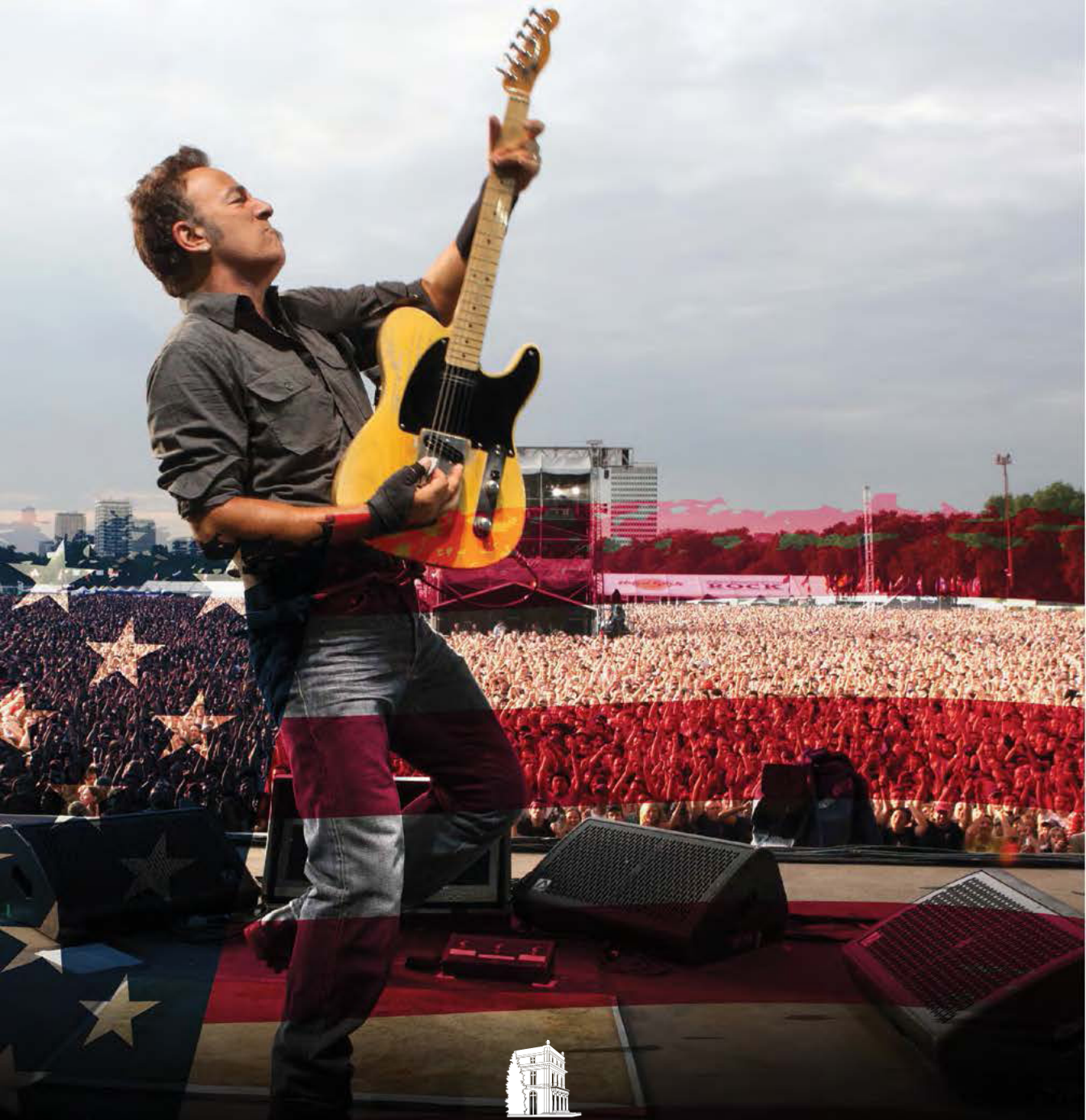


BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

ARCHIVES & CENTER FOR AMERICAN MUSIC
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



On the evening of September 9, 1956, America crossed a bridge of no return when 70 million Americans heard Charles Laughton announce on The Ed Sullivan Show, “Ladies and gentlemen...Elvis Presley.”

As Bruce Springsteen tells it, “Then, in a moment of light, blinding as a universe birthing a billion new suns, there was hope, sex, rhythm, excitement, possibility, a new way of seeing, of feeling, of thinking, of looking at your body, of combing your hair, of wearing your clothes, of moving and of living. There was a joyous demand made, a challenge, a way out of this dead-to-life world, this small-town grave with all the people I dearly loved and feared buried in it alongside of me.”

The entry to the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University will invite visitors to reflect on this powerful moment in American history by entering Bruce Springsteen’s visionary musical landscape upon crossing a steel and wood walkway; its decking and handrails recall the Jersey Shore boardwalks.



CROSSING THE THRESHOLD SEPTEMBER 9, 1956



The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music will house Springsteen's papers, awards, lyrics and notebooks, instruments, posters, handbills, photographs, concert performances, recordings, and much more.

Special exhibit space will tell Springsteen's story, as well as the stories of other American music giants who have influenced him, including Woody Guthrie, Robert Johnson, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams, and Frank Sinatra, whose bodies of work are considered essential to understanding American music. In addition, the space will tell the stories of musicians whose work has been influenced by Springsteen, including Gaslight Anthem and The Killers.

Designed by COOKFOX Architects, the state-of-the-art building will reflect the music and stories contained in it. A powerful marker of memory, the building will be constructed using materials and colors and overall design emotionally and physically connected to the Springsteen legacy. It will also act as a catalyst for learning and research, digging deep into the Springsteen story and investigating the broader history of American music.



A MUSEUM, AN ARCHIVE, AND A CENTER FOR RESEARCH



In pursuit of the Archives' mission to serve as an educational space, two galleries dedicated to American Music anchor the lower floor. Permanent exhibitions on the life, legacy, and music of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band are housed on the upper floor.

The American Music Gallery will feature a series of interactive displays that place Springsteen's music in the context of the history of America's diverse musical heritage. Ideal for classes studying the role music has played in the shaping of the social, political, and cultural fabric of America, this exhibit will serve as a resource for K-12 teachers throughout the region.

The second lower level gallery will host touring exhibitions created by the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Smithsonian Institution, the Grammy Museum, and others. These rotating exhibitions will educate and inspire visitors and students about the great American music story.



THE GALLERIES



The core function of the Archives is to preserve and store its collection of writings, recordings, interviews, filmed performances, stage clothing, guitars, and other ephemera associated with Springsteen's life and career as well as artifacts from other notable artists, in a manner that is easily accessible to researchers, scholars, students, faculty, fans, and other visitors.

The Archives will provide listening and viewing cubicles, an area for artifact investigations, and small-group discussion rooms, as well as a processing center for ongoing donations of artifacts.

The new building will provide a secure environment to ensure the long-term preservation of the archival materials with state-of-the-art storage facilities and sensitive climate-control storage conditions.



THE ARCHIVES



At the heart of Springsteen's artistic vision is performance. The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music will include a leading-edge 200-seat soundstage and theater where intimate performances, lectures, film screenings, seminars, and conferences will be presented.

During the day, an introductory film on the music and life of Springsteen will be shown to a broad range of visitors. In the evening, Monmouth University faculty will teach courses on popular music.



THE THEATER



The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music will present a wealth of educational and public programs designed to complement the exhibits and illuminate the history of American music and Springsteen's role in it.

Educator workshops, college seminars, and academic conferences will also be produced by the Archives. The educational programs and the exhibits will encourage K-12 class trips to the Archives. Monmouth students, as well as students from other colleges and universities, will use the Archives as a research resource. An ongoing oral history program that captures the stories and careers of E Street Band members and other major figures of the American music community and Jersey Shore music scene will be offered under the supervision of Monmouth University faculty and the Archives' curators.



EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

THE CENTER AT A GLANCE

Architect: COOKFOX Architects

Total Square Footage: 29,000 square feet

Program Square Footage: 25,600 square feet

Materials: Weathering Steel, Concrete, Glass, Structural Timber

Special Features:

Climate-Controlled Archive Space

Research Carrels

200-Seat Theater and Green Room

Gallery Space for Permanent and Traveling Exhibits

Interactive Exhibits

Listening Booths

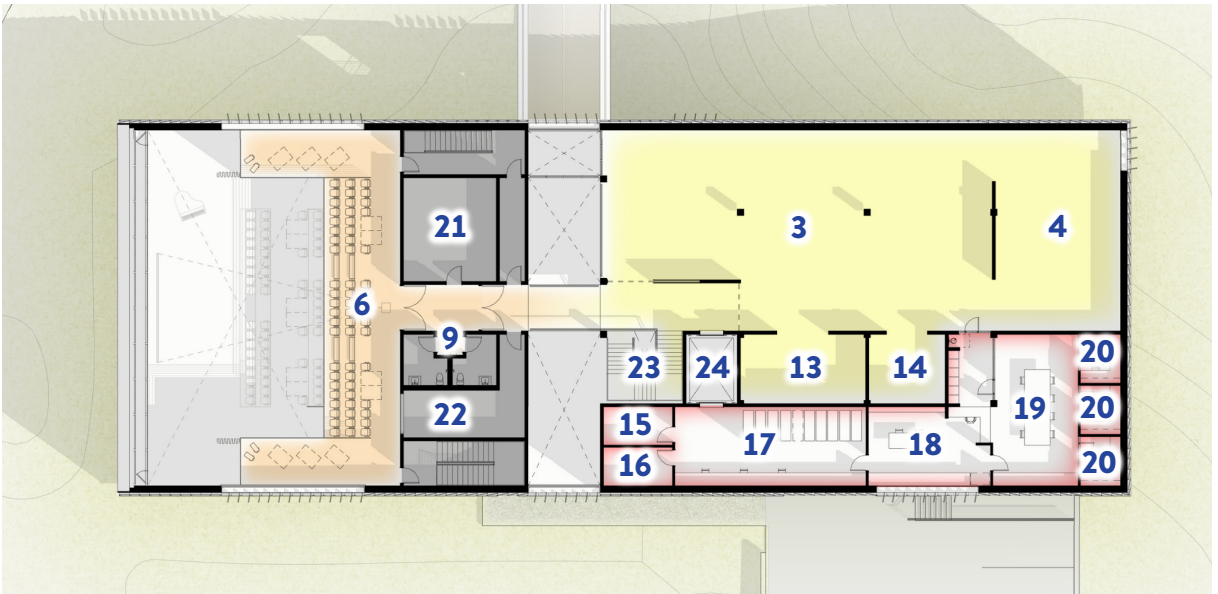
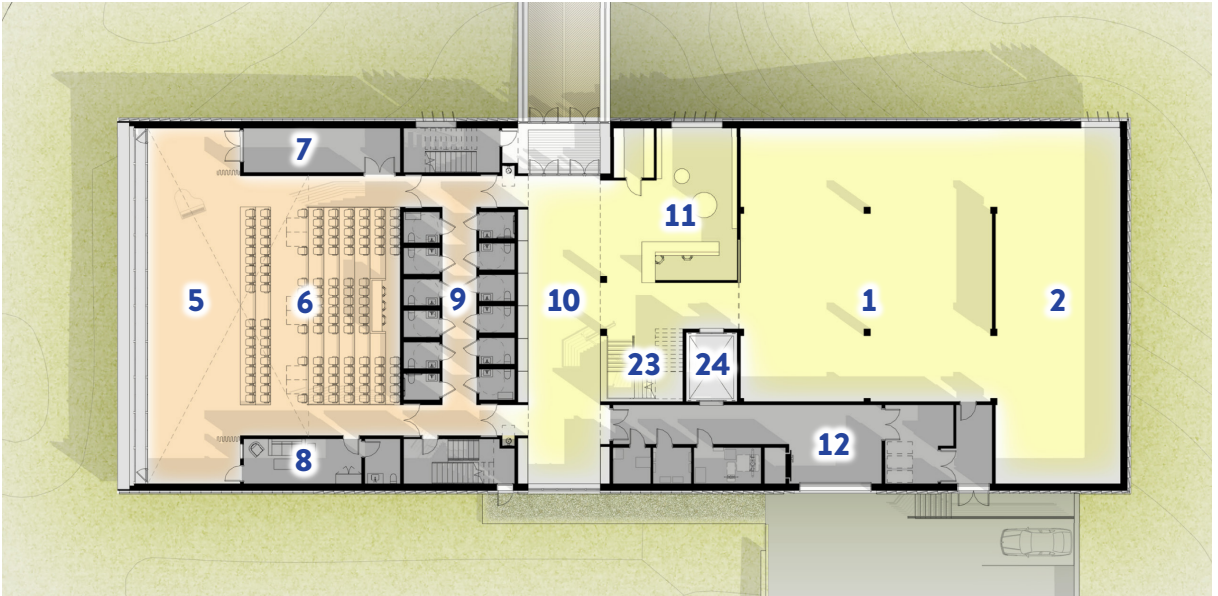
Outdoor Gathering Space

Museum Gift Shop



1. AMERICAN MUSIC GALLERY
2. TEMPORARY EXHIBITION GALLERY
3. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN GALLERY
4. E STREET BAND GALLERY
5. STAGE
6. AUDITORIUM
7. STORAGE
8. GREEN ROOM
9. RESTROOMS
10. ENTRY HALL
11. TICKETS & GIFT SHOP
12. RECEIVING & EXHIBITION STAGING

13. PHOTO GALLERY
14. BRUCE'S WRITING ROOM
15. FILM & PHOTO STORAGE
16. SERVER ROOM
17. PROCESSING
18. ARCHIVIST
19. ARCHIVAL RESEARCH
20. LISTENING BOOTHS
21. MECHANICAL ROOM
22. CONTROL ROOM
23. MONUMENTAL STAIR
24. FREIGHT ELEVATOR



WHY MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY?

Monmouth University, located in West Long Branch, New Jersey, has played an important role in Bruce Springsteen's music history. The University was the site of many early Springsteen concerts from 1969 to 1974, and is located a few blocks away from where, in 1974, Springsteen wrote his most famous song, "Born to Run."

Monmouth University has hosted numerous Springsteen academic conferences over the years. In addition, Springsteen chose Monmouth to rehearse his "Springsteen on Broadway" show, and he has participated in numerous music-related public programs on campus.

Therefore, it's not surprising that Springsteen selected Monmouth University to be the steward of his legacy. The creation of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University ensures that his influence, and his importance in, American music history endures for generations to come.



Springsteen and his band performing on the steps of the Great Hall at Monmouth, 1969.
Photo by Buddy Desantis



*“Everybody needs a place to rest.
Everybody wants to have a home”*

Bruce Springsteen, “Hungry Heart”

Photo by Joel Bernstein, 1979



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The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music preserves the legacy of Bruce Springsteen and celebrates the history of American music and its diversity of artists and genres.

*For more information, please visit
springsteenarchives.org*

