



# CREATING A BETA-SPACE IN AN ACADEMIC MUSIC LIBRARY

*Stephanie Lewin-Lane  
Coordinator of the Music Library*

# A New Space for Students

The University of Houston Music Library opened a new Beta-Space Study Room on September 8, 2016. The Beta-Space provides a multi-purpose study space geared to performing arts students based on the Beta-Space model.

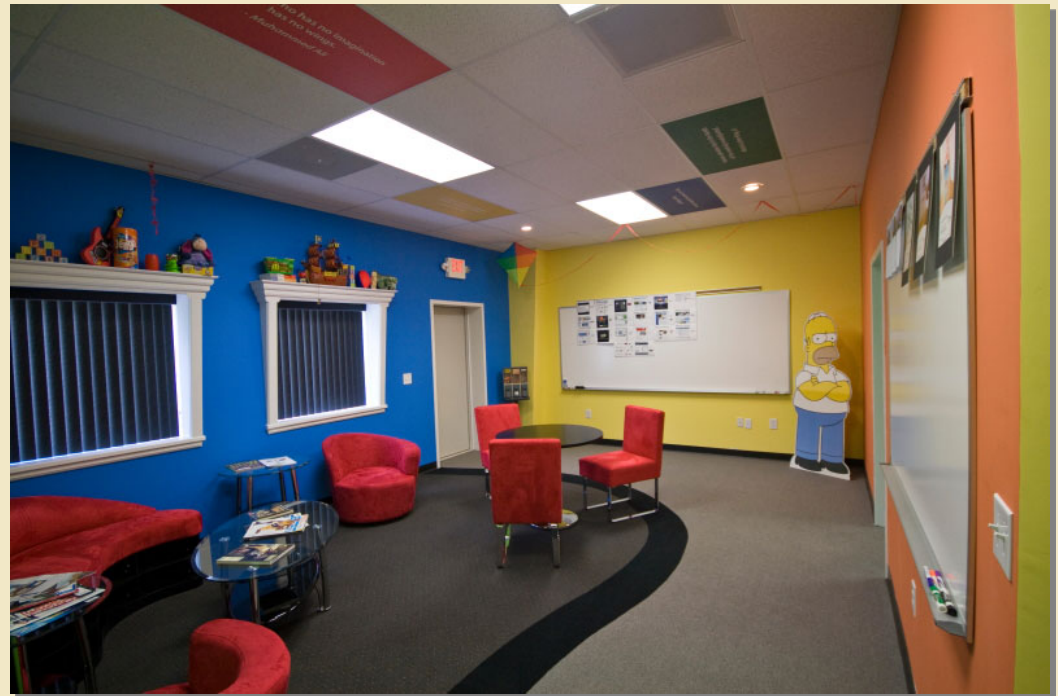
The inviting and functional room features multimedia, recording and music software, visual tools, and other resources for creativity.

# Inspiration

- Existing plan to convert Coordinator's old office into a group study space for students
- During this time, article posted in the MLA listserv on beta-spaces
  - Dickerson, Madelynn. ["Beta Spaces as a Model for Recontextualizing Reference Services in Libraries."](#) In the Library with the Lead Pipe, May 18, 2016.
- Inspired by article, proposal created to turn Coordinator office into a beta-space geared towards supporting performing arts students

# What is a Beta-Space?

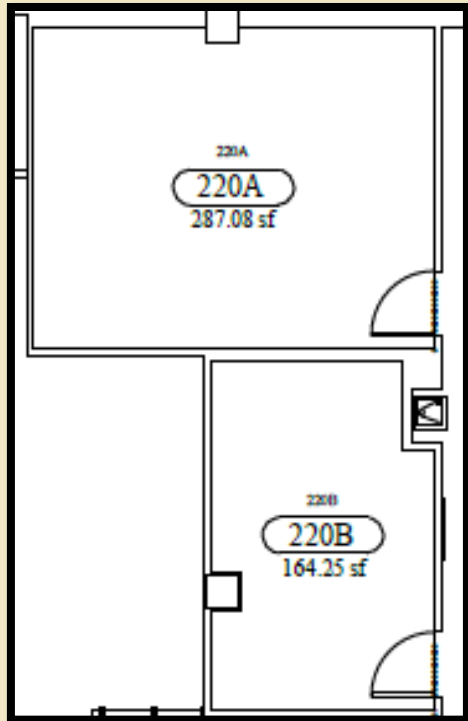
- Similar to a Makerspace, but with less emphasis on technology and more emphasis on creativity and inspiration
- Designed for “outside of the box” thinking, brainstorming, experimentation, innovation, and collaboration



Example of Brainstorming Room from <http://willbryandesign.com/studio/>

# Initial Research

- Explore possibilities as beta-space
  - Search for brainstorming and maker spaces online
- Identify minimal requirements for space and how it might be used



Layout of Proposed Beta-Space, 220B



Before Photo of Proposed Space

# Proposal

- Space would serve multiple purposes:
  - Provides group study space not available anywhere else in the Moores School of Music Building
  - Other uses for students include:
    - Skype/phone interview space
    - Webinar/MOOC class space
    - TA Tutoring space
  - Additional space for small information literacy classes and workshops hosted by the Music Library, as well as a place to support campus events

# Proposal

- Proposed the following physical modifications and updates:
  - Repaint room using color psychology
    - blues, greens, purples for creativity
  - Decorate the room with stimulating art
  - Outfit the room with the following items:
    - USB enabled keyboard and microphone for recording
    - Television screen and speakers
    - Laptop dedicated to the space that is equipped with recording, arranging, and mixing software
    - A large whiteboard
    - A resource center for handouts related to the space
    - A display shelf for relevant books to check out

# Proposal

- Proposed Budget:

Item	Total
TV Screen	\$500
Speakers	\$100
Large white board	\$200
White board supplies	\$15
Paint	\$50
Recording microphone w/usb	\$50
3-shelf bookshelf	\$150
Keyboard w/usb	\$150
Magnetic poetry (music)	\$15
Art and decorative items	\$130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1360</b>

- Actual Cost (approx.):

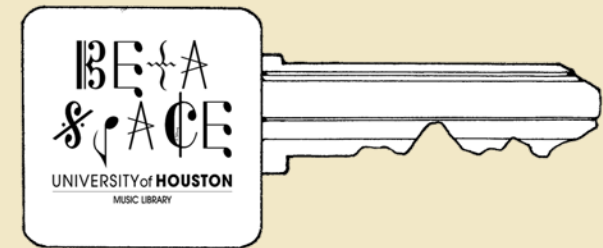
Item	Total
TV Screen (cost only for mount)	\$31
Speakers & mounts	\$149
Large white board & supplies	\$228
Paint	\$50
Recording microphone w/usb	\$45
Wall bookshelf & side table	\$83
Keyboard & cover	\$212
Magnetic poetry (music)	Gifted
Art and decorative items	\$110
Misc. (cords, covers, etc.)	\$36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$944</b>

Round table, 2 soft chairs, and TV screen came from surplus for \$0 cost



# Prep Work

- Majority of work done in-house to save on money and time
  - Music Library Coordinator purchased paint and décor and designed overall look of the space
    - Space was painted by music library staff in one afternoon
  - Music Library staff brainstormed and made creative elements to add, such as handouts, and researched music freeware for beta-space dedicated laptop
- Music Library staff worked together to create procedures and items for checking out Beta-Space
  - Barcoded “keys” and added room to ILS
  - Manual for Tech and laptop software
  - Room checklist for checking-in after use
  - Created [Webpage](#)



# Finished Product



[Beta-Space Photos](#)

# After Opening

Beta-Space opened on September 8, 2016

- Usage stats (9/8-10/4)
  - 20 reservations (79 people total)
    - 16 Music Majors, 2 Engineering, 1 Business, 1 Biology
  - 60% Undergrad, 30% Grad, 5% TA, 5% Faculty
  - 5 repeat reservations
- We anticipate that usage will increase during midterms and finals



# Plus/Delta

- Plus
  - Inquiries and feedback from students and faculty have been frequent and positive
  - Students outside of performing arts are using the space
- Delta
  - Reservation system (Ball State University-open source)
    - Shared with M.D. Anderson library group study rooms so causing false reservations due to location confusion and webpage set-up
    - Not flexible (on the hour only)
    - Log-in only, so no robust stats without additional survey



<http://guides.lib.uh.edu/music/betaspace>

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