Abstract: The city of Los Angeles is internationally known as the hub of arts and entertainment. It’s where aspiring artists, musicians, actors, creatives, writers, directors, and composers come to pursue their dreams. Many of them exhibit talent from a very young age, but some have no means to pursue those talents. Whether there be a financial or socioeconomic barrier, it is unfortunate when a gifted child is hindered from pursuing their talents because of factors out of their control.

The Oasis Performing Arts Center is a place for those very underprivileged students to pursue those aspirations with the help of community support, scholarships and sponsorships. This school/facility would prepare gifted children in underprivileged communities between the age of 12 and 18, in the areas of the arts, for them to pursue careers in professional music performance, dance, musical theater, and acting. The main facility will provide a large performance hall for frequent formal performances, one smaller recital hall, section rooms for group practice, smaller private rooms for private lessons and practice, a dance hall, an expansive lobby and reception area. There will also be a cafe with snacks, light meals and refreshments on site for students to be able to grab food on the go, or a place for them to relax in between classes. There will also be a full cafeteria to provide meals for students during the week, but one that can also be converted into a fully functioning restaurant, open to the public in the evenings. Several dozen housing units/dormitories for students/staff will also be on site for students who are attending from afar or internationally.

The intent of this performing arts center is to provide a facility in the central Los Angeles area, with close proximity and accessibility to the Hollywood area, to service nearby underprivileged communities. There are schools nearby that provide similar environments at a more broad level, perhaps more of a safe haven. However, this school is intended to be a follow up school, where gifted kids can receive scholarships and sponsorships to pursue their gifts at a professional level. Perhaps paired with organizations/donors from Dorothy Chandler, or even the nearby Colburn school, this school will cater to this specific demographic of underprivileged youth.

Keywords: Gifted children, financial or socioeconomic barriers, Providing a school for underprivileged youth, accessibility to nearby arts communities

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