

Visiting Wharton: A Social Narrative



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
W H A R T O N
C E N T E R
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

As of January 1, 2022, we are following COVID-19 protocols on masking and vaccine requirements. You can find more information at [this link](#).

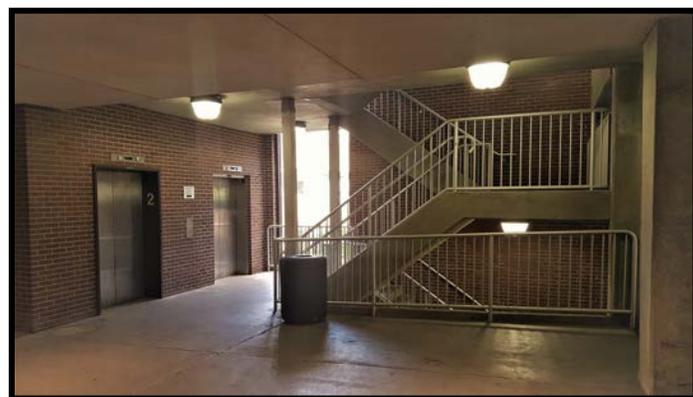


At the entrance to the ramp, I will be met by a representative from MSU's Parking Division to pay for event parking. It will cost \$10, and I can pay in cash. They will hand me a ticket to place on the dash of my car while I'm at the event.

Once I enter the parking ramp, I will follow signs that point me one way in the direction to park. Accessible parking is located and clearly marked on each level.



After parking, I may need to walk up or down the stairs or take an elevator to get to the building entrance on the second floor.



On my way to the building entrance, I will walk through an area called the Atrium. There will be someone there to greet me and give directions to the entrance. Wharton Center staff and fellow patrons will be wearing masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Atrium can become crowded and noisy as people enter the building.



As I enter the building, there will be Wharton Center staff that will ask to see my COVID-19 vaccine card. For some shows, there will be security staff called MSU Green Coats present in the Atrium or at the front entrance. They will ask me to walk through a metal detector. If I do not want to walk through, I can tell them, and they'll use a hand-held wand to pass over my body. The machines will beep, but I can cover my ears. They will also ask to look into my bag, if I bring one.



When I get into Wharton Center, I will be welcomed by ushers- I can recognize them by their black shirts and colorful ties. They will direct me where to go in the theatre and answer any questions I might have.



As I walk through the lobby, I may find myself in a crowd of people. If this makes me uncomfortable, I may ask an usher for help.



There is a gift shop in the lobby, where I can find a wide variety of items for purchase.



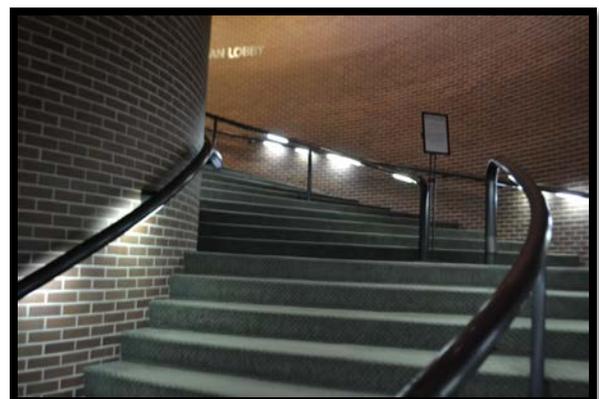
There is also a Patron Services Desk in the lobby where I can ask questions about my visit to Wharton. This is where I can ask for noise-canceling headphones, booster seats, listening devices, and other items to make my experience more comfortable.



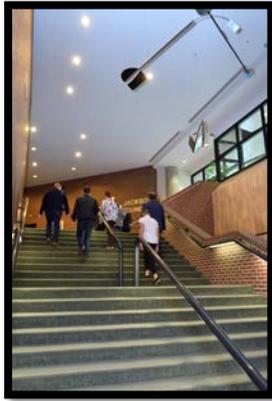
I may have already received my tickets in the mail. If not, I will want to stop at the ticket office. There, I will walk up to the Will Call windows and tell the staff member my name. They will then give me my tickets. I may have to stand in line.



Wharton Center has two theatres: Pasant and Cobb Great Hall. If my performance is in Pasant Theatre, I can take the stairs or the elevator.



If my performance is in the Cobb Great Hall, I will walk through a set of doors that lead to a staircase or down a hallway to reach an elevator.



There are bathrooms near both theatres, on all levels of Wharton Center. Family and accessible bathrooms will be clearly marked and can be located on the show-specific Sensory Map. I can find this map online or at the Patron Services Desk.



I may want to hang up my coat. For Pasant Theatre, there is a coat rack in the hallway. For Cobb Great Hall, there are coat check closets.

Outside of both theatres, refreshments are available for purchase. Some shows will have a merchandise stand set up in the lobby or Grand Foyer, where I may purchase souvenirs. The lobby may become crowded right before performances and at intermission.



As I approach the door to the theatre, another usher will greet me and ask to scan my ticket. I may see a brief flash of red light and/or hear a beeping sound.



Inside the theatre, another usher will help me find my seat, and may offer me a program. If I have any questions about my seat, or need any assistance, I can ask an usher and they will assist me. There are handrails in both theaters.

Pasant Theatre



Cobb Great Hall



Before the performance, there will be announcements made by someone either over the speaker or live on stage. Once this speech is done, the lights on stage and in the theatre may go dark.



Some performances may have American Sign Language interpreters, who will stand near the stage to help patrons enjoy the show.

Some patrons may arrive at the theatre late. They may need to be helped to their seats after the performance has started. I may see ushers using a very small flashlight, pointing these guests to their seats.

At the end of the show, the performers will come to the stage for a *curtain call*, where they will take a bow. The audience may clap, cheer loudly, and perhaps even stand up. I may participate at whatever level I'm comfortable with. Some audience members may choose to leave the theatre while this is taking place and they may walk in front of my seat.



After the curtain call, the house lights will become brighter and the audience will leave the theatre. Lobby spaces will become crowded again. If I'd like to remain in my seat and wait for the crowd to clear out a bit, I may.

If I'm unsure of where my exit is, I can ask the nearest usher.