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Bix Society partners with Putnam to create Bix Beiderbecke Hall

DAVENPORT -- A new Bix Beiderbecke Hall, located at the Putnam Museum and being planned by the Bix Memorial Jazz Society, was announced Thursday by Dana Waterman, Putnam Board of Trustees chairman. "Through this collaboration, the Putnam is able to provide the community another opportunity to learn about our region's rich cultural history," said Waterman.

"Bix Beiderbecke Hall," the proposed \$1.382 million, 1,300 square foot interactive space, will be constructed in the Grand Lobby of the Putnam Museum. It will house both Putnam-owned Bix artifacts, Bix Society archives, and rarely seen photographs and footage from collectors worldwide. Bix's cornet and the Beiderbecke family piano will also be on display.

"For many years, the Bix Society has talked about a permanent museum and archival center in Bix's hometown. Now, thanks to the generosity of friends, the wisdom of our World Advisory Council, and the collaboration with the Putnam Museum, I believe this dream will come true," said Voss.

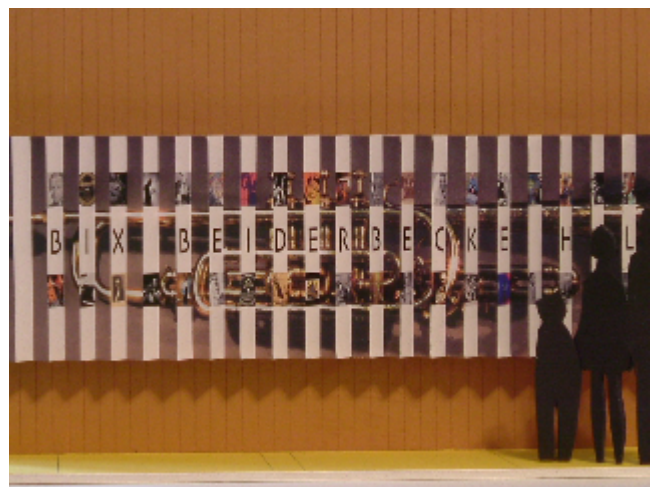
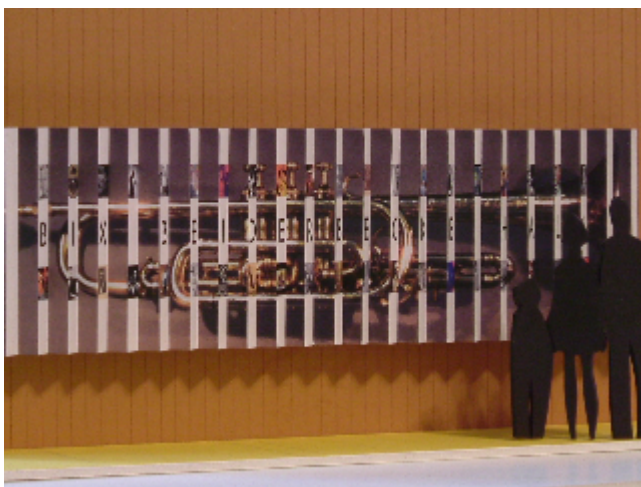
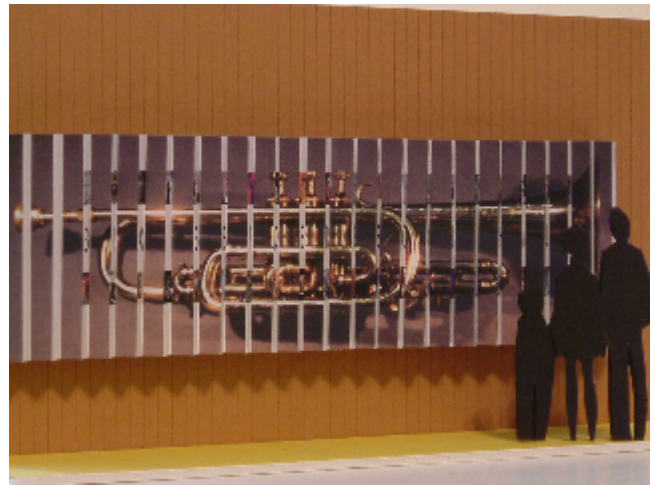
The project was originally begun more than a decade ago through funding from Riverboat Development Authority. A Chicago design firm, headed by Roy Alexander of AlexanderDESIGNS, was hired to develop the space. The concept of a Bix Hall was tabled at that time in favor of an IMAX Theatre. Alexander, a proclaimed Bixophile, refit the original design to live in the highly visible IMAX Grand Lobby.

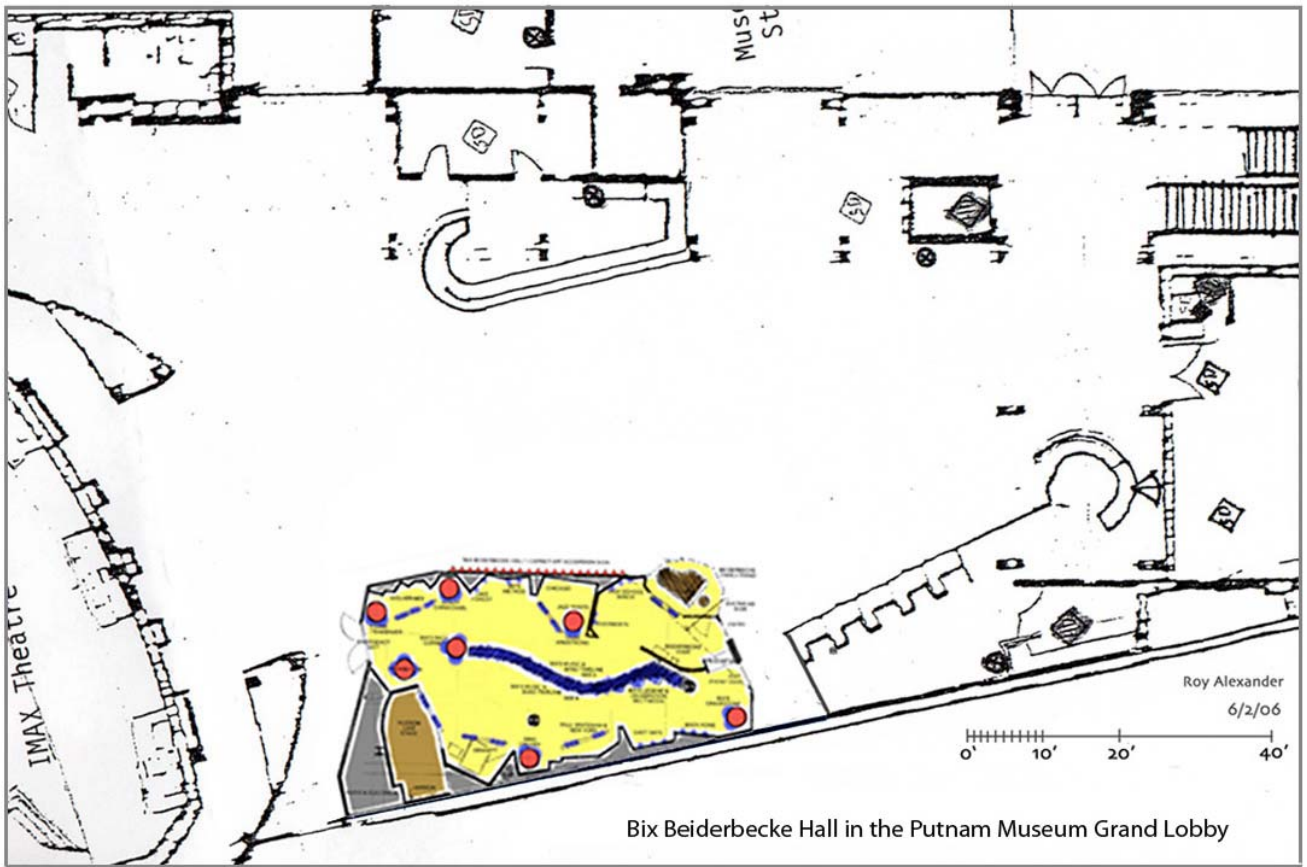
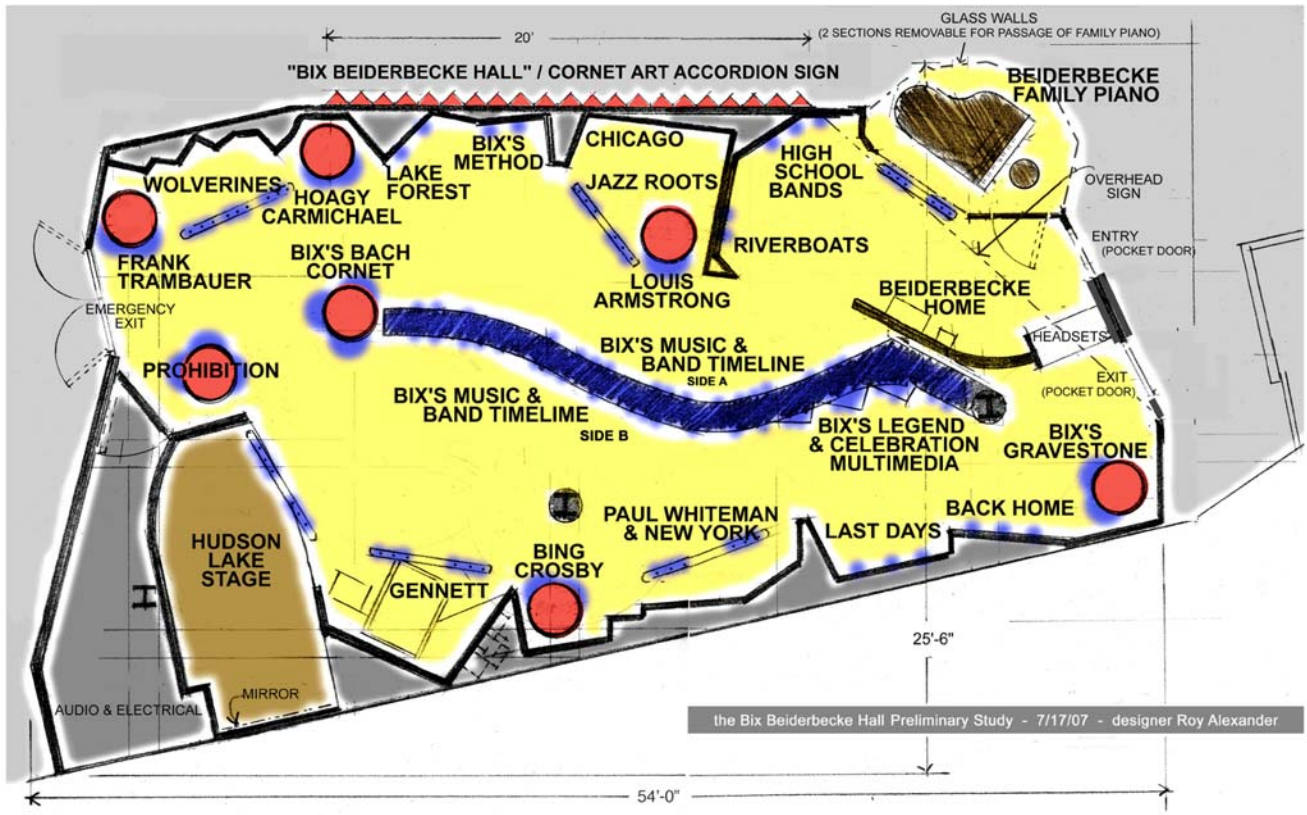
A feasibility study is being conducted through 2007. Fundraising efforts, coordinated by Howard Braren, a Beiderbecke family member, on behalf of the Bix Society, will kick off in 2008. Construction is slated to begin January 2009, with the Bix Hall opening in time for Bix Festival 2009.

Approximately \$35,000 has been raised to date by the Bix Hall Committee for initial funding expenses and archival costs. For more information about Bix Society fundraising efforts, contact Howard Braren, fundraiser for the Bix Hall Committee, at (563) 343-9606 or info@bixsociety.org.

The Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre is a 501(c) (3) educational corporation, providing the greater Quad Cities region with quality of life experiences since 1867. The Museum is the primary repository for the area's unique treasures - over 170,000 artifacts and specimens that tell the stories of the region, the people who live here and their connections to the world. The IMAX® Theatre is equipped with 270-sloped, stadium-style seats; a screen six stories high and seven stories wide; a six-speaker, 10,000 watt digital sound system; and Academy Award®-winning IMAX® projection system. Visit the Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre at www.putnam.org. IMAX® is a registered trademark of IMAX Corporation.

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Bix Beiderbecke Hall in the Putnam Museum Grand Lobby