the DREAM stage



SUMY NATIONAL
ACADEMIC THEATER
named after M. S. SCHEPKIN

SUMY NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATER



Sumy National Theatre is the largest artistic cluster in northeastern Ukraine, employing **230 specialists** and operating six diverse performance venues. Despite the daily threat of attacks, in 2025 we presented **374 performances**, welcomed over **40,000 spectators**, and successfully toured Europe.

Our repertoire meets the needs of a broad audience, featuring classical Ukrainian plays, contemporary drama, and inclusive productions. Almost all of our performances are completely sold out, demonstrating the critical cultural role we play in shaping regional identity and supporting our community.

PROBLEM & RATIONALE

Due to security restrictions caused by the full-scale invasion, our Main Stage and Concert Hall are rarely used, drastically limiting our auditorium occupancy rate to just 28%. Consequently, we are forced to operate primarily through small experimental spaces that cannot meet the high audience demand.

Furthermore, there is currently no professional, safe performance venue in the entire city of Sumy, leading to a complete lack of touring appearances by renowned artists. **It is urgently necessary to establish a large, safe alternative space that can replace the Main Stage and ensure continuous operation amidst daily security challenges.**



CURRENT SITUATION

Built in 1980, the theatre building consists of nine stories: five above ground and four underground.
The theatre features an extensive network of basement facilities, part of which currently serves as a basic shelter. It is within one of these spaces that we plan to establish a modern, multifunctional creative performance space, catering not only to the national theatre company but also to the broader needs of the city and region.

The location of this venue allows for the relatively safe, uninterrupted hosting of various cultural and artistic events. This provides an opportunity to ensure the stable operation and continued functioning of the national theatre amid daily security challenges.





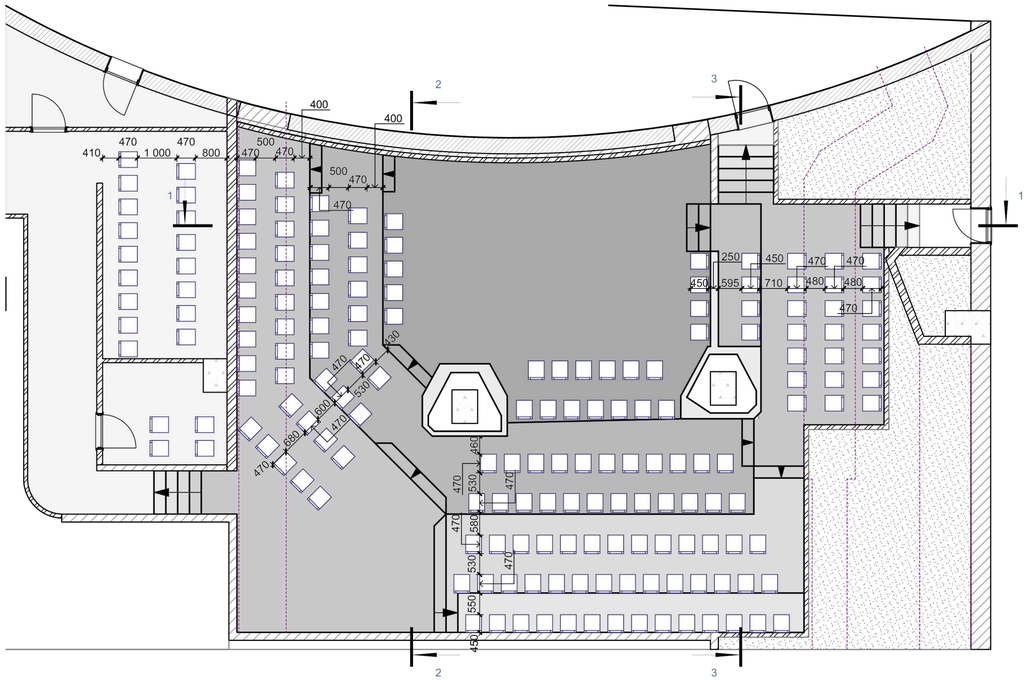




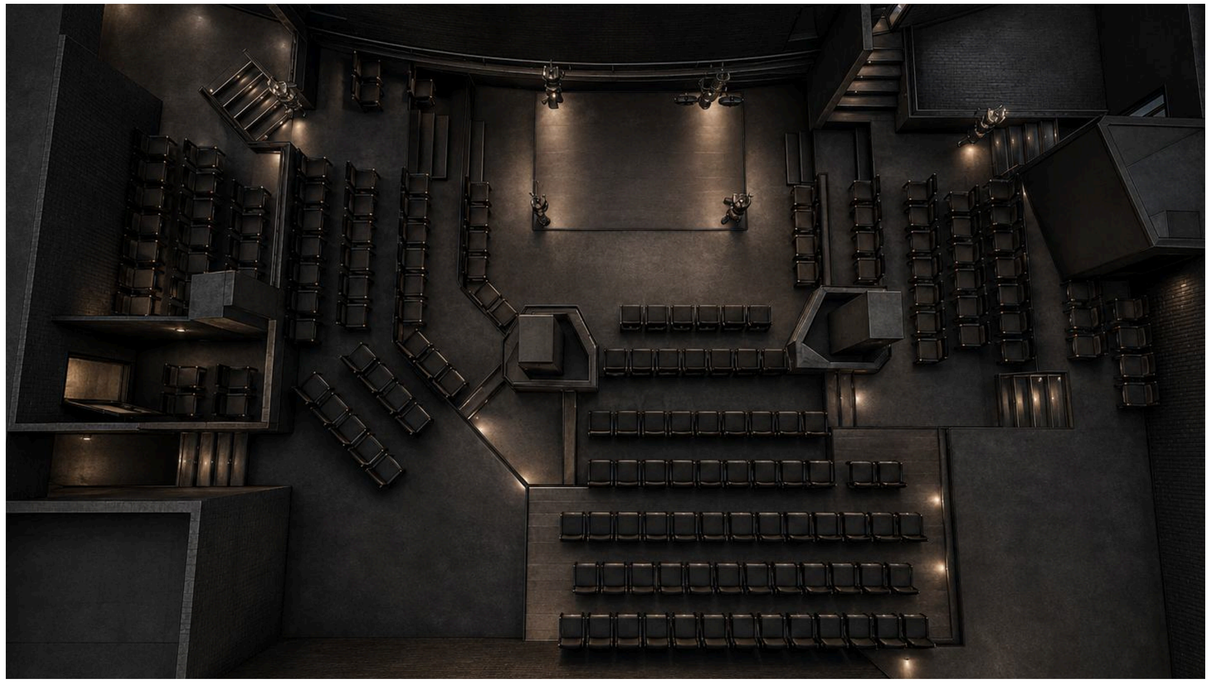
PROJECT SOLUTION

The project entails creating a modern, multifunctional space on the **-2 floor (approximately 300 sq.m.),** which will serve as a reliable shelter.
This venue will accommodate **up to 200 spectators** and become a fully-fledged alternative to the main stage. It will allow us to seamlessly host performances, tours, concerts, and international meetings in relative safety.

The space is divided into three amphitheater-style seating sectors, ensuring perfect visibility of the spacious stage platform. Every detail has been considered: modern light and sound equipment, autonomous ventilation, comfortable dressing rooms, and **5 emergency exits**.
The project is designed for maximum transformation to accommodate any creative demands and educational or artistic initiatives.



Working drawings



Render

BENEFICIARIES

Our core audience includes active people **aged 25–45,** youth, and children, forming a community of over **40,000** annual spectators. The theatre is a fully inclusive space that actively adapts productions for people with visual and hearing impairments.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Stage of Dreams will allow us to increase attendance by **90–120%**, reaching up to **100,000 spectators** annually.
This expansion will almost double our current financial performance and strengthen the institution's overall sustainability.

We will be able to seamlessly host large-scale performances, festivals, and international diplomatic meetings without interruption. Furthermore, this modern space will scale up our inclusive projects and become a powerful image-building asset for regional partnerships.



FUNDING & OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Despite the crisis, our financial performance continues to grow steadily, with revenue exceeding UAH 8 million in 2025.

We have already engaged local businesses interested in supporting the project, creating a strong foundation to build the stage partially through our own efforts.

The architectural concept for the 300-square-meter venue on the -2 level is fully developed. The space is engineered for maximum safety and flexibility, featuring its own ventilation, heating, electrical systems, and five separate evacuation exits.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST
UAH 13 million



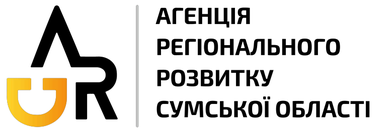
PARTNERS

The Sumy National Theatre has a strong international reputation, touring extensively across Europe and representing Ukraine on prestigious stages. We regularly collaborate with leading Ukrainian and international directors, authors, and cultural foundations.

We invite new partners to join us in building a safe artistic hub in the frontline region that drives human capital development. Your support will help us preserve cultural heritage and maintain a space where creative initiatives become safe art.



































BY SUPPORTING THE DREAM STAGE,

you invest in the only safe, multifunctional space in the frontline Sumy region, ensuring the continuity of cultural life, the theatre's financial sustainability, and the resilience of an entire community!

CONTACTS

EMAIL: shepkindrama@gmail.com
INST: @shchepkintheatre

ADDRESS: 1 Teatralna Sq., Sumy, 40000, Ukraine
PHONE: +380 63 244 2910

