



HLC Accreditation 2016-2017

## **Evidence Document**

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College of Fine Arts

Performing Arts

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### **Welsbacher Theatre**

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY



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## Welsbacher Theatre



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### Location:

Located in the [Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex](#) (entrance "F" located on the east side of the building). [Locate this building.](#)

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## Parking:

There is available parking on the southwest corner of the bulding, adjacent to the theatre's entrance. [Read more about parking.](#)

For the closest WSU Shuttle System drop off location [read about the WSU Shuttle System.](#)

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## Tickets:

The Box Office for Welsbacher Theatre (lobby located inside entrance "F" at the [Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex](#)) opens 1-hour prior to the start of a ticketed event for will-call and ticket purchases. Arrive early to avoid lines!

Advance ticket purchases are advised. You may [purchase tickets online](#) or in-person during regular [Box Office hours](#) at the [Duerksen Fine Arts Center](#).

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## Seating Capacity:

85 Total Seats Available (*84 regular seating + 1 ADA seating*)

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## Tornado Shelter:

Building	Shelter	Persons needing help go to
Hughes Metro Complex	Evacuate to AEGD, using east entrance. Shelter in far west side of basement	Speech and Hearing clinic, Room 166, 168, 175, 176.

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## About this Venue:

When financial troubles cause the Faith Metro Church to declare bankruptcy, WSU was available to aquire the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex in 1997 through a \$3.25 million gift, given by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The building was named for WSU's 11th president Eugene Hughes, following his retirement in 1999.

The facility, located a few miles north of WSU's main campus, has many amenities, including the 85-seat Richard Welsbacher Experimental Theatre named after Wichita State University professor emeritus Richard Welsbacher, who worked at the university for more than 40 years. In 2011, a newly renovated and expanded Welsbacher Black Box Theatre offers students more freedom in designing, lighting and performing their shows. Students can even put the stage in the middle of the theater and place the audience right in the action. The Welsbacher Theatre originally was in a different spot inside the university's Hughes Metropolitan Complex. That space was needed for the speech, language and hearing clinic, so the black box was relocated to a different spot in the southeast corner of the building. The space is bigger and adds many amenities — a box office, restrooms reserved just for theater patrons, a private entrance and a small lobby.

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## Namesake:



**Richard (Dick) Welsbacher**

- Dr. Richard (Dick) Welsbacher is the namesake of Welsbacher Theater, WSU's experimental theater located in the WSU Metroplex. He began his involvement with WSU in 1958. Two years later, he was appointed director of theatre. When theatre and dance were combined into the School of Performing Arts in 1987, Welsbacher was appointed Chair of the School. Dr. Welsbacher continued to expand the program until he retired in 1991. During his thirty-year tenure as director of theatre, he directed more than 150 productions and performed more than 200 roles.

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## Seating Chart:

Sorry, there is no seating chart available for Welsbacher Theatre as it is an experimental black-box theatre. There is no fixed seating in this venue as seating is determined by the director per show. Seating for Welsbacher Theatre is General Admission (first-come-first-served).

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