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CAESURA: ENHANCING THE CULTURE OF FARGO- MOORHEAD



Conceptual image of building relationship to train

The downtown area of Fargo-Moorhead is growing exponentially, yet the rapid boom in growth may result in a monotonous city center. Downtown needs an attraction—something other than shops, bars, restaurants, and apartments. Since the arts play a vibrant role in the FM community, a performing arts center could be the attraction to fight the mundanity.

Currently, the FM Symphony does not have a home. A performing arts center in the hub of Fargo would be able to house the symphony on a more permanent basis. The additional multipurpose theatre would be available for the multitude of smaller community theatre groups when a larger venue is needed. The design would include a proscenium theatre large enough for traveling Broadway shows to be presented in a proper theatre, instead of the Fargodome.

This thesis explores the potential of making connections between parallel avenues vying for consumers' attentions as well as adjacent communities separated by water. The site is situated crossing the railroad tracks between NP and Main Ave. Its proximity to the river creates a relation between the downtown areas of Fargo and Moorhead with hopes of influencing future growth of the dilapidated areas nearby.