Cinema and Theater submitted by Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez

1. Please highlight any changes since you submitted your unit assessment (e.g. enrollment trends of the units as of Fall 08).
   A new Associate in Arts Degree in Theater Arts for Transfer degree program was submitted and approved by the Curriculum Committee and we are still waiting for our program to be submitted to the state and added to the catalog. We have in the past year experienced growth in the number of students taking technical theater classes thanks to our Career Technical Education funding to pilot technical theater classes. All of the Theater courses and course level SLO assessments are currently up to date. Our Cinema program also remains in its nascent state with only a handful of sections of Introduction to Cinema and Introduction to Documentary Cinema.

2. What do you see as the strengths of each of your units?
   The greatest strength of our theater and cinema program is that our programs are student centered. In only two years we have been able to create a buzz around our theater and cinema program at LA Mission. With nearly 20,000 hits on the Theater Instructors page the theater and cinema program ranks among one of the most viewed programs at LA Mission. Theater and cinema is already one of the most active programs in bringing student led performances to both LA Mission and the Sylmar community. Theater at Mission has had many challenges most stemming from a lack of theatrical traditions and understanding theater culture. For example in LA Mission’s 35 plus year history it had never staged a full theatrical production and the theater infrastructure and support mechanisms were not in place to adequately support our inaugural theatrical production Crossing the Line: A Latino Kyogen. Despite this experience and others like it Theater at Mission is growing and remaining a positive force at LA Mission College.

3. How does your unit planning support the mission of the college?
   The theater and cinema Unit plan is made up of new classes that support General Education such as Cinema 003 and Theater 100. The new Associate in Arts Degree in Theater Arts for Transfer degree program is totally aligned with the Transfer Model Curriculum. As for the human, physical, technological and financial resources needed it will depend on what the priority of our new AMP (Media Arts) building is. If we are to make the AMP a center of Arts in our community then investments in bringing on new staff to run the theater will be necessary. Traditionally it is the performing arts that anchor any arts center and we will be wise to build for this at LA Mission. One of the benefits of bringing someone who can man the technical side of the theater is that that will help us generate
income thus aiding our fiscal stability. Even without our AMP building or any new staff theater and cinema has already begun to forge many relationships with the community at large and this is driving our growth in theater and cinema.

4. **What are your visions for changes, revisions and growth?**

As I transition into my third year at the helm of Los Angeles Mission College’s new theater program, I have adjusted my long range vision to build on the amazing culture and diversity of this community. It is apparent to me that to truly understanding theater requires a hands on approach, not just an intellectual one as well. This is why we have produced an average of one production per semester even though we do not have a performance space.

As a teacher it is my duty to bring this perspective to life for all my students regardless of resources. I also understand the importance of challenging students to be artists, advocates, and critics in our world regardless of their challenges and obstacles.

**What resources are needed to support as well as to build the programs in your Department?**

- Facilities? Our new Media Arts Building, should address most of our current concerns.
- FTEF? We hope to add an additional faculty member, which may also have release time to develop our technical theater program.
- Staff? When the Media Arts Building opens it will be imperative to have a technical director who can run the theater.
- Technology? Most technology will be supported with the new building.
- Other? More hours to expand our offerings and support new programs, as outlined in the Unit Plan. Grant writing is an area we would like to develop.

5. **What is the status of SLO assessments in your department?**

All assessments are up to date.

**What is the status of the course outlines of record and course updates in your department?** All are up to date.

6. **What progress has been made towards the recommendations made by EPC following your 08-09 program review presentation?**

There were no recommendations for theater or cinema.