

Acoustic Design for a Major East Coast Film and Television Production Campus



VISION

Support an ambitious production campus with acoustic performance aligned to the demands of modern film and television work.

PARTNERSHIP

Work with Gensler and the broader team to guide key acoustic decisions through a complex, evolving design process.

VALUE-ADD

Turn detailed site noise data into practical, cost-conscious acoustic strategies for sound stages, offices, and support spaces.

OWNER
Togus

ARCHITECT
Gensler

MECHANICAL
Cosentini

ACOUSTICS
Trinity Consultants

1888 Studios is a large-scale production campus in Bayonne, New Jersey, being developed on a remediated former industrial site near the Bayonne Bridge. Planned as one of the largest studio developments on the East Coast, the campus includes 23 state-of-the-art “Smart” Stages, along with attached administrative flex space and mill buildings that will support set construction and production operations. Trinity Consultants is providing acoustic design for the project, helping shape sound stages and support spaces to meet the exceptionally low background noise expectations of film and television production.

VISION

The vision for 1888 Studios is bigger than a typical building project. The campus has been conceived as a destination for large-scale film and television production, with a character that nods to the classic studio era while establishing a new production hub in New Jersey. Early concepts included features such as public-facing amenities, screening-related spaces, and a water tower reminiscent of classic studio lots, though portions of that original vision have changed and continued to evolve as the project advanced. Through those shifts, one requirement has remained constant: the sound stages need to function at an extremely high acoustic level, with background noise low enough to support serious production work.

Meeting that requirement is made more demanding by the site itself. Located near a major shipping port and within the broader noise environment of Newark air traffic and helicopter activity, the project calls for a design approach shaped by real-world exterior noise conditions rather than assumptions. Trinity Consultants is helping define what acoustic performance needs to look like across the campus so the final spaces can support production use from day one.

PARTNERSHIP

Gensler is leading the design process as architect and primary client liaison, with Trinity Consultants supporting the team and coordinating acoustic design elements as the project progresses. That coordination has been important in helping acoustic recommendations stay aligned with the broader design and performance goals for the campus.

Our role is to advise, educate, and keep the implications of each decision visible to the broader team. In a project where quiet is not just preferred but mission-critical, that means helping collaborators understand what is needed to achieve the project's acoustic goals across sound stages and related spaces. That advisory role also extends to peer review and design-phase follow-through as the project proceeds into construction.

VALUE-ADD

Rather than treating the campus like a generic studio project, the team began with detailed site noise monitoring to understand the actual source levels and frequency content affecting the property. That work has created the foundation for right-sized solutions, allowing the design team to target performance without layering on unnecessary cost.

That approach continues to influence several major recommendations. For the sound stages, Trinity Consultants has helped establish the need for a concrete roof deck to control intrusive exterior noise, particularly from aircraft and helicopters. The team has also been addressing one of the project's trickiest acoustic conditions: the large rooftop smoke exhaust openings required for production effects and life safety. Those openings create a potential weak point in the building enclosure, so the acoustic strategy has needed to account for both sound generated by the exhaust systems and sound entering the stages from outside.

Mechanical system design has been another major area of impact. Because the project is pursuing a silent air approach instead of simply shutting systems off during filming, background noise targets need to be met while systems continue operating. Trinity Consultants has recommended acoustical silencers at duct penetrations into the sound stages to control fan noise and strengthen the overall sound separation of the enclosure. The team has also worked through airflow-related noise by pushing for duct sizing and detailing that keep air velocities low and avoid hiss, including the use of open-ended ductwork where appropriate. In support spaces, that same practical lens has helped avoid unnecessary cost, such as catching overapplied STC-rated door requirements in office areas and steering the design back toward acoustically appropriate, more efficient solutions.

ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.