

BUILT ENVIRONMENT CASE STUDY

Ascend Amphitheater at West Riverfront Park

Riverfront Sound, Built for Live Music

VISION

Shape an open-air music venue where amplified performance feels clear, energetic, and connected to Nashville's riverfront setting.

PARTNERSHIP

Work with the landscape, architecture, and theater teams to integrate acoustics and AV infrastructure into a durable outdoor destination.

VALUE-ADD

Create strong amplified listening conditions across fixed and lawn seating, with added stage support for occasional symphonic use.

Ascend Amphitheater is a 6,500-capacity outdoor venue set within Nashville's West Riverfront Park, where a former industrial riverfront site has become a major live music destination. With 2,200 fixed seats and 4,300 lawn seats, the amphitheater was planned for amplified concerts, special events, and occasional orchestral programming within a park setting that remains active beyond performance nights.

Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team, provided acoustics and audiovisual design for the amphitheater, helping shape a clear, consistent listening experience across both reserved seating and the lawn. The work paired robust production infrastructure with outdoor acoustic strategies tailored to the scale, energy, and pace of live performance.

CLIENT
City of Nashville

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Hawkins Partners

ACOUSTICS & AV
Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team

DESIGN ARCHITECT
Hodgetts+Fung

THEATER CONSULTANT
Schuler Shook

VISION

Ascend was envisioned as a riverfront venue that could carry the presence of a major concert setting while still feeling connected to the park around it. Sound was central to that experience. Audiences needed clarity and impact from the stage, production teams needed infrastructure that could adapt to touring requirements, and performers needed an environment that supported confident onstage communication.

Our work helped establish a listening environment with definition across the full audience area, from the fixed seats closest to the stage to the lawn beyond. For occasional symphonic programming, the team also developed an acoustic enhancement system that adds onstage support for musicians, giving the venue another layer of performance capability while preserving its primary identity as an amplified outdoor music destination.

PARTNERSHIP

The project brought together Hawkins Partners, Hodgetts+Fung, and Schuler Shook to create a venue where landscape, architecture, and performance infrastructure work as one experience. We coordinated closely with the team to integrate acoustic elements, AV pathways, show support systems, and technical infrastructure into the amphitheater's overall design.

Because the venue serves touring acts, public events, and special programming, the systems needed to be practical for crews, reliable in daily use, and visually aligned with the park environment. Cabling pathways, patching locations, network connections, and backstage communication systems were planned to support efficient event operations from load-in through performance.

VALUE-ADD

Our acoustic design supported amplified performance quality across the venue through weather-ready materials, sound-diffusive stone walls, and careful attention to how energy from the stage reaches the full audience area. These strategies help strengthen clarity and coverage while supporting the atmosphere of an open-air concert.

The electronic acoustic enhancement system provides additional support at the stage for occasional symphonic performances, giving musicians more acoustic response in a setting shaped primarily for amplified events. AV infrastructure—including audio, network, and fiber systems tied to central patch bays—gives production teams the flexibility to support different event formats with confidence.

For audiences, the result is a lively outdoor listening experience with sound that carries across the amphitheater. For operators and touring teams, the venue offers a technical backbone built for the rhythm of live production. For Nashville, Ascend adds a riverfront performance destination that feels both civic and unmistakably musical.

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.