

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Visual and Performing Arts Center

Acoustic and AV Design for an 85,000-SF Performing Arts High School



VISION

A professional-grade, 1,500-seat main hall and 250-seat black box theater giving high school students real performance and AV training environments.

PARTNERSHIP

Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team, worked with PBK Architects and Schuler Shook on acoustics and AV systems for both amplified and natural performance.

VALUE-ADD

Isolation joints, an adjustable acoustic shell, and immersive Audio and Video projection Systems give CyFair ISD a venue that performs like a professional roadhouse, not a school auditorium.

ARCHITECT
PBK Architects

THEATER CONSULTANT
Schuler Shook

ACOUSTICS/AV
Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team

The Visual and Performing Arts Center for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is an 85,000-square-foot facility in Houston, TX, built to be one of the best performing arts high schools in Texas. It houses a multi-use 1,500-seat main hall, a 250-seat black box theater, a visual arts room, a dance studio, a streaming audio/video control room, technical backstage areas, and administrative space. Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team, provided acoustic and AV systems design for the \$51.5 million project, completed in 2023, working alongside PBK Architects and theater consultant Schuler Shook to give students professional-grade environments for practicing and performing.

VISION

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD set out to build one of the best performing arts high schools in Texas—an 85,000-square-foot center anchored by a multi-use 1,500-seat main hall and a 250-seat black box theater, along with a visual arts room, dance studio, a streaming audio/video control room, technical backstage areas, and administrative space. The main performance space needed to support a wide range of programming, from amplified, immersive performances to natural acoustic music, while giving students the experience of practicing and performing in professional-grade environments that prepare them for higher education and careers in the performing arts.

PARTNERSHIP

Jaffe Holden worked closely with PBK Architects and theater consultant Schuler Shook to design acoustic enhancements not typical of a school this size—including dispersed seating across three levels, a mechanical orchestra pit lift, motorized adjustable acoustic banners, a demountable orchestra shell, and an active smoke evacuation system that allows better integration of the orchestra shell into the proscenium opening. Because the building houses multiple performance venues used simultaneously, the team also strategically routed an acoustical isolation joint through the structure to physically decouple the various performance spaces and control noise and vibration transfer between them. On the AV side, the team also coordinated closely with LD Systems, the project's AV contractor, and L-Acoustics, manufacturer of the main PA, who provided tuning services for the venue's immersive audio system.

VALUE-ADD

The result is a venue that operates at a level of production value normally reserved for professional performing arts centers—giving CyFair ISD students hands-on training with the same tools and systems used in the live production field. Immersive AV technologies allow the audience to be surrounded by content that changes dynamically with each performance, while dedicated rehearsal spaces let performers perfect their pieces with full AV support before taking them to the stage. Together, the acoustic and AV design set this venue apart from peer educational buildings and help prepare students for careers in the performing arts.

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.