

# NYU John A. Paulson Center

A Vertical Campus with Performance at Its Core

## VISION

Support a dense academic building where performance, teaching, athletics, housing, and campus life operate within one vertical environment.

## PARTNERSHIP

Coordinate base building acoustics, non-performance AV, and performance AV within a full-block campus building, with our team contributing distinct but connected scopes.

## VALUE-ADD

Create focused venue environments within a building shaped by subway vibration, overlapping uses, and daily academic activity.

### ARCHITECT

*KieranTimberlake; Davis Brody Bond*

### THEATER CONSULTANT

*Fisher Dachs Associates*

### BASE BUILDING ACOUSTICS & NON-PERFORMANCE AV

*Trinity Consultants*

### PERFORMANCE ACOUSTICS/AV

*Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team*

The NYU John A. Paulson Center is a 750,000-square-foot academic building spanning a full city block in New York City. The facility brings together classrooms, performing arts venues, athletic facilities, student and faculty housing, rehearsal rooms, and shared campus spaces within one dense vertical campus.

The project brought together complementary Trinity Consultants roles. Trinity Consultants provided base building acoustics and non-performance AV design, while Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team, provided performance acoustics and AV design for the performance, music instruction, and rehearsal spaces. The building needed broad acoustic and technology support across its academic and residential program, while the performance environments required a specialized venue-focused approach.

## VISION

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The Paulson Center was designed as a vertical campus where learning, performance, athletics, housing, and student life share one full-block building. The vision called for spaces that support constant activity while still giving each program area the acoustic and technical conditions it needs to function well.

Trinity Consultants addressed the base building acoustics and non-performance AV needs that support the broader academic and residential environment. Our Jaffe Holden team focused on the performance and rehearsal spaces, where acoustic separation, flexible acoustic design, AV systems, and theater coordination directly shape the experience of performers, students, faculty, and audiences. Throughout the project, design decisions were made collaboratively with NYU, the Tisch School, and program stakeholders—in direct response to the needs of the people who use these spaces.

## PARTNERSHIP

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The project was led by Kieran Timberlake and Davis Brody Bond, with Fisher Dachs Associates as theater consultant. Trinity Consultants supported base building acoustics and non-performance AV design across the larger facility, helping align academic, residential, and shared-use spaces with performance criteria established collaboratively with NYU.

Our Jaffe Holden team worked closely with the design team, NYU, the Tisch School, and other program stakeholders on the performing arts spaces, coordinating acoustic performance and AV systems with theater planning, architectural intent, and the technical requirements of each venue. The design considered structure, adjacencies, mechanical systems, circulation, and overlapping schedules so each space could support its full intended range of uses within the larger campus.

## VALUE-ADD

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The performing arts venues incorporate measures such as box-in-box construction, floating floors, isolated ceilings, and carefully coordinated assemblies to provide detailed control of sound separation between theaters, rehearsal areas, teaching spaces, classrooms, and other active building uses. These strategies apply across performance venues, rehearsal rooms, and teaching studios—every space where acoustic separation is critical.

The facility includes the 350-seat Iris Cantor Proscenium Theatre, the 140-seat African Grove Theatre, the 140-seat Warehouse Theatre, rehearsal rooms, an orchestra room, practice rooms, teaching studios, and classrooms. Each space was designed to support the full flexibility required by NYU and program leadership—classical music, amplified performance, rehearsal, and instruction—rather than a single fixed acoustic character.

By combining base building acoustics, non-performance AV, and specialized performing arts design, the project supports a complex academic environment while giving its most acoustically sensitive spaces the attention they deserve. The result is a vertical campus where teaching, performance, rehearsal, athletics, housing, and campus life can coexist with purpose.

### 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.