



Revitalizing Ohio State University's Archie Griffin Ballroom in Fleeting Deadline

Case Study

The Ohio State University
www.osu.edu

Summary

The Ohio State University (OSU) is a public research university located in Columbus, Ohio. OSU serves more than 46,000 undergraduates and offers more than 160 majors. OSU was seeking an integrator to complete a technical renovation for a 1,500-seat ballroom at the university's Union, within a minimal 16-day timeline.

Challenge

Ohio State had a fleeting deadline and required project completion within a 16-day, on-site, school break period. The strict deadline served to meet the heavily-booked schedule for the 900-person event space.

Solution

New Era Technology's solutions included new wiring for audio, video, and lighting control, replacement of the current speaker system and a 190+ dimming system and replacing six video screens and projectors with hidden ceiling elevators. Through fiber-optic connectors, New Era's team of experts connected the ballroom to the Performance Hall and Conference Theatre. Along with other tasks to complete the renovation, New Era delivered on all solutions and completed the project one day ahead of schedule.

Process

The Office of Student Life at OSU was charged with a “ten-year refresh” for the Ballroom. Ohio State brought forward a list of problems, identified their desires for the renovation, and outlined their budget to New Era Technology. The scope and daunting 16-day timeline for this renovation required an integrator skilled in coordination and planning. Ohio State chose New Era Technology based on previous performance and positive experiences in working together on other projects New Era had completed for OSU.

New Era Technology worked diligently to develop equipment and system design recommendations that catered to OSU’s wishes. A holistic plan was brought forward; Working through design parameter challenges and a daunting deadline, New Era ensured all equipment was specified, and logistics were arranged accordingly to accommodate the deadline.

Throughout the project, New Era Technology overcame many challenges. One included maneuvering six, twenty-four-foot motorized screens (each weighing approximately 1,000 lbs.) up into a second-floor ballroom. Hiring a specialized crew with special lifting straps and dollies, the team managed to carry the screens into the ballroom.

Another challenge included replacing all projector lifts that would accept the new laser projectors to ensure the technology would disappear into the ceiling while not in use. Each elevator was equipped with a Crestron NVX receiver to transmit the HDMI signal and a separate RS232 connection to control the lift.

The renovation included offering the room the ability to operate in different configurations. Thirty-six d&b audiotechnik line array speakers were installed in six different locations. The system utilizes Dante control through the use of Ethernet and fiber optic cable and uses Cisco and Extreme switches to link all ten wall plates in the ballroom, and to connect to the Performance Hall and Conference Theatre. All wall plates required new wiring. For ease of use, a Crestron control system was installed, triggered by the room configuration to route audio, video, and lighting. A fixed touch panel was placed in the sound balcony control room, while portable panels were added at the floor level. The replacement of the dimming system was to allow the capability of handling both conventional and LED fixtures. This included the replacement of fluorescent elements of eight 40”x 86” sconces.



The positive relationship between New Era Technology and OSU staff helped the process immensely. OSU's Student Life staff helped to accommodate New Era Technology with scheduling to ensure the ballroom was both available and accessible to other areas of the building as needed, to ensure the success and completion of this project.

Results

New Era Technology's integrations were completed one-day in advance of the fleeting deadline to allow for initial training and preparation in advance of a 900-person event that utilized all of the new equipment. New Era was committed to ensuring staff would be comfortable with using the new technology. Combining multiple new systems along with connectivity for audio and video between the ballroom, a performance hall, and theatre within a 16-day deadline was no minor task. The success of this project stemmed from New Era Technology's commitment to planning out each task and advanced programming prior to arriving on-site and ensuring OSU's staff was comfortable with the use of the new technology.

Want to learn more about this project or solution?

Call us at 877-696-7720 or send an email to solutions@neweratech.com.

