

ICFAD Roundtable Discussion 2021 Submission

Title:

How the Design Team Selection Process Can Impact the Success of Your Performing Arts Project

Abstract/Description:

Performing arts centers are valuable cultural resources, complex operational challenges, and significant investments whose success is vitally important to many stakeholders. Architects and specialty consultants such as acousticians and theatre consultants each provide key perspectives and insight on how facilities can best showcase talent and support and enhance the experience for performer, patron, student, teacher, and venue operator alike. Current procurement trends often require single-source points of responsibility, requiring architects to assemble a full design team. There are a growing number of institutions that, instead, are independently selecting their key design team members (architect, acoustician and theatre consultant). Please join our panel for a discussion and comparison of the various approaches to assembling the design team, and the relationship between the approach and the ability for the deans and other key stakeholders to influence the design.



Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Cedar Falls, IA



David Kahn, President, Acoustic Distinctions

As an acoustician, David has lent his talents to many performing arts centers nationwide. Since 1983, he has helped architects and performance organizations enhance venues through integration of exceptional room acoustics with appropriate AV system design as well as building noise and vibration control. David is also an active musician (trumpet), giving him valuable first-person insight into the delicate process of balancing the needs of audience, performer, and presenter. His uniquely inclusive perspective enables him to create acoustic environments in which the arts can fulfill their potential to enrich the community.



Steve Carignan, Executive Director, Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, University of Northern Iowa

Steve has overseen all operations at the GBPAC for fifteen years in addition to serving as Associate Dean and Instructor in Arts Administration as well as Associate Dean for Outreach and Special Programs at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, supervising all events and events facilities on campus. His long history with GBPAC gives him the necessary perspective on how independent design team selection contributed to the venue's spectacular success for UNI and the tremendous support it receives from the community at large.