BUILD US INTO YOUR PLANS

Wenger
Your Performance Partner

TRUST WENGER'S EXPERTISE. FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION.
Nobody understands the entire planning process better than Wenger.

Careful planning and your continued involvement are absolutely essential to creating the facility you need. That’s why you should take advantage of our more than 60 years of accumulated experience and expertise to help you plan exactly the right facility. And putting Wenger on your team doesn’t cost you a dime.

Congratulations, the referendum has passed! Now the real work begins. This opportunity may only come along once in an educator’s career and the decisions you make will have a profound impact on students and faculty for years to come.

**SCHOOL BOARD REFERENDUM**

The planning committee is formed and goals are defined. It’s extremely important to make sure that teacher representatives from music, fine arts, and athletics are included. Meeting the acoustical, rehearsal and performance needs of any new facility is a complex mixture of science and art. And the better prepared the committee is to help your architects and acousticians, the better they will be to apply their specific expertise.

**PRE-PLANNING**

This is the process of defining the activities and requirements of the spaces to be designed. This is by far the most important phase for the committee and gathering input should begin immediately. The longer you wait, the more it will cost and the less likely you are to get what you need. Compile your “wish list” for furniture and equipment.

**PROGRAMMING**

This is the first chance you’ll have to see the architect’s diagram of the proposed facility. Be sure it’s what you want because it’s tough to get changes made once you get past this phase.

**SCHEMATIC DESIGN**

Next, the architect creates blueprints: exact room dimensions, ceiling heights, door and window locations, and all electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems are finalized. Inspect these documents carefully. All bidding and construction will be based on this plan and future changes will be extremely expensive.

**DESIGN/DEVELOPMENT**

TIP: Check out the “Rule of Thumb” page in our Planning Guide (page 50) for guidelines on how much space you’ll need.

TIP: Remember, this is your facility and you ought to be actively involved in all phases of the project.

TIP: Anyone who’s ever been through the new construction process will agree “you never get what you don’t ask for.”
Thousands of educators and school administrators have called on us to help design effective learning environments — from concept to completion. We invite you to learn from our experience, expertise and resources to help you make the most out of every construction dollar.

Before discussing the project with the various contractors, the architect will develop detailed construction documents. In this phase all of the products that are integrated with the construction process are specified.

**TIP:** Double-check to make sure that everything you asked for is included.

After a thorough review of bids submitted by electricians, carpenters, and other subcontractors, the contract is awarded to one general contractor.

**TIP:** This is the stage to buy products that will be installed during construction, including storage cabinets, acoustical products, and pre-engineered music practice rooms.

This is the actual building of the facility. Visit the site as often as possible. After all, this is your final chance to make sure everything is being built according to specifications. If anything doesn’t match the agreed-upon plan, discuss your concerns with the architect and administration as soon as possible.

**TIP:** The furniture and equipment that you indicated in the Programming phase should be specified, bid and purchased to ensure that everything is delivered prior to the opening of your facility.

**TIP:** Don’t buy your music chairs from the same people who sell you lunch tables.

Congratulations! You’ve made it. You now have a facility where you can feel truly proud to rehearse and perform.

**ONGOING NEEDS:**
Your budget will go farther if you purchase long-lasting products. At Wenger, we have a strong tradition of designing and manufacturing the most durable, reliable and functional products you can buy. Talk with your Wenger representative about how our products can help you make the best use of your budget today, knowing you’re supported by a company that will be there tomorrow.
GET US ON YOUR TEAM EARLY AND GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BUDGET.

Wenger has spent more than 60 years designing products and helping thousands of educators and administrators get the most out of their budgets for new construction, renovations, additions, and improvements. In fact, no other company in the world has spent more time with educators or studied more facilities. We have worked closely with architects and acousticians to make sure they have a trusted resource on the complex issues that arise in designing rehearsal and performance spaces. And we can collaborate with your planning team — as much or as little as you feel necessary. All you have to do to get us involved is call. Our expertise is free.

FOUR CRITICAL FACTORS.

The overall effectiveness of your facility will be largely determined by the following four factors:

- **Acoustics** — How well your rehearsal and performance facilities promote critical listening is directly proportional to how effective it will be.
- **Floor Plan** — An effective layout must successfully integrate adequate floor space, proper traffic flow and easy access to all areas.
- **Storage** — This not only affects equipment and supplies, but also acoustics, traffic flow and security.
- **Equipment** — The final step toward guaranteeing a successful new facility.

DON’T HESITATE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE.

Wenger is the only full-service, comprehensive product manufacturer that truly understands what you need before you build and for the long run. We have the tools you need to help ensure that you build the best possible facility. And we work closely with the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System as a registered AIA/CES provider as well as working directly with acousticians.

Building a new facility is challenging enough. Wenger provides resources to ensure you make the right decisions at the right time. Call your Wenger representative at 800-4WENGER (800-493-6437) for more information and a copy of one of our Planning Guides (see back page).

“Breckenridge High School’s new music building was designed very well. The architect looked at the outside beauty of the building and the functionality of the inside. Wenger’s Planning Guide helped members of the planning team explain their needs and state their case. These facilities are second to none in Texas.”

— Dr. Michael Ryan
Director of Secondary Fine Arts
San Antonio Independent School District
**EARLY DECISIONS**

**DECIDE EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED EARLY IN THE PROCESS. (REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU DON'T ASK FOR.)**

Certain rehearsal and performance products will need to be built into your design — or, at the very least, the design will need to accommodate them. Trying to retrofit that design is extremely difficult (and often prohibitively expensive). A good way to decide what you might need to build-in or build-around is to simply make a list of everything you'll want and need to accomplish in each space.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR YOUR FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT?**

A Fine Arts Department is a complex environment with a variety of areas, each requiring its own dynamics. From the sound isolation required for practice rooms to the unique seating arrangements needed for band, orchestra and choir; from the specific heights of each ceiling to the exact shape of the walls; all of these decisions need to be made early in the process because they will affect your ultimate design.

- How many individual practice rooms will you need to handle rehearsal and private lessons?
- What kind of acoustical challenges will you need to overcome in your rehearsal rooms? If, for example, a rehearsal room is too small and not acoustically treated, the sound energy will overwhelm the space.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE AREAS?**

Performance areas need to be versatile enough to handle multiple uses — music, theatre, school and community events — and must be designed accordingly. They often must accommodate large, expensive pieces of equipment and they must be acoustically balanced. It’s a complicated design task that requires expert assistance.

- How do you create functional space for a wide range of activities and still have acoustics appropriate for any style of music as well as theatrical performances?
- What kind of performances will occur in the space? How many of each? How often will the area need to be reconfigured or adapted?

You can learn more about what questions to ask by making use of our Planning Guides (see back page) and talking to your Wenger representative. We have the depth of experience to help you determine exactly what you need, where it should go, and how you can make it an integral, effective part of your new design.

**WENGER PRODUCTS**

ACOUSTICAL PANEL SYSTEMS
ACOUSTICAL DOORS
CEILING CLOUDS
DIVA® FULL STAGE ACOUSTICAL SHELL
LEGACY® FULL-STAGE ACOUSTICAL SHELL
SOUND ISOLATED MUSIC PRACTICE ROOMS
STRATA® ORCHESTRA PIT FILLER
STUDIO® MAKEUP STATION
UPPER DECK AUDIENCE SEATING® TIERED RISERS
VIRTUAL ACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGY (VAE™)

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Sound-Isolated Practice Rooms with VAE™ technology

Diva® Full-Stage Acoustical Shell

Upper Deck Audience Seating® Tiered Risers

Diva® Full-Stage Acoustical Shell

Acoustical Panels and Ceiling Clouds
THINK ABOUT THE STORAGE YOU’LL NEED TODAY...AND TOMORROW.

Underestimating storage needs — current and future — is a common mistake. That's why you need to make sure you plan for enough space and choose storage equipment that's secure and durable.

Music equipment is expensive, prone to break, and often a target for theft or vandalism. Theatrical costumes can be fragile and are usually one-of-a-kind. Sheet music can take up a lot of room if not stored properly. And don’t forget athletic equipment that's bulky, expensive and prone to mold and mildew.

STORAGE IS MUCH MORE THAN “LOCKERS” AND “CLOSETS”.

Storage isn’t simply a matter of “how much” either. Where it’s located and how it’s accessed can have an enormous impact on how well your new facilities work for everyone. So as planning begins, think about:

• How do you make the best use of every available space, including corners?
• How can you use storage to avoid congestion?
• What can you do to save space by creating high density storage?
• How much portable storage will you need? Where will that storage be located?
• Are the aesthetics of the new storage areas compatible with the rest of the design?

Storage — for instruments, sheet music, folios, athletic gear, costumes, and more — deserves your attention from the beginning of the planning process. Turn to your Wenger Planning Guide and your Wenger expert to help you make the right decisions.

TIP: When designing a music suite layout, keep in mind that storage rooms and offices make great sound buffers between rehearsal rooms.
OUTFIT YOUR FACILITY WITH PRODUCTS THAT WILL LAST.

The final step — but certainly not one to put off until the final stages of construction — is choosing the right furniture and equipment for your new facility. Furniture and equipment are normally not included in the general building contract. Advance planning will help make sure your budget will allow you to purchase what you need.

QUALITY DELIVERS LONG-TERM SAVINGS AND RESULTS.

You can save money by specifying inexpensive equipment, but how well will it stand up to day-to-day demands? Sturdy, functional, well-designed equipment will perform better and reward you with rock-solid reliability for years to come.

• Are your new chairs designed specifically for music posture? This can help students produce a better tone and aids concentration.

• Can chairs be stacked for easier storage?
• Are music stands sturdy enough to withstand heavy use and abuse? Or do they wobble?
• Did you know that well-engineered portable risers not only allow for greater flexibility but also don’t adversely affect acoustics like poured concrete risers?

Before you make decisions about what kind of equipment to specify, remember that Wenger has been designing and manufacturing high quality furniture and equipment for school programs for over 60 years. We can help you make informed decisions about what you need and suggest appropriate quantities for your program.

“If you can get Nota chairs in the band room they will have a great impact. I have been a band director for 15 years and everything Wenger puts out is well-built and well thought out. The Nota chair is no exception.”

— Alan Fowler
Band Director, East Side High School, Covington, GA

WENGER PRODUCTS
ACOUSTIC SHIELD
BACKSTAGE® PORTABLE MAKEUP STATIONS
CONDUCTOR’S EQUIPMENT
FLIPFORMS®
MUSIC LAB WORKSTATIONS
MUSIC STANDS AND STANDLIGHTS
PIANO BENCHES AND ACCESSORIES
PORTABLE ACOUSTICAL SHELLS
PORTABLE AUDIENCE CHAIRS
PORTABLE STAGING AND PLATFORMS
POSTURE AND SPECIALTY CHAIRS
REHEARSAL RESOURCE CENTER
SEATED CHORAL AND BAND RISERS
STAGE BOXES
STANDING CHORAL RISERS
TACKBOARDS AND WHITEBOARDS

FURNISHINGS
THE MOST COMMON NEW CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION MISTAKES:

1. **Rooms that are too small** (i.e., based on standard classroom square footage recommendations). Music and performing arts require additional cubic volume per student.

2. **Ceilings that are too low.** Standard height ceilings can have disastrous effects on acoustics and your hearing.

3. **Not enough storage.** Plan realistically for today’s storage needs and tomorrow’s.

4. **Poor traffic flow.** Students need to enter and exit within minutes — often with large instruments. Keep congestion to a minimum.

5. **Acoustics not taken into consideration.** Wall shape, ceiling height, sound absorption and diffusion panels and dozens of other factors all need special consideration.

6. **Poorly designed floor plan.** Loud performance rooms that back up to each other can easily allow distracting sound leakage.

HOW TO AVOID THEM: CALL FOR YOUR FREE COPY

**Wenger Planning Guide**
Everything you need to understand the new construction process and what you can do to most effectively organize your objectives to make sure your new music facility is the best it can be.

**Wenger Acoustic Primer**
This is an ideal resource to help you understand how acoustics work within a space so you can achieve the best possible sound quality.

**Wenger Acoustic Problems and Solutions Guide**
Your complete guide to understanding all you can do to create a facility that best enhances music teaching and learning.

**Wenger Elementary Music Planning Guide**
What you need to know if you’re planning space for beginning students.

**Wenger Athletic Facility Planning Guide**
A “best practices” guide for achieving greater efficiencies within the athletic equipment facility.

Wenger works with the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System as a registered AIA/CES provider.