

Active Church Auditorium Redesign and Renovation

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Active Church is a life-giving and dynamic church that exists to move people from where they are to where God wants them to be. This church for most of its lifespan has been located at the Fremont Theater as they did not have a building that they owned. However, in 2022 the church closed escrow on a building that was owned by another church located at 3172 Johnson Ave, San Luis Obispo, 93401. Before moving into the building major renovations needed to be done as this was a very old building from the 1960s. The initial design of the auditorium specifically was completed to be able to hold service there, except it was not the final goal for that space. While talking with the head pastor, Adam Magaña, an opportunity to help with the redesign and renovation of the auditorium was made available. The author worked with Active church to estimate, contract, design, coordinate, schedule, demolish, and construct a new Auditorium for Church. The completed project provides a better atmosphere to help Active Church best use the space to achieve their vision.

Key Words: Renovation, Atmosphere, Design, Teamwork, Experience

Introduction

This project came into fruition with a conversation that the author had with the lead pastor, Adam Magaña, of Active Church. With the Church moving into a new building that was severely outdated, it was clear that there was going to be much needed improvements and renovations in order to create the atmosphere and environment that the lead pastor would like to foster. The talk with the lead pastor narrowed down the scope for the student to the auditorium of the Church. With the help of summer internships and technical classes taken at Cal Poly, the project was able to be completed and managed by the student as they had the necessary wisdom and skillset to take on the project. This project is a reflection of a real-world tenant improvement project, which encouraged the student to apply their knowledge in order to best make the project come to life. With it being a reflection of a tenant improvement project, it has the many crucial steps into completing the project. The first step was to create a design that would be approved by the owner. This took into account the ultimate goal for the space of the project that the lead pastor was going for, as well as the technical equipment that would make putting on the service possible. After the design was established, then a schedule and estimate

of the project was needed. Finally, the build out of the project would be the most time intensive part of the project. This required the student to coordinate and schedule assisting suppliers, contractors, and subcontractors to make sure that the project would all come together before the no later than date the pastor requested. Naturally problems arose throughout the process of building the project that were dealt with. With it being a reflection of a real-world tenant improvement construction project, it provided incredibly useful experience and knowledge that the student can take into project that endure in the future. Ultimately, the project was extremely important and serves the church very well as this is the main space that all people of their community will experience the service in.

Background

The idea for the project was first made possible by the desire of the student to want to create a lasting impact in the community they have been apart of for a while. It is important to give back to whatever communities that are pouring so much into your life. With the freedom to due a project based senior project; the student went to the lead pastor of their church to see if there were any needs that the church had where a project manager role could be used. This is when the renovation and remodel of the main auditorium of the church was discussed and finalized. After receiving the vision from the lead pastor, the design and budget for the project was created.

About the Project

Funding

This is typically an area where there are significant issues when it comes to a project. However, the church was providing full funding which made this aspect of the project extremely easy to manage. The lead pastor gave a budget for the project to about \$5,000 dollars, which made it very easy for the student to create an estimate and plan accordingly for the project in order to not go over that desired budget cap. Ultimately, an estimate was created and approved on by Active Church that allowed the project to get underway.

Auditorium Redesign

When this project was first discussed, it was intended for the screen to be the main portion of the project that was in need of a redesign. However, with the budget for the project being generous the student suggested that a remodel of the entire interior of the auditorium would be possible. With this taken into consideration and approved the project now consisted of a redesign of the main screen and lighting rigs that were on stage, but additionally installing new house lighting, repainting the walls, and boarding up the stained-glass windows. This whole process was a cool discussion to have and really highlighted the importance of what a budget can do and how an idea that an owner has for the project can be maximized and brought to life. The skills of being adaptive and creative are highlighted in this specific part of the project.

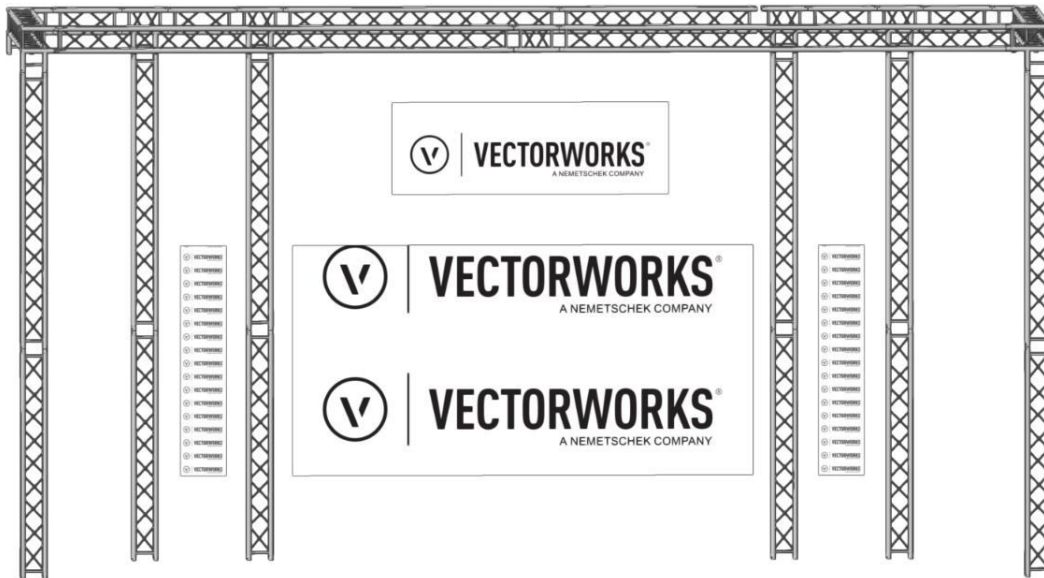


Figure 1. Short Flown Walls

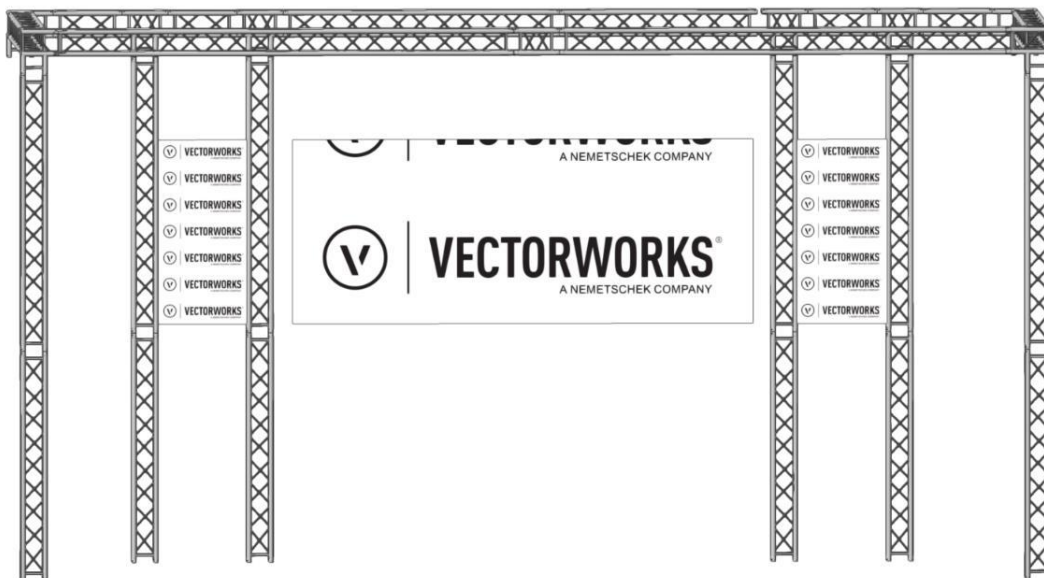


Figure 2. LED Wings

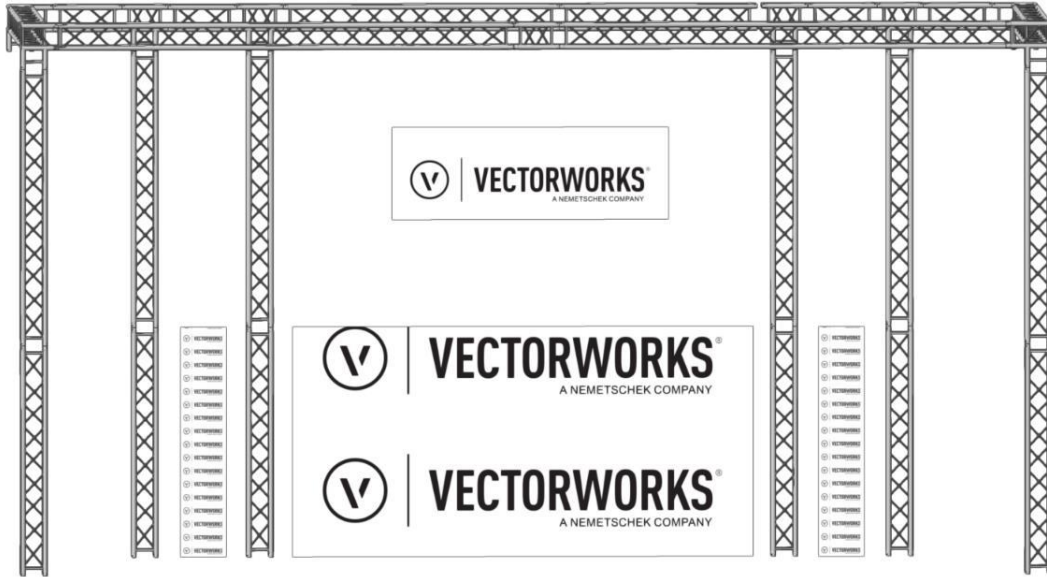


Figure 3. Side Ground



Figure 4. Original Stage

The most visual portion of the project was the redesign of the current LED screen setup. As shown in figure 4 the original screen was just a standard singular box screen. However, 3 different designs were created with the lighting/electrical contractor in vector works to best accommodate the pastor's vision for the new screen setup. Ultimately, the design in figure 1 was the one the pastor approved on and is what the project ended up building. The design of these screens was cool because it is a very niche area, however seeing a program that is typically only used by electrical subs (vector works) it provided valuable insight into what goes into stage setups. Another portion of the redesign was the lighting redesign. However, pictures of those redesigns were unable to be procured as it was a reinstatement of some of the current lights and an installation of new ones that occurred during talks with the lighting contractor.

Auditorium Renovation

After meeting with the electrical and lighting contractors an action plan was created in order to accomplish the project. First a demolition of the current stage needed to occur to redesign it. All the lights from the trusses needed to be uninstalled in order to be able to reposition them and add new ones on. Additionally, the old screen needed to be rewired with guidance from the electrical contractor. So, the student per the "Learn by Doing" heart of Cal Poly went on ladders and behind the screen as shown in figures 5 and 6 to assist with the manual labor.

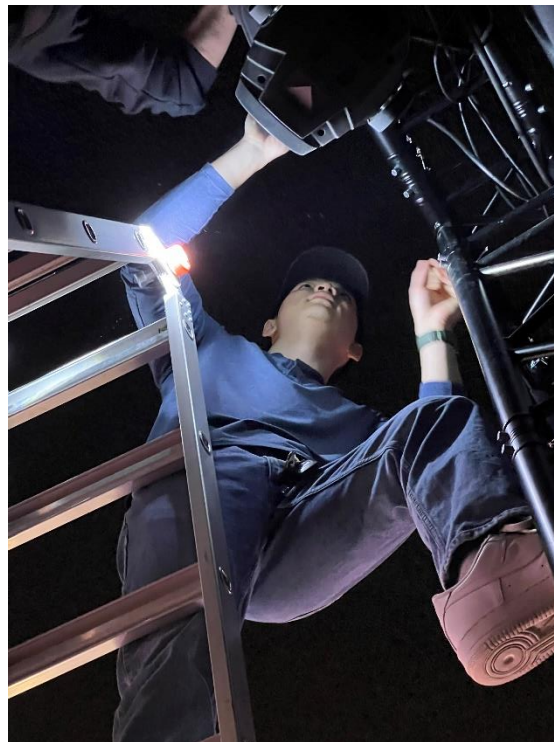


Figure 5. Lighting Reconfiguration



Figure 6. Screen Rewiring



Figure 7. Stage Update

The entire process of redoing the stage aspect of the screen and lighting rig took approximately 7 hours in all to finally finish. This also included installing the flying gear into the screens that would lift them off the ground. This concluded the manual labor the student did with the project. The next part of the project was contracted out to subcontractors. The work included a repaint of the entire auditorium utilizing a boom lift, which the student helped to coordinate and contract. Additionally, installing house lights and boarding up the windows made up the rest of the renovation of the auditorium.

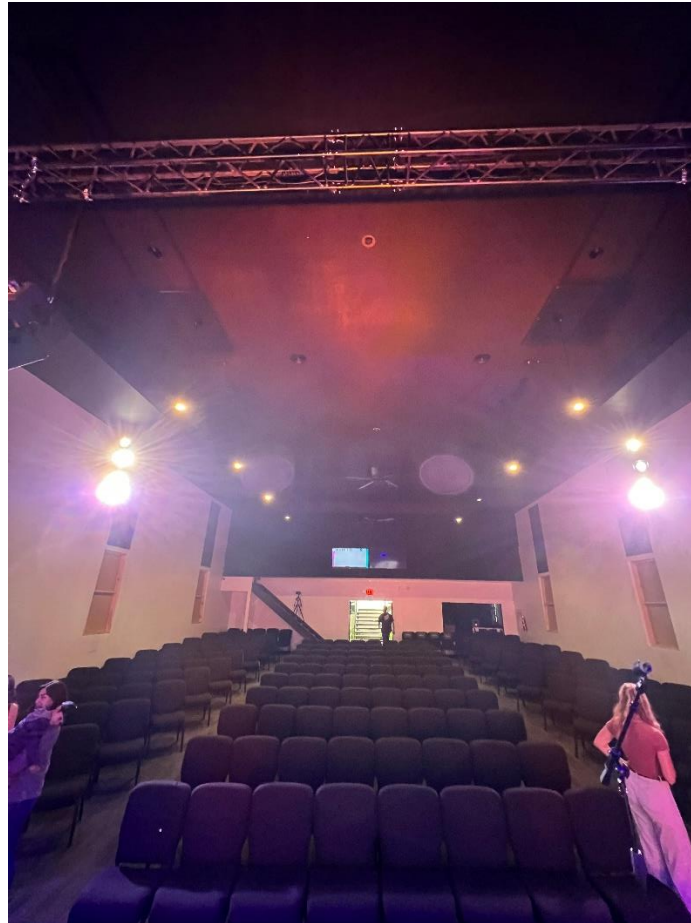


Figure 8. Auditorium Before Paint and Boarding



Figure 9. Stage After Renovation

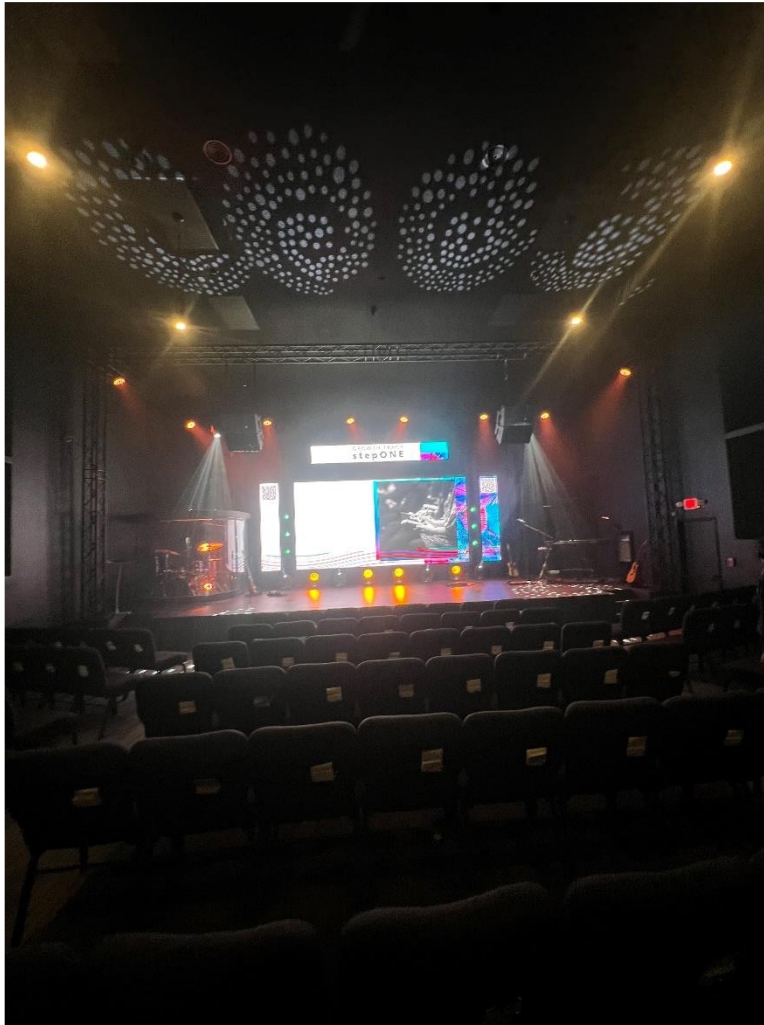


Figure 10. Auditorium After Houselights, Boarding, and Painting

Overall, the renovation of the Auditorium required a lot of skills that were taught throughout the construction management program and knowledge obtained from internships in the construction industry. The project made the student a project manager for the duration of the entire project.

Lessons Learned

The entire project was brought together by communication. Communication alone is that ultimately skill that will make or break good projects. With open lines of communication, all misinterpretations or issues were able to be addressed in a very timely manner allowing this project to progress extremely smoothly. Additionally, relying on knowledge of those that have been in the industry is important because they know the tips and tricks to everything. The students learned valuable nuggets of wisdom from everyone they worked with through asking good questions and being open to learning. This was a very technical project that had a lot of equipment and programs that the student

was not familiar with but grew accustomed to the more time that was put into the completion of the project.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the renovation and remodel of the auditorium at Active Church was an extremely helpful and fun project to be apart of. It was completed quickly and efficiently, which made it a successful project. The auditorium turned out to be at the end of it all underbudget and finished earlier than the desired construction completion time. A lot of technical parts specifically pertaining to the electrical side of construction were learned throughout the course of construction. Ultimately, being able to give back to the church community the student had been a part of since their freshman year felt extremely rewarding as this will be a huge part of the church's future. This senior project has left an impact and will be seen/utilized by that community and many people for years to come, which is the best type of construction to be apart of.