

# ***THE FORUM***

## ***SAUGUS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM***



# ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET***



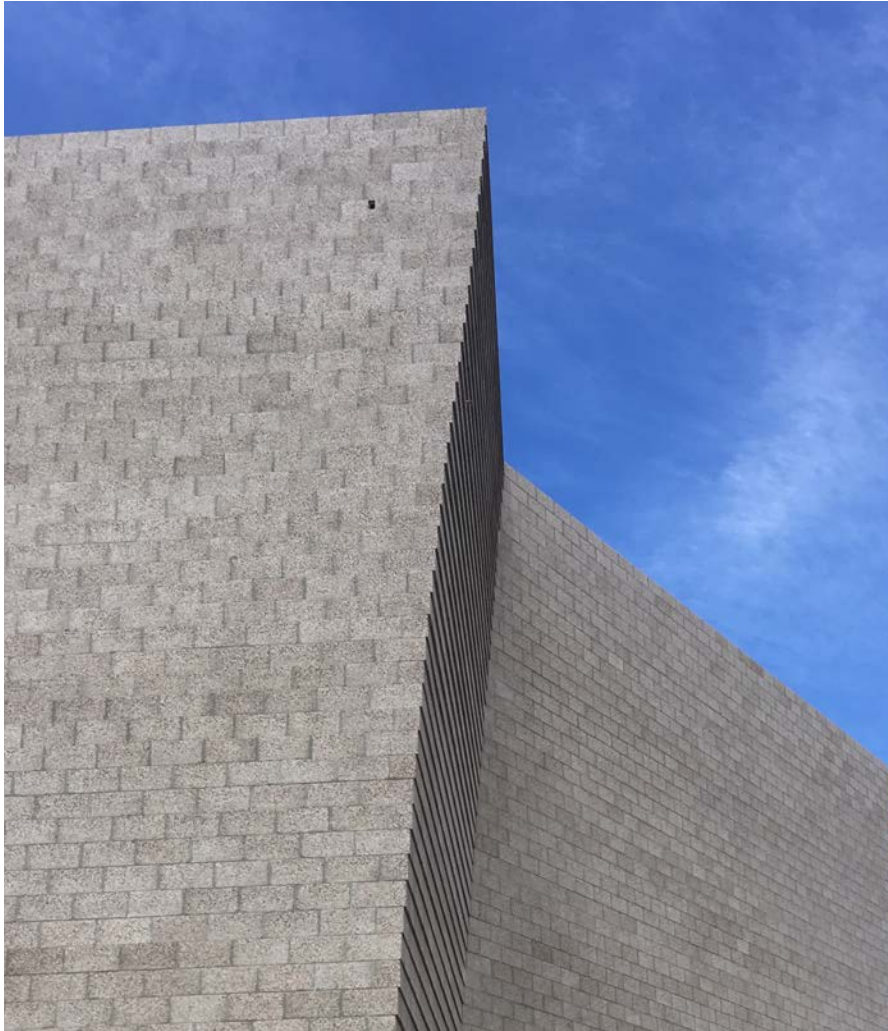
This was a priority project for Saugus High School and the community. Everyone was incredibly proud of the talent the school was developing in the arts. Unfortunately, funding was tight. The District set a budget and desired scope that forced the design team to use creativity to meet the goal of the District, school, and community. That goal was for this building to provide a state-of-the-art performance arts space to showcase the talent they were cultivating. This project achieved those goals. Everyone is extremely proud of their new home for the arts.

**Scope of Work** for the project included a 450-seat capacity auditorium, public lobby, ticket booth, dressing rooms, restrooms, scene shop, equipment storage and drama classroom.

The **Budget** for this project was \$14,000,000.



# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The **dedicated user group** added specific requirements based on their vision for the spaces that forced inventive solutions that could still deliver the project scope and budget. The architect worked with the District and users to find design solutions to maximize program without impacting the budget.

The design team worked to make the building part of the **spectacle of a performance**. The glass lobby and staircase window beam to the community the excitement of opening night and blue light blocks add a splash of color in the concrete block façade. When the gates are open, the front court offers a luminous space connecting a modest lobby to the exterior for intermissions and pre and post-performance gatherings. Their award-winning program now has a home worthy of their craft.







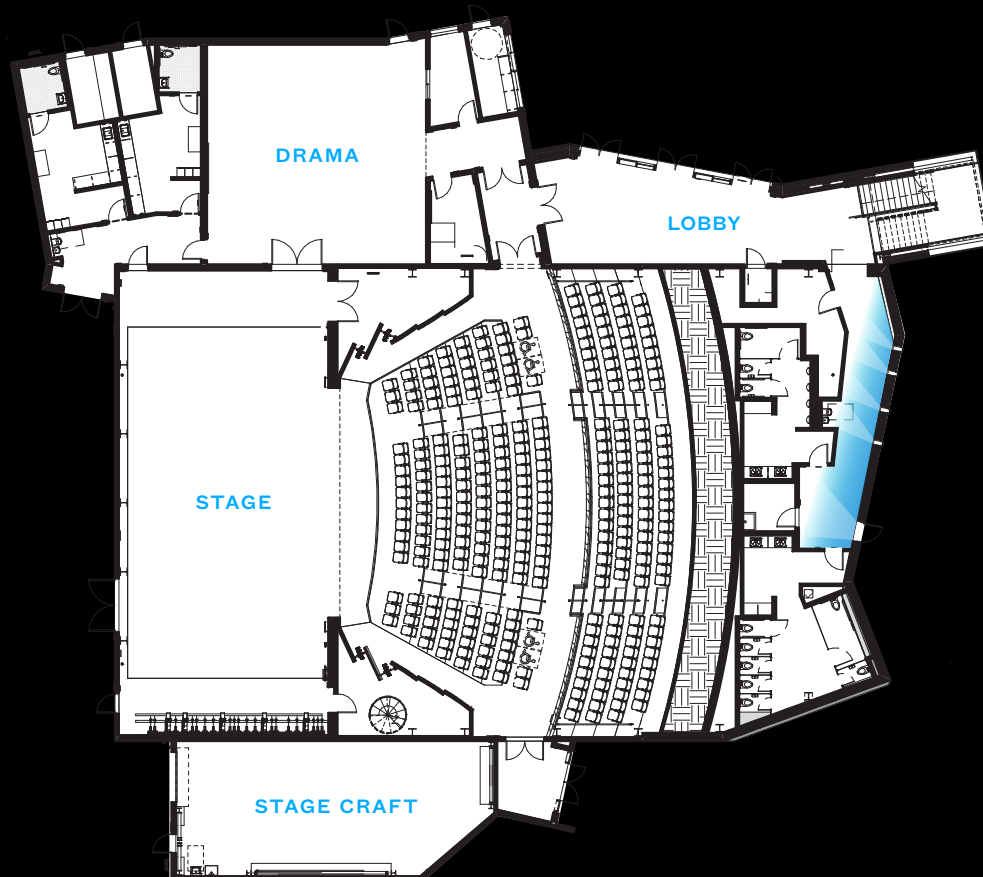
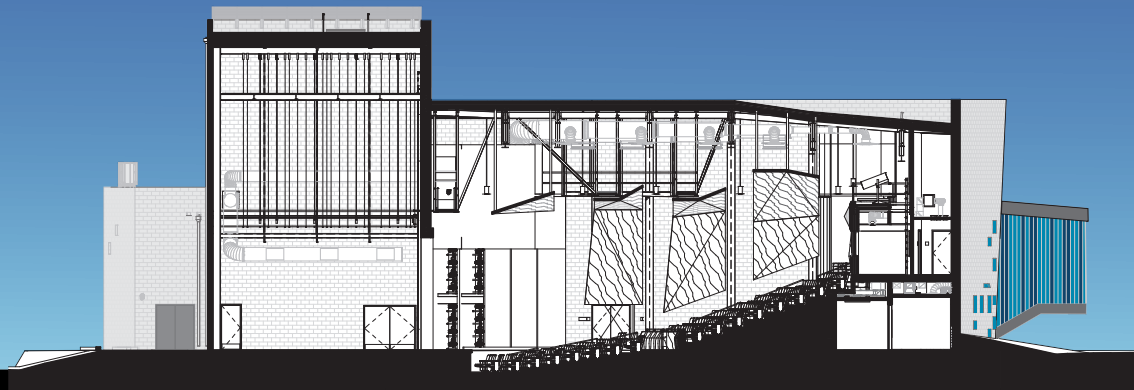
# EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



In the William S. Hart Union High School District, the arts are an important part of the high school curriculum. Across the district, **students are winning awards for drama, dance, instrumental and choral music.** Students at Saugus High School had an option for on-campus performances but the flat-floor multipurpose room with low ceilings, no rigging, no permanent lighting, and no backstage facilities made performances a challenge.

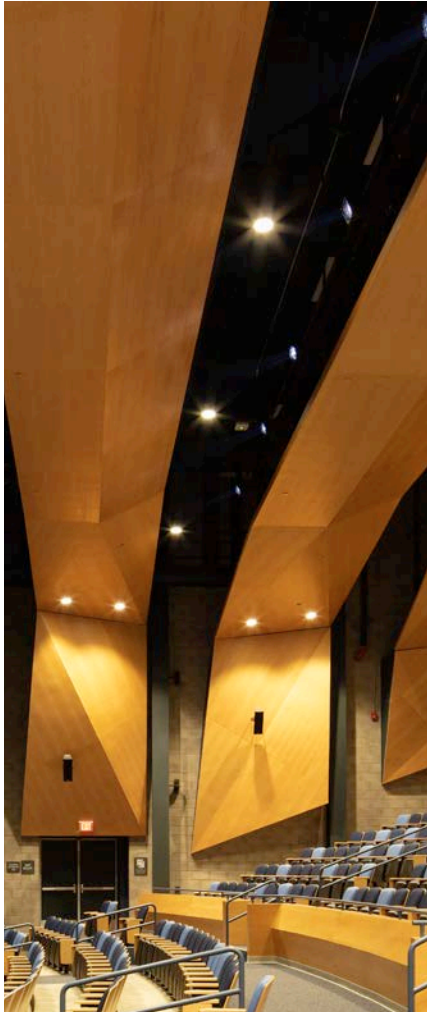
The Saugus Auditorium **overlaps multiple program uses into one space,** and the final design did so effectively and beautifully.





0' 5' 15' 25'

# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT



Sitting at the front corner of the campus, the new auditorium, aptly named **The Forum**, references the surrounding rocky hills through color and through the sculpted form of the enclosure. The concrete block is stacked, each course offset by a nominal amount. As the sun hits the block via its daily path, dramatic shadows are cast. The overall effect is tilted walls that intersect to create a dynamic sculptural element signaling the value of the arts on the campus.

The **450-seat performance space, lobby, drama classroom, and scene preparation spaces** give an incredibly talented student body a new range of tools fitting their aspirations. Folded acoustic reflectors inside contrast against the dark interior to create a striking effect and an environment suitable for amplified or unamplified sound. The drama classroom is designed as a black box giving the drama group the potential for more diverse performances and rehearsals. Connected dressing rooms, scene preparation, and state of the art controls and rigging now facilitate a full array of performances.

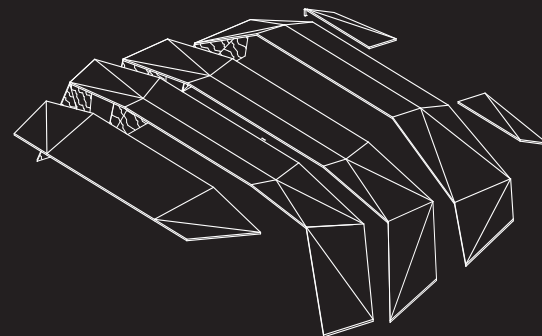
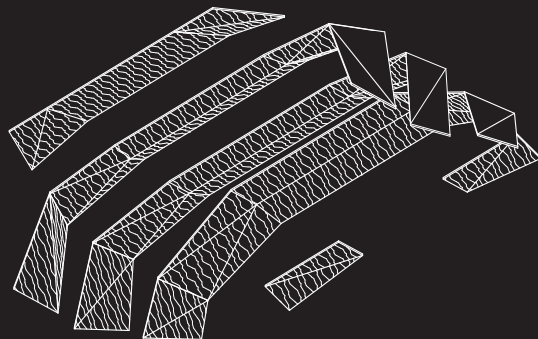
Smaller elements like the lobby, grand staircase and scene preparation area **modulate the scale of the auditorium with building elements clad in variegated blue metal panels**. The blue panels reference the colors of the campus and signal its integration with the rest of the school infrastructure.



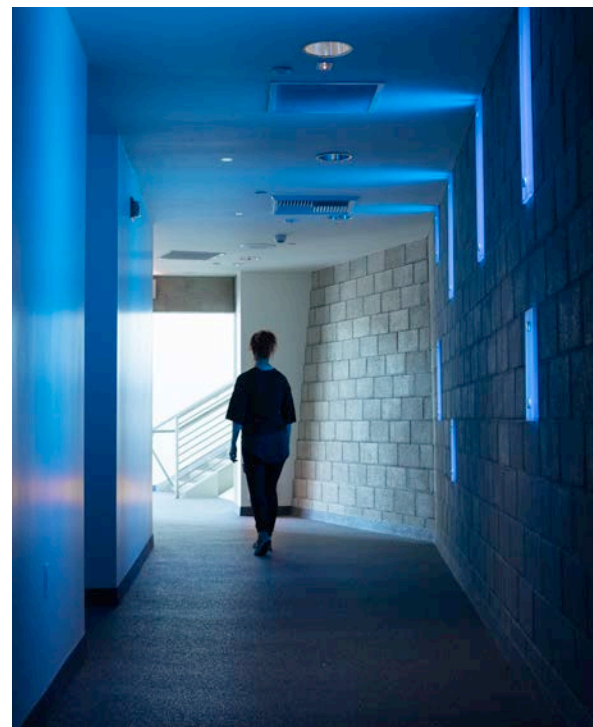
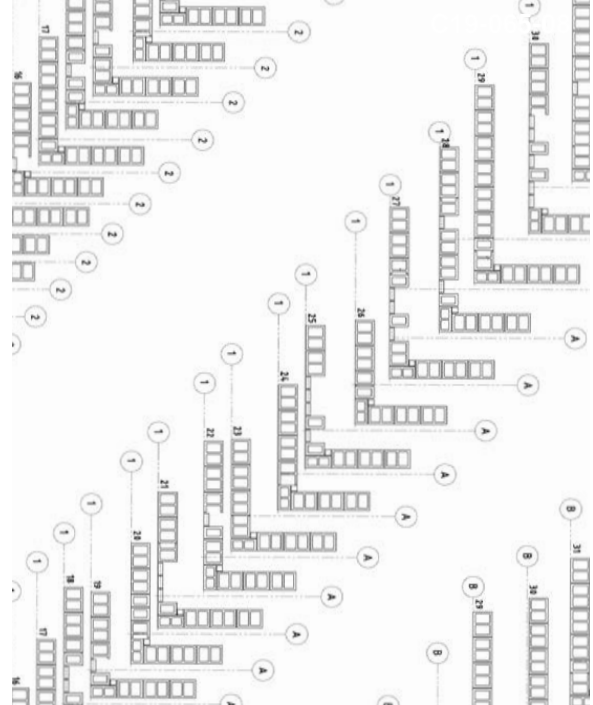
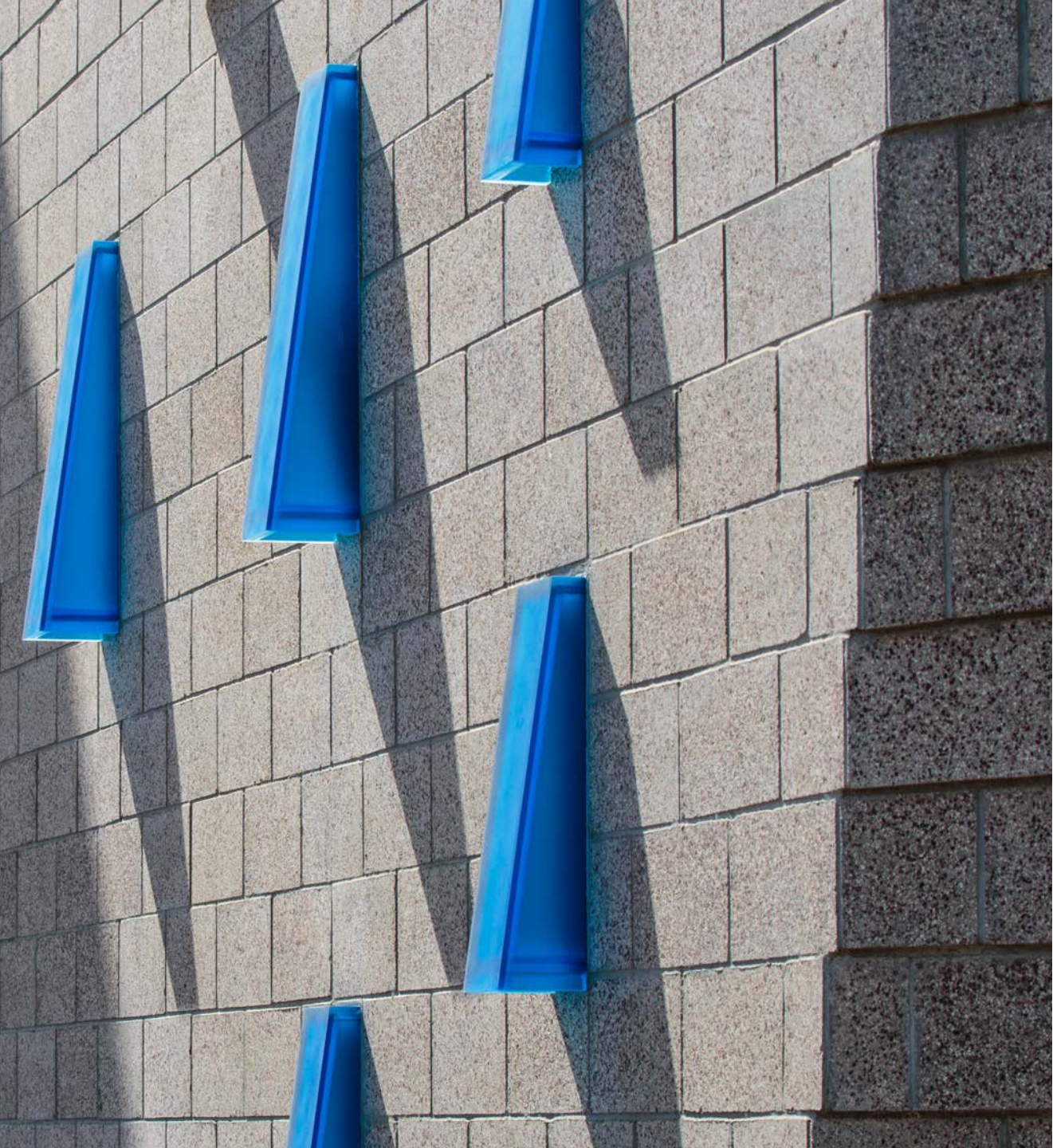














art  
is  
the  
heart  
of  
the  
human  
spirit







# ***RESULTS OF THE PROCESS***

The design team worked to make the building part of the spectacle of a performance. The glass lobby and staircase window beam to the community the excitement of opening night and blue light blocks add a splash of color in the concrete block façade. When the gates are open, the front court offers a luminous space connecting a modest lobby to the exterior for intermissions and pre and post-performance gatherings. Their award-winning program now has a home worthy of their craft.

The Saugus Auditorium is architecture that exploits the potential of stacking masonry in a dynamic, plastic form celebrating the spectacle of performance.

The project leverages an ordinary material in an unconventional way to achieve an elevated design result with minimal cost.

The design of the building affords the campus the opportunity for a new community interface for the school through project siting and design.

The building reflects the community through reference to surrounding jagged mountains in the formal quality of the structure.

As a site for drama and music education, the building is planned with students first; educational spaces and performance areas work cohesively with adjacent spaces to complete a complex of arts facilities.