INTEGRATED CONTROL FOR MULTIPLE MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SPACES

University of Florida

University of Florida Graduates to Q-SYS

📍 Gainesville, Florida

The [Reitz Union](#) within the [University of Florida](#) heralds from humble origins – a simple campaign back in 1922 to raise funds for an on-campus YMCA. Since then, the student union has grown to over 630,000 square feet servicing over 50,000 students. Named after former University President Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, this facility continues to serve as the community center of the campus, providing services and programs to meet the needs of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

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>
> **- Lon Vance**
> *Senior Engineer Audio Visual Systems, University of Florida*

Challenges

Outdated Audio System

Within this expansive space is the Grand Ballroom, one of the most versatile areas available in the Union – split into eight 45x45-foot salons with the total area measuring roughly 20,000 square feet. The Grand Ballroom is rented out for a host of events but unfortunately, the audio wasn't living up to the space's requirements. "I'll get straight to it – the audio was bad," explained Lon Vance, Senior Engineer Audio Visual Systems of the University of Florida. "The old system was simply outdated. This is a student union area, and we needed a solution that was rock solid. Q-SYS was by far the easiest, plus gave us the digital signal processing flexibility necessary for a divisible space."

Solutions

Multi-Purpose Room Flexibility

The AV team selected a Q-SYS Core 510i processor (now available as the updated Q-SYS Core 610), as it offers a total network audio channel capacity of 256 x 256, one of the largest available of any Q-SYS Core processors, and necessary for such a large area. Of course, they wanted to maximize the flexibility of the Grand Ballroom – to do so the team leveraged room combining via Q-SYS, which allows them to separate or merge audio signals depending on the air wall setup. Q-SYS also gives the AV team the opportunity to easily select their preferred microphones in any area within the divisible space via a third-party control system.

Accompanying this are three Q-SYS I/O-22 network (now available as Attero Tech Axon A4Flex) audio I/O devices. Via dynamic pairing, these compact units can float throughout the space and simply plug into a switch without having to take the system offline or having to redeploy the design – perfect for the Grand Ballroom's back-to-back schedule. Following the promise of easily achieving best-in-class results, a Q-SYS NS Series Gen 2 pre-configured network switch was chosen to provide an out-of-the-box solution for building standalone AV networks.

Room Environment Flexibility

The loudspeaker arrangement took some outside-of-the-box thinking, as baffles along the ceiling were the sole anchor points. To work with the environment, the AV team installed seventy-two AcousticDesign surface-mount loudspeakers twenty-six feet in the air. They selected the series due to its clarity and presence within higher fidelity applications, with power being provided by a CX-Q Series network amplifier.

Forging Ahead

Next on the list of audio, visual, and control updates are two student recreation centers. Each slated to be equipped with its own Cores as well as updated loudspeakers and network touch panels, with even more plans are on the horizon. Though its origins might be humble, the University of Florida Reitz Union continues to make strong moves in building a facility that honors its namesake and Q-SYS is proud to offer an intuitive experience for students and staff alike.

The University of Florida's mission is to prepare our students to lead and influence the next generation and beyond for economic, cultural and societal benefit. Recognized as the No. 6 public university by U.S. News & World Report, UF is one of the nation's largest public universities and is the only member of the Association of American Universities in Florida. Teaching, research and scholarship, and service span all of the UF's academic disciplines and represent its commitment to be a premier university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership. For more information, visit www.ufl.edu.