cultural+performing arts design
DLR Group specializes in projects that enrich communities and empower creative expression. Behind every performance, exhibition, or cultural event is an interwoven backdrop of complex issues that design thinking can resolve. As one of the world’s preeminent designers of arts facilities, DLR Group creates spaces that set the stage for cultural and economic vitality.

DLR Group’s experience in design for the Cultural + Performing Arts spans nearly five decades and encompasses work on more than 300 cultural facilities across our nation and internationally. Our expertise extends to the following program types: theaters and performance venues of all kinds; museums and galleries; media and broadcast-related projects; and instructional and studio spaces for music, dance, drama, and the visual arts.

Our award-winning portfolio includes projects in new construction and renovation as well as master plans for the arts. We have worked on four of the six largest performing arts centers in the U.S. as well as on arts facilities serving college campuses and smaller communities. We pride ourselves on our ability to create innovative designs that exceed our clients’ aesthetic, cultural, functional, and economic needs.
Performing Arts Centers
Multi-Form Theaters
Black Box Theaters
Concert + Recital Halls
Music Rehearsal + Practice
Visual Art + Design Studios
Maker Spaces
Fine Art Museums + Galleries
Interpretive Museums
Spaces for Dance
Arts Districts + District Master Plans
Legacy Venues
Renovating Modern Landmarks
Arts on Campus
Amphitheaters
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY DESIGN GROUP

Smart Technology Solutions for Arts and Cultural Spaces

DLR Group’s Innovative Technology Design Group (ITDG) offers a suite of specialty services for designing an integrated technological infrastructure. Services span eight different disciplines and include designing the sound, lighting effects, and visuals to create an immersive experience; solving security issues so that people can safely enjoy their environment; and creating the automated systems to make sure all systems run smoothly.

Innovative Technology Design Group was formed by designers who recognized that technology plays a big role in the environment of a building. It has since evolved into a team of professionals who solve design challenges in any technologically integrated or acoustically sensitive space.

Acoustics
Customized, integrated, and collaborative acoustic designs for all building types

Audiovisual
Audiovisual systems design, programming, and equipment specifications

Digital Media Design
Creative visual storytelling using any digital technology platform at any resolution

Information Transport
Engineering the backbone and infrastructure to handle tomorrow’s technology and information

Life Safety & Security
State-of-the-art security systems design and specifications to keep people and assets safe

Lighting
Design expertise for elegant, energy efficient, and sustainable architectural, task, and ambient lighting

Room Automation & Show Control
Intelligent technology to manage your control room or immersive environment effortlessly and without fail

Theater Technical
Performance technology designs to create cutting-edge theaters and presentation spaces
Where do we go from here?

What other events and activities might activate our space? There is demand for new arts and cultural spaces—how do we assess and pursue our priorities?

What funding sources are available for a project like this?

How do we make this building sustainable for the long-term?

Is there a market to support an arts facility?

Building the Foundation for Design

DLR Group’s in-house Business Operations & Fundraising group equips our arts & cultural clients with the data and information needed for success. As one of few design firms in the country with these in-house services, we provide a holistic perspective to the design process.

Needs Assessments
Research and analysis to assess opportunities for arts and culture in a community.
- Market analysis
- Competition analysis
- Assessment of user demand and community need
- Qualitative assessment of benefits and impacts
- Case studies

Business Plans
Planning to assess long-term program or facility operations.
- Ownership and operating plan
- Board development
- Comparable program/facility benchmarking
- Pro-forma operating budget
- Action plan for project realization

Feasibility Studies
Combines the work of the needs assessment and business plan to assess the overall feasibility of new facilities and programs, facility renovations or expansions, and other cultural development initiatives.

Fundraising
Services to support new and existing clients in their fundraising efforts for capital projects.
- Capital campaign feasibility
- Donor and past campaign analysis
- Grant mining and writing
- Fundraising material support
- Design visualizations
- Stakeholder engagement

Planning
Services to aid in broader cultural development initiatives, including facility master planning, cultural planning, and cultural district planning. Includes research to assess the existing state of the arts in a community, opportunities for growth and development, cost projections, and steps for how to achieve success.

Miscellaneous Research
On-demand answers and solutions to everyday questions and challenges.
- Competition analysis
- Ticket buyer and visitor analysis
- Peer benchmarking
- Survey development and analysis
- Utilization assessment
- Research and analysis on sector trends
SUSTAINABILITY

Meeting the Challenge

One of the most pressing challenges in the century is to mitigate climate change caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities. Information in this report has been extracted from the estimated operational energy consumption, energy production, and energy optimization of DLR Group designs in 2019. Beyond these typical metrics of achievement, in 2019 we addressed other areas including exploration of innovative materials, indoor air quality, occupant comfort, wellbeing and productivity. These areas further expanded our thinking on sustainability and the role it plays within integrated design.

Raise the Bar

The average reduction target of predicted energy use for that portion of the DLR Group design portfolio with performance data has consistently exceeded the national peer group average. In FY19, our integrated designs generated a 52 percent energy reduction compared to average buildings(1). This is a three percent improvement compared to FY2018 and is partly fueled by rapidly evolving, more stringent building energy codes and from the rising demand for Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Energy ready projects from our clients.

More than a third of the design portfolio we tracked in FY19 were adaptive reuse and/ or major renovation projects. This further contributed to savings of embodied carbon through the reuse of existing building stock. DLR Group also began an effort to intentionally address water conservation in our design in FY19. As with embodied carbon, there is an urgency in design considerations to realize equivalent water savings through the process of delivering energy from the utility grid to a building site. This will continue to be a focus of our integrated design teams in the coming years.

The impact of design choices for 2019 can be quantified in these tangible ways:

- The amount of water used in 139 U.S. Olympic-size swimming pools
- The amount of carbon sequestered by 110,000 acres of forest
- The amount of energy consumed by 9,700 homes in a year

This resulted in 84,000 metric tons of GHG* avoided

*GHG EMISSIONS ARE ESTIMATED USING NATIONAL AVERAGE FUEL RATIOS FOR ENERGY USE IN BUILDINGS AND EPA'S POWER PROFILER TOOL.

*Reduction determined using The Zero Tool, an Architecture 2030 platform developed for building sector professionals to establish energy reduction baselines and targets, compare a building's energy performance with similar buildings and to codes, and understand how a building achieved its current energy performance.
WHO WE ARE

DLR Group is a global integrated design firm.

Our promise is to elevate the human experience through design. This inspires a culture of design and fuels the work we do around the world. **We are 100 percent employee-owned:** every employee is literally invested in our clients’ success. At the core of our firm are interdisciplinary employee-owner teams, engaged with all project life-cycle stakeholders. These teams champion true collaboration, open information sharing, shared risk and reward, value-based decision making, and proficient use of technology to elevate design.

Our clients experience this through our service model: listen. DESIGN. deliver

Locations

- Austin
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Colorado Springs
- Columbus
- Dallas
- Denver
- Des Moines
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Kansas City
- Las Vegas
- Lincoln
- Los Angeles
- Minneapolis
- New York
- Omaha
- Orlando
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Riverside
- Sacramento
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Tucson
- Washington, D.C.
- Dubai
- Nairobi
- Shanghai

Your design team is backed by the resources of the entire firm. This enables DLR Group to scale teams to meet your challenges and deliver specialized expertise to any location whenever and wherever it is needed. Distributed management means the best ideas can come from anywhere, and being 100 percent employee-owned fosters a culture of entrepreneurial innovation.

Services

- ARCHITECTURE
- ENERGY SERVICES
- ENGINEERING
- EXPERIENTIAL GRAPHIC DESIGN
- INTERIORS
- ITDG - INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY DESIGN GROUP
- LABORATORY PLANNING
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- MASTER PLANNING
- PRESERVATION
- SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING
OUR TEAM

DLR Group offers a unique, multi-disciplinary practice model with in-house architects, engineers, and technology designers—including experts in acoustics, audiovisual systems, theatrical systems, and lighting design—who specialize in design designing arts and cultural facilities.

These experts guide clients through every phase of a project, from early feasibility analysis and concept design through the implementation of compelling design solutions that are recognized for their technical, aesthetic, and operational quality.

We look forward to helping you meet programmatic, aesthetic, and economic goals for your next project.