PLANAR | Installation Profile



Products
Planar DirectLight LED Video Wall System

Location
Tallahassee, FL

Industry
Government

Application
Senate Chamber

Partner
Music Masters

PLANAR VIDEO WALL HIGHLIGHTS FLORIDA SENATE CHAMBER RENOVATION

Florida Senate Chamber

At the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, the Florida Senate holds sessions in the Florida Senate Chamber, a large circular arena with lecterns, desks for 40 senators, and a visitor's gallery that looks down on the chamber floor. In November of 2016, following four decades of minimal upgrades, an overhauled chamber was unveiled following a $6 million renovation. The refurbished chamber was fitted with updated walls, carpeting, a new dome ceiling, and architectural features such as wooden Ionic columns and egg and dart molding.



In addition to these classical designs, the chamber was also modernized with an audio-visual technology update that included a new surround sound system and a Planar® DirectLight® LED Video Wall System from Planar. The new Planar DirectLight LED Video Wall features an ultra-fine pitch of 1.6mm in an 8x6 configuration and is used in chamber sessions to display bills, amendments, PowerPoints, videos, and images in Full HD resolution.

A need for clear content

The Planar DirectLight is a significant improvement over the rear projection system that was previously used and enables the Senate to display text associated with bills and amendments that is much more defined, leading to better communications with the legislative body, the press, and guests seated in the gallery.

The Planar DirectLight is a seamless, ultra-fine pitch direct view LED video wall that provides a superior visual experience and 24x7 reliability. Planar DirectLight's revolutionary Planar® EasyAlign™ Mounting System, with six-axis of adjustments, combined with Planar® DirectLight® Control Software allows for ultra-fine tune image calibration, delivering stunning, uniform images.

Efficient operation

When the Senate convenes and matters needs to be addressed, it's essential that session proceedings are well-organized and move at a competent pace. For this reason, a video wall solution integrated with chamber business needed to be both efficient and adaptable.

With the capacity to flawlessly transition between different forms of content such as text, data, graphics, and videos, the Planar display met this need and allows the Senate to maintain a seamless tempo while in session.

Les Stephenson, owner of Tallahassee-based AV integration firm and instrument retailer Music Masters, which performed the chamber's AV renovation and recommended Planar, said the main drivers for using the Planar DirectLight solution were quality, reputation, and compatibility with different types of presentation formats.

"It's serious business when the Senate is in session, and with lots of ground to cover, they require a solution that is plug-n-play," he said.

Based on the critical importance of a solution that is also reliable, the off-board architecture of the Planar DirectLight is another key attribute. This distributed design allows for the power supplies to be stored in an equipment room located behind the display, removing heat, complexity, and potential points-of-failure from the video wall display. This unique architecture means any system failure can be easily accessible, reducing downtime, and keeping vital video walls up and running.

Additionally, the front-service access of the Planar DirectLight—which allows for efficient and cost-effective in-place servicing of all system components—is another beneficial feature that reduces any potential downtime. And, if an LED display module needs to be accessed or removed, it is easily accomplished without the need to remove other modules within the video wall.



Stephenson also previously designed and installed the AV infrastructure for the House of Representatives chamber at the other end of the capitol building. During that project, he had to work with an existing different-brand video wall, which proved problematic.

"We had to wrestle with an odd resolution and develop a work-around by creating various scaling pre-sets that could be compatible with different kinds of presentation formats," he said.

These issues were non-existent with the Planar solution. "It gave us the resolution we wanted, the tight LED pitch we wanted, and allows for clear images that fit perfectly every time," Stephenson said.

With superior visual quality and flexibility provided by the Planar DirectLight, the Senate can move quickly through each day's agenda and ensure that senators have better access to information vital to important decisions for the state.

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– Les Stephenson, Owner of Music Masters

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