



Performing Arts Center
Renovation/Addition/
Restoration

FRENCH ASSOCIATES, INC.

1600 Parkdale
Rochester, MI 48307
www.frenchaia.com
Dale Jerome
248/656-1377

DESIGN TEAM

Peter Basso Associates,
Mechanical/Electrical
Engineering
Giffels-Webster,
Civil Engineering
Penhale & Yates,
Structural Engineering
Schuler Shook,
Theater Consultant
Acoustical Design Group,
Acoustician
McCarthy Smith,
Construction Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Allen Park Community
School District
Allen Park, MI
Dr. John Sturock
313/928-4667

Type of School and
Grades Served:
High School, 9-12

Capacity: 1,000 students

Size of Site: 21.5 acres

Area of Building:
235,168 square feet

Space per Student:
235.2 square feet

Square Foot Cost: \$162

Cost of Construction:
\$31 million

Total Project Cost:
\$37.5 million

Contract Date: June 2004

Completion Date: Aug. 2006

Percent of Completion: 100%

HIGH SCHOOLS

Allen Park High School Center for the Arts

Allen Park, Michigan

French Associates, Inc.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Center for the Arts is designed so audience members feel as though the forest surrounds them. With a seating capacity of 650, a fly loft with a 32 line set professional rigging system, a movable orchestra shell enclosure, 120 stage lighting fixtures, and backstage areas with live-feed capability, the Center for the Arts auditorium provides professional-quality production value for school and community-based productions. Outside organizations, such as symphony and ballet companies, already are inquiring about regular rental of the facility, and will help make this a self-sustaining project. The “outdoors in” theme called for natural elements to be implemented in the interior. Inside, white paper birch trees are echoed in the white speckled decorative masonry, enhanced in the design aesthetic by pendant light fixtures reminiscent of pinecones.

One construction issue that presented itself almost immediately was the soil quality



ARTS AUDITORIUM

at the addition site. Working with predominately soft clay to a 20-foot depth, then an additional 70 feet of soil with minimal bearing capacity, the solution was to drill 152 piles down 90 feet to bedrock and then construct a grade beam foundation. With the building fully occupied during renovation, the construction of two temporary exit tunnels ensured not one school day was lost over the two-year time frame. ■



ARTS AUDITORIUM ENTRANCE

PHOTOS: STEVE MAYLONE