WASHINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
River City High School Performing Arts Auditorium and Black Box Theater
19,645 SF new construction
West Sacramento, Calif.
The primary design challenge was to work within the site constraints while still providing all the design elements desired by the District. This existing campus was very compact and provided limited area for expansion. DLR Group overcame this challenge by designing enough flexibility into the plan to use spaces for multiple functions.

This project included the addition of a new gym, an expanded cafeteria/lobby, and remodel of the existing gym and locker rooms. The new competition gymnasium accommodates seating for over 2,000 people with a main basketball court and three full size cross basketball courts, along with volleyball courts. The new gym is directly adjacent to the existing gym and locker rooms, and includes a large storage room with an upper level seating area and video platform.

The existing cafeteria also serves as a lobby for the existing gym which was remodeled and expanded as part of the new gym. The new lobby has clerestory windows, barrel ceilings, and skylights and features a window into the gymnasium. A concessions area with outdoor serving is provided along with the Athletic Director’s offices, restrooms and storage. A new outdoor plaza was developed to connect to the campus and parking while serving as the new hub of student activities.
DLR Group was hired by Jackson Construction to participate in the design-build construction of a new theater and performing arts center for Christian Brothers High School. After completing an initial concept study and pricing analysis, the project was approved by the school’s board to proceed and construction was completed in April 2014.

The theater is a 350-seat recording studio, with a fixed camera location in the back of the house, and side camera positions at either side of the seating in front of the stage. The theater can be broadcast to the web and campus distribution system via the school’s production studio.

The theater and performing arts complex is a campus infill project that replaces an area with multiple relocatable classrooms. The 17,000 sf building consists of a 350-seat theater with stage, orchestra pit, scene shop, dressing rooms, storage, and lobby with concessions and restrooms. Additionally, a band room and choir room are attached to the theater, connected by a corridor for use as Green Rooms during performances. A second floor area provides storage, sound and lighting equipment, as well as access to follow spots and a catwalk.

The pre-cast concrete panel building has a large outdoor canopy for staging outdoor activities prior to shows along
with a new outdoor plaza area, lined with trees and raised concrete bench planters. The panelized construction and revised siting from a previous concept allowed the project team to reduce costs and expand the project scope to include the band and choir rooms. The concrete and brick veneer matches the current campus design vernacular.

To assist with the fundraising efforts, DLR Group also provided 3D interior and exterior renderings and a project walk-through with the use of our Revit BIM software. Additionally, all design meetings with the user were conducted with our 3D Revit views which gave them real-time visions of the design.
In addition to DLR Group’s design of the Rosemont High School Campus, we designed the Performing Arts Center Complex. The Rosemont High School performing arts theater is a 450-seat venue that combines theatrical teaching opportunities with a performance space that offers first-class accommodations for touring productions and community presentations.

The performance deck provides 32 feet in depth from proscenium wall to the back stage wall, and another 14 feet in depth from the proscenium opening to the front stage apron. A traditional below-apron orchestra pit can accommodate as much as a 20-piece musical ensemble. The 48-foot wide by 20-foot high proscenium arch together with a 53-foot high fly space provides ample space for the largest of stage productions.

The performance space is backed by a full complement of stage support amenities and spaces. The stage rigging system is a traditional pulley-operated system and is sized
to accommodate the complicated needs of most modern productions wherein a variety of scene-change drops are required. The main house has a catwalk system from which dramatic lighting effects can be achieved both before and during performances. The control room is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and has a separate sound room where professional-grade recordings of productions or of individual performances are possible. The 2,200 square foot interior stage workshop and the large exterior storage and work area provide ample space for teaching and learning stagecraft and prop and scenery production techniques.

In total, the Rosemont Theater provides students with a real-life theater production experience while offering touring companies all the amenities needed to produce major plays and musical productions.
This multiple award-winning facility, featured in Architectural Record as one of its exemplary Schools of the 21st century, embodies a District’s vision for a small school learning environment on a large school campus. DLR Group’s design respects the District’s mission of providing all students with equal opportunities to succeed. Classes and services are clustered in small learning communities (SLCs), which serve as specialty schools with a different core curriculum. Having elective curriculum pieces focused at different schools lends an identity to each SLC and encourages socialization between students. All students use the shared library, performing arts, physical education and food service facilities, which also enhance the interaction among students. These locations provide large spaces for presentations and lectures, small spaces dedicated to group learning, and contemplative spaces to support individual learning and reflection.

The 345,000 SF high school serves 2,400 students and is flexible to easily change with evolving curricular delivery models. Each SLC consists of learning spaces, administration, counseling and resource and computer labs surrounding a large central, multi-use gathering area. The campus is connected by a meandering path for primary circulation. Student services, located at the heart of the campus is where
visitors enter and students gather at the library and cafe. Fresh air, daylight and expansive views are highlights of this project. Energy efficient features include a highly performing building envelope and an efficient central chiller system. Indoor air quality is enhanced by careful selection and use of low VOC emitting, low maintenance, and local/regional materials. DLR Group provided planning, architecture, engineering, and interiors services for this project.
Breaking away from the traditional classroom organization of the Deer Valley Unified School District, Boulder Creek High School is designed around a “house concept,” offering a school-within-a-school atmosphere—the first for the District. Each house has its own classroom science lab, computer lab, restrooms and teacher planning center. Eight academic houses subdivide students into smaller learning communities so students can change classes within the house, rather than walk across campus from one building to another. The school also features a state-of-the-art, joint-use library shared by both the school and local community, a performing arts auditorium, an open air amphitheater, an outdoor reading garden, and an overall design that works with the existing conditions of the desert and Boulder Creek to create a unity between building and environment.

The main auditorium contains 500 seats and a 100-seat mini auditorium allows for more intimate gatherings.
DEER VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Boulder Creek High School Performing Arts Auditorium, Small Learning Communities, and Joint-Use Library
306,858 SF new construction
Anthem, Ariz.
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Coronado High School New Classroom Building and Performing Arts Building
163,600 SF new construction
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Scottsdale Unified School District's new Coronado High School creates a fresh presence on an existing campus in a phased sequence of new construction and demolition. DLR Group's design respects the past history of the school and community while embracing the future. Design elements were taken from the 1962 campus, including the folded-plate roof and preservation of the large fine-arts mosaic on a prominent location of the new performing arts building. The buildings were designed for efficient, cost-effective construction, and nearly all of the classrooms provide natural light. Interior classrooms use interior windows to open up space. High performance glass and high insulation values keep energy costs down and interior spaces comfortable. The glass block perforations of the multipurpose space create a playful interior space while allowing natural light to filter through.

The new two-story 163,600 SF classroom building accommodates 1,500 students and wraps around a central courtyard. The circulation courtyard then reaches from the classroom building to the gym, cafeteria, auditorium/performing arts buildings and vocational classrooms, creating active and passive areas. The improved line of sight throughout the open campus creates a safe and secure environment for staff and students. DLR Group provided architecture, engineering, and interiors services.
This high school is comprised of four buildings designed to complement Saddle Mountain Unified School District’s curriculum. The DLR Group design also includes athletic fields/courts, concession/restroom building and parking. The gym, auditorium and media center are available for shared community use and activities, and the auditorium also accommodates the Middle School’s performance activities.

The exterior color and material palette is inspired by the petroglyphs found on basalt rock in the Tonopah area, which were created by chipping away the black outer surface of the rock to reveal the beige colored rock beneath it. Flat metal wall panels, pre-finished in a gun-metal gray color, symbolize
the black outer surface of the basalt rock. Large petroglyph shapes were cut out of the metal panels, which were mounted over areas of tan smooth-faced concrete masonry, allowing the petroglyph shapes to be viewed similarly to the original basalt carvings.

The New High School, along with the new District office and bus maintenance facility are located on a 40-acre site. The site organization lends itself to a controlled environment for security purposes, and is part of a master planned campus that includes the elementary and middle school buildings on the adjacent 20-acre site.
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Campus East Wing
19,742 SF new construction
Santa Monica, Calif.
This performance and rehearsal space uses angled interior glazing and operable drapery for adaptable acoustics. A double glazing concept using two glazing assemblies physically separated by 1-to-2 feet provides acoustic insulation at exterior walls while allowing ample daylighting and views. The rehearsal room and music lab are built on a floating floor with double walls to provide acoustic isolation from the rest of the building, allowing simultaneous use with the music hall. Composite wood panels are used in the interior and exterior walls and soffits, creating a visual and textural connection to the adjacent broad stage. Much of the building is clad with a structural glass curtain wall.

This structure comprises three primary use spaces: the music hall on the first floor, which opens up to the plaza for overflow space or outdoor performances; a rehearsal room on the third floor; and a music lab on the third floor. The second floor serves as a mezzanine and storage space. The building is targeted for LEED Silver certification and features a roof-mounted PV array, low VOC and certified wood products, and superior water efficiency.
The Southwest College School of Career and Technical Education geometrical configurations literally open the space to students while welcoming the neighboring community to utilize its resources. The building provides practical, hands-on training to diverse, multi-generational user groups in a safe and inviting campus facility. DLR Group’s design for the new building helps re-brand this Los Angeles Community College District campus as a vibrant, forward-thinking 21st century institution. With its prominent facades and highly visible gateways, the building announces its presence to the public and engages users approaching from both north and south. Large expanses of glass and open-air corridors, lobbies, and courtyards exhibit the professional training and instruction taking place on the inside. The multi-purpose auditorium and conference rooms, which are accessed directly off a primary open-air corridor, support campus-wide and community usage. Research and testing labs are situated on the first floor, next to the open-air central core. The highly visible southeast corner of the second level, which contains classrooms and faculty offices, protrudes outward toward the campus.

School of Arts & Humanities—This performing arts center is designed to engage students with state-of-the-industry
studio, performance, and music lab environments comparable to those they will encounter in their future careers. The center aims to exhibit its inner workings to both students and the public, welcoming members of the surrounding community by expanding teaching spaces outdoors and utilizing glass walls.

To take advantage of outdoor spaces, the music recital hall and theater contain glass walls or operable walls that allow performance spaces to spill out into the plazas. The large public lobby doubles as a gathering place for students and a pre-function area for public performances. In addition, prominent, highly-visible staircases provide users with lively amphitheater-like gathering areas and create an interplay of interior-exterior spaces, drawing students from the outside into teaching spaces.

By placing a large signage scrim at the main entry to the campus and by focusing on public plazas and gardens around it, the center redefines the campus’s public face and engages the community with a highly visible, landmark architectural presence.
The Los Angeles Community Development Commission called for a master plan, programming, and design for a new community center located in a 9-acre park setting in Hacienda Heights. DLR Group’s community workshops and visioning sessions helped the community prioritize and develop the building and site program with an emphasis on flexible multi-use community spaces. The design emphasizes light, volume, and indoor-outdoor connections taking advantage of local warm weather to allow the building’s spaces to reach out to the community.

The program elements for this 35,000 SF community center include a performing arts theater / multi-purpose room with retractable telescoping seating for performances, recitals and banquets/dining; multi-purpose rooms for meetings and fitness and dance classes; a catering kitchen; an arts and crafts room featuring a kiln; computer lab; outdoor amphitheater; outdoor basketball courts; and a jogging trail with fitness stations. As part of the master plan, a second phase building will include a full-size gymnasium on the current location of the outdoor basketball courts. DLR Group provided master planning, architecture, and interior design services.
LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Community Center and Performing Arts Theater
35,000 SF new construction
Hacienda Heights, Calif.
DLR Group partnered with the District and community to develop a plan to update aging, outdated facilities, increase safety and security, and improve the learning environment. The community support a $22.9 million bond referendum in 2008 to fund a new primary center, a performing arts addition at the high school, improvements at the junior high school including a new HVAC system, district-wide technology upgrades, and a new baseball diamond and track so high school students no longer have to use the facilities at Baker University. The primary intent of the new Performing Arts Center was to connect the existing Junior High and High School buildings to one day form one, unified high school campus. During this initial phase, the 600-seat performing arts center will service both schools music and drama performances. The new performing arts center will also serve as a FEMA 361-compliant storm shelter for both the junior high and high schools, up to 2,000 people.
Enrollment projections for the school district serving Farmington, Minnesota, a fast-growing suburban community south of the Twin Cities’ metro area, indicated the district would outgrow their current high school by the 2007-2008 academic year. The district hired DLR Group to design a brand new high school facility with a 2,000-student capacity. DLR Group developed a facility that embraces the concept of collaborative small learning environments. The new facility design services four 500-student small learning communities. The building design includes adequate core spaces to allow expansion to 2,400 students with future classroom additions.

Instructional spaces surround learning commons accommodating both small and large group learning and gathering. Collaboration between staff, collaboration between students, and interdisciplinary instruction are encouraged by the facility design. Each side of the building will project an image that expresses the multi-functional character of a comprehensive high school and community resource. The new Farmington High School is designed to meet the evolving needs of the school district’s staff, students, and surrounding community, while providing the flexibility necessary to accommodate changes in curriculum and a variety of student and staff activities.
BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bennington High School Auditorium Addition
2,770 SF addition
Bennington, Neb.
The design of this auditorium stands as a beacon to the community. The addition completes the core facility needs for the school and enhances student traffic flow. Effective zoning gives the District the ability to simultaneously host performing arts and athletic events.

A balcony porch and an enclosed outdoor courtyard are collaborative areas that give students an indoor-outdoor connection. The balcony porch overlooks the arrival of performing arts patrons and serves as a social commons and patron lobby during performances. The furnished courtyard serves as an outdoor gathering space and as a natural path for students to take to their next class.

The intimate, 650-seat auditorium has a proscenium stage that is 2,450 SF with a 320 SF Orchestra Pit. The house incorporates two side balconies that serve lighting and video as well as function as a balcony for performers.

The exterior precast wall panels supported speed of construction of the economical two-story addition. The interior terrazzo floors and metallic paint create a rich environment enhanced by excellent sightlines, acoustics, and aesthetics used to inspire and relax the audience.
The upscale performing arts addition at Bettendorf High School transforms the entire public facade and calls attention to the importance of theatre. DLR Group’s contemporary design expresses the District’s vision of embracing cutting-edge technology. The two-story glass entry captures attention and pulls day light into the elegant auditorium lobby. During the school day, visitors enter through a monitored area near the high school administration suite before having access to the rest of the school. This project is a source of pride for the community and creates inspiration for future growth. Other improved spaces include a remodeled media suite, a new fitness addition, and district administration offices.

The addition and renovation project at Bettendorf High School includes 51,000 SF. The 840-seat auditorium has a 320-by-50 foot stage and state-of-the-art lights and sound. The media center expansion/renovation included 10,200 SF and involved moving the circulation corridor to the perimeter to eliminate cross traffic through the research and study space. The High School is an energy star leader for the District. Efficient lighting and district-wide monitoring are other energy reducing strategies used for efficiency. DLR Group provided the architectural planning and design, auditorium specialty design, mechanical and electrical design, technology design, and interiors.
To maintain its competitive advantage in academics and attract the state’s brightest students, Fayetteville Public Schools tasked DLR Group to strategically re-structure its educational program into a Small Learning Community (SLC) model. This vision constitutes a massive modernization of aged buildings through a 36-month phased approach, allowing for continuous operation of the school during construction. The new SLCs are designed with core learning studios that feature discovery, project-based learning, and digital and applied learning labs to foster collaboration. Distributed administration, resource centers and dining allow students to spend a majority of their day within their SLC. The MEP design allows systems in each
space to operate individually and ultimately be integrated into one, core system at project completion.

This project is a modernization and addition totaling 353,381 SF. Fayetteville High School is designed around small learning community studios and will serve 3,000 students in grades 9-12. The scope also included modernization to the administrative offices, student commons, performing arts center, resource center, and physical education/athletic facilities. The addition housing the SLCs features abundant glass and overlooks a new landscaped street which creates a collegiate campus feel, reflective of the school's ties to the University of Arkansas. The district's goal is to regularly collaborate with the University through advanced programs and studies. DLR Group provided planning, educational programming, and architecture services for the project in partnership with local firms Hight Jackson Associates and Marlon Blackwell Architects.
The new 10,000 SF black box theater and connecting lobby includes a perimeter curtain, sprung-wood floor, catwalk system, portable platforms and seating, sound control and audio/visual booth, green room, scene shop, dressing rooms, costume storage, offices, ticket booth, concession stand and general storage. DLR Group provided Architecture and interiors services.
SIOUX FALLS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

94,000 SF new construction

Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

The CTE high school enables the program to expand its offerings in a non-traditional, high tech building that provides students with a home of their own. The facility serves as a lab for the building trades and electronics programs. Cutting edge technology allows the programs to advance their instruction and prepare students for future careers.