



State Fairgrounds Coliseum Renovation Project Fact Sheet

Overview

Since 2007, the Indiana State Fair Commission had been studying the possibilities of a renovation of the Fairgrounds Coliseum in order to address code compliance, maintenance and life safety issues in the building. After securing a financing plan that called for issuing \$53 million in bonds payable with commission revenues and raising \$10 million through the [Indiana State Fair Foundation](#), the commission began the renovation on October 29, 2012 that included the addition of a new adjoining facility – the 30,000 sq. ft. Youth Arena.

Project Facts and Figures

- [Populous](#) handled the project's architecture and engineering.
- [Hunt Construction Group](#) of Indianapolis managed the construction.
- The building's exterior was restored, but remains otherwise unchanged from when it was first erected in 1939.
- The interior of the building was completely demolished and reconstructed.
- Approximately 80% of the materials removed from the Coliseum's interior were recycled, including:
 - 500 tons of metal and miscellaneous parts
 - Five 40-yard dumpsters of plastic
 - Several tons of concrete that were crushed into 3,000 cubic yards of gravel (later used in Fairgrounds parking areas)

- Some of the building's new amenities include:
 - A spacious lobby with two elevators, five ticket windows, a Team Store and two 72" flat-screen TVs displaying upcoming events and information
 - Full ADA accessibility
 - A double-tiered seating bowl with great sight lines from every seat
 - More than 70 wall-mounted flat-screen TV monitors throughout the building
 - An overhead LED video scoreboard
 - A video ribbon board that goes around the entire seating bowl
 - A state-of-the-art sound system
 - A second-floor concessions area that allows visibility into the arena
 - Sound-absorbing walls and ceiling attachments for optimal acoustics
 - A curtain system that allows for natural or artificial lighting in the arena
 - A new, larger Skate Shop that serves both the Coliseum and the Youth Arena
 - Comfortable locker rooms and backstage dressing rooms
- Working with the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation, the State Fair Commission honored the Coliseum's historic past in several ways. The new building includes:
 - 96 original seats
 - 12 original ticket windows
 - 37,000 new glass block windows to match the originals
 - The 9 ft. Livestock Wall that encircles the arena floor
 - Unfinished interior walls and supporting original steel beams
 - A new terrazzo lobby floor to match the original
 - Outlines of the original lobby ticket booths
 - Six 6 ft. framed posters of historic events in the lobby
 - A special-ordered glazed tile to match the original finishes in the lobby and main concourse
- Roughly 630 tons of new steel were installed
- More than 200,000 man hours went into this renovation