

San Antonio hall's seating technology expertly handled by SSMRC

Southern States Millwright Regional Council (SSMRC)

What used to be a broken down municipal building in San Antonio, Texas, is now an elite, state-of-the-art events venue. The Tobin Center for the Performing Arts includes a 1,750-seat performance hall, a 250-seat theater and a 600-seat outdoor River Walk Plaza. The hall features a Gala Systems Multipurpose Hall System, which mechanically transforms seating arrangements into different theater, flat floor, banquet and cabaret configurations within minutes.

A Plus Industrial Installations, based in Dallas, brought to the jobsite millwrights supplied by the Southern States Millwright Regional Council (SSMRC). A Plus installed the mechanical floor and seating.

Gala Systems engineers, designs and provides equipment for projects. The company has completed more than 1,400 projects in 63 countries. The Tobin project, which features telescopic technology that quickly transforms seating arrangements mechanically into dozens of configurations, was different. It is the first of its kind in the country, according to the Tobin Center website.

"We convert training into jobsite productivity very well because of our attention to detail."

— Dennis Donahou, SSMRC

"The special challenge was it was the first of its kind, so nobody had experience in working with this engineering marvel," said Dean Simonek, vice president of A Plus. "Gala Systems provided installation experts to train our crew on-site. The feedback we got is our guys performed very well. Since this is new technology, it was a learning curve but they picked it up and ran with it."

Getting the right equipment in place for the installation required planning of its own. A Plus needed to use a Maeda mini-crawler crane for construction, since conventional equipment like a forklift or a carry deck crane couldn't gain access or was too heavy. A telescoping platform had to be built in the stage pit to get the mini-crawler crane down to floor elevation for assembly of the telescopic seating. The Maeda crane dealer in Houston sent a technical expert to San Antonio to qualify the millwrights to operate the crane.

"The labor supplied by A Plus was qualified and hardworking. The A Plus crew showed great pride in their work and the end result reflects it," said Guillaume Le Brun, Gala Systems' engineer who coordi-

nated the project on-site. "We faced a few challenges throughout the installation of the project, as we do on any construction site. The workers of A Plus were an integral part of overcoming these challenges through good communication and teamwork with the different trades."

SSMRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Donahou said the ability of SSMRC millwrights to understand the technical needs of a project and quickly get the training they need to successfully complete the work is standard operating procedure.

"We convert training into jobsite pro-

ductivity very well because of our attention to detail and our members' attitude of partnership and teamwork with project managers," Donahou said.

For more information, visit www.southernstatesmillwrights.org or call (479) 967-0639.

SSMRC Millwrights Solve Problems.

Quality work at a competitive cost— that's what project owners need and what Southern States Millwright Regional Council's contractors deliver.

Ensure a high level of production by staffing your jobsite with professional millwrights who have the skills and experience to SAFELY, QUICKLY, and PROPERLY complete the work.

"The work ethic and commitment to getting the job done by SSMRC millwrights and Airco supervision was the key to keeping the project on schedule."

—Troy Burrows, Executive Vice President & COO
Airco, Inc.



Our contractors keep lines of communication open throughout the life of the project, offer flexibility in

scheduling, and understand that when you succeed, we succeed.

Productivity. Competitiveness. Reliability. Accuracy. Safety. Leadership. Professionalism.



Dennis Donahou
479-967-0639
ddonahou@ssmrc4070.org
www.southernstatesmillwrights.org

Follow us on [facebook](#) | [in](#) | [twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

