

Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago Chicago, Illinois

Ongoing Threshold Acoustics commission

Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago was founded in 1972 and performs regularly at Navy Pier, Harris Theatre, DuSable Museum of African American History, Katherine Dunham Theatre at the Kennedy-King College, and the Athenaeum Theatre. They have a tradition of getting audiences out of their seats, and they inextricably couple their performance mission to a dance and dance-origin education program.

This project profoundly increases their capabilities: front-of-house, retail, and administrative areas will support a 400-seat theatre and four dance and music studios, all with a street-front presence in the Chicago neighborhood of North Kenwood-Oakland.

Muntu presents a high-energy show, fully amplified, but using acoustic instruments and celebrating the sounds of the dancers. The musicians and dancers use sound as an atmospheric instrument to emphasize space and intimacy, so it is critical that sound moves with them. The new theatre audio systems will provide this directional realism, presenting a powerful amplified sound with all of the subtlety of unamplified performance.

After years of planning for their new home, Muntu turned to a design team with deep experience to arrive at an efficient design of practical elegance, providing a home that quietly celebrates the mission, and saves the spectacle for the stage.



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| <i>Client:</i> | <i>Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago</i> |
| <i>Architect:</i> | <i>Krueck & Sexton Architects</i> |
| <i>Theatre Consultant:</i> | <i>Schuler Shook</i> |
| <i>Project Manager:</i> | <i>The Alter Consulting Group</i> |
| <i>Acoustics Consultant:</i> | <i>Threshold Acoustics</i> |

