



This is where ideas literally rise off a page and start to take shape. You can watch the progress on the shop floor, when artists with tools start to make brands sing and shapes start to tell their stories out loud.

Depending on your unique project, your creative team will be comprised of many different craftspeople experienced in a broad range of skills, including carpentry, metals, electrical and automation, scenic painting and soft goods.

While the number of dedicated team members for your project will vary on a daily basis as specific components progress throughout the shop, your project management team—and your senior project director—will be your consistent, primary communication point throughout the project.

In addition to your team of stagecraft union members with degrees in theater, visual arts or other creative vocations, your team will also include visual and dimensional designers, engineering and construction detailing specialists, and subcontractors for additional project requirements.

Take a look at certifications & industry associations.

Chicago Scenic is both a UL and ETL certified fabrication facility and a licensed General and Electrical Contractor. We belong to a multitude of industry associations that underscore our ongoing commitment to professional, quality work performance.

Our industry association memberships are extensive and include:

- AIA Contractor Association
- American Association of Museums
- Association of Children's Museums
- Exhibit Designers and Producers Association
- Association of Science-Technology Centers
- Themed Entertainment Association



Peek into our Toolbox

No matter how elaborate the project or specialized the challenge, the vast majority of any project’s work is performed in Chicago Scenic’s 165,000 sq. ft. facility. Here’s a toolbox overview:

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| DESIGN & ENGINEERING | Educated and experienced two- and three-dimensional designers and engineers help translate ideas, renderings or drawings into documents that will lead to fabrication. Our designers and engineers are equipped with the latest technology and software available to ensure effective project execution and communication. |
| CARPENTRY | Table saws, planers, shapers, power sanders, over arm routers, radial arm saws, CNC routing and cutting, full array of power hand tools. |
| METALS | Mig, Tig and GMAW welding capabilities. Band saws, cold cut and abrasive saws, plasma cutting, drilling and milling machines, break and roll bending systems, abrasive grinding. |
| PAINTS | Drive-in and free-air spray booths. HVLP standard and airless spray systems, urethane spray foam and hardcoat systems, and Binks Chopper FRP spray systems. Sculptors and scenic artists experienced in full range of finishes, from automotive acrylic lacquer to scenic murals. |
| ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL | ETL and UL certified shop. Licensed electrical contractor for State of Illinois and City of Chicago. Systems range from floor and overhead winch systems to hydraulic and pneumatic lift and digital and analog automation control systems. |
| SOFT GOODS | Professionally equipped to manage work ranging from cold air inflatables to flags, banners, full-stage theatrical drape. |

We’re accustomed to meeting and solving design and fabrication challenges of all kinds.

Chicago Scenic Studios has extensive experience in the engineering and fabrication of spaces, from museum-quality exhibits to themed environments, technologically demanding interactives and broadcast studios to sports performance arenas. Our team has worked closely with many prominent partners and their in-house or design teams on a broad range of projects.

Our recent work on the 360 Chicago redesign (formerly the John Hancock Observatory) was a design-build project that involved reimagining an attraction that had been prominent in Chicago for many years. Our work on the Pepsico Sustainability Center, a platinum LEEDS project, involved build out of a corporate center in new construction and included scenic elements and a number of interactive stations. Our installation of exhibits for Science Storms at the Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago, a \$38-million exhibit, was managed like new construction.

We are also adept at interactive fabrication and management. Our work on museum projects include interactives and automation and we perform that work ourselves as well as work with proven specialty subcontractors.

Whatever the challenge and whatever the environment, it is likely that we have successfully devised solutions during our 35-plus years of working in a variety of markets. We are confident that the knowledge and expertise we've gained from multi-industry experience translates to innovative solutions and creative approaches for our clients' needs.

Much of what we produce is under one roof; we work with expert partners for the rest .

The vast majority of work that CSSI performs on any project is completed in the company's 165,000 sq. ft. facility. Projects follow a logical progression through Design/Engineering, Carpentry, Metals, Paints, Electrical/Automation, Soft Goods, Shipping/Warehouse/Rentals.

There are a few exceptions to the work performed in-house. We choose to partner with graphic production professionals. We have considered in-house graphic production and revisit that decision periodically but each time we reach the same conclusion – graphic production is best done by professionals who specialize in that type of work. When graphic production is a company's core competency, their expertise rises. Their single concentration and focused investment in equipment and the people who operate the equipment enables them to achieve the highest quality results possible. We also do not perform our own glazing but we have several suppliers with whom we regularly work and we're confident in their ability to deliver quality work, on time.

Most importantly, we focus on partnering with the best resource for a specific project, analyzing equipment capabilities, location, process quality and pricing structure necessary to deliver the best solution for our clients.

We maintain a national resource database of successful vendors and we have relationships with several superior graphic houses. While CSSI performs graphics installation, we also tap into our production houses frequently for their expertise and advice on materials, methods, and processes to best achieve our desired outcomes. Those partners are invaluable to the success of any project's graphic production.

Media integration capabilities.

While Chicago Scenic Studios is not an AV hardware provider, our team has extensive experience working with technical teams and managing complex media installations. Our in-house automation division also brings extensive experience in the development of digital and analog control systems, including the interface of digital and mechanical systems.

Our team has worked successfully with audiovisual integration providers, both in permanent exhibit installations and temporary site applications, and we are confident that our team can provide complete support of the design, production and installation of audiovisual and digital exhibit and broadcast studio elements.

We work collaboratively with clients with frequent check-ins customized to their preference.

During the construction phase, Chicago Scenic project management staff will provide daily monitoring and management of all aspects of project production. We will also host in-progress review visits or submit review photos or video and progress reports at agreed upon completion milestones (e.g. 25%, 50% and 75%). Client approval is required before we move forward from stage to stage and from one shop department to the next.

