



Verda Beth Martell ETCP-RT, FUSITT

Performance Systems Design

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Beth Martell spent the first 22 years of her career in theatre production and education, primarily as a technical director and scenic automation specialist. Her production work spans theatre, opera, dance, and special events for companies such as Steppenwolf, The Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, and many others. She worked 14 years at the University of Illinois – the last three as chair of scenic technology and technical director for Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. In 2016, she took her end-user experience to consulting, participating in the design of over 50 facilities for DLR Group | Westlake, Reed, Leskosky, before joining TCC in 2023.

Beth is a Fellow of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, where she has served as commissioner (Technical Production), as a member of the board of directors, and as chair of the Essential Skills for Entertainment Technicians (eSET) Council. She regularly works with the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA) presenting training for professionals, including organizing the 2022 and 2023 Midwest Rigging Intensives and the curriculum for the 2024 North American Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference (NATEAC). In 2015 and 2016, she collaborated with the ESTA Stage Lifts working group for ANSI E1.42: the Design, Installation, and Use of Orchestra Pit Lifts and some of her work has been cited in research for the IBC.

Beth is a regular presenter at conferences where she is most known for her talks on The Physics of Theatre alongside her research partner (and husband) Dr. Eric Martell. In 2015, she and Eric published *The Physics of Theatre: Mechanics* as a resource for technical directors, riggers, and automation designers. In addition to her theoretical work developing mathematical models to predict the action of theatrical machines, Beth designs theatrical automation systems, and scripts/programs in multiple languages, including ladder logic, LISP, and the National Instruments graphical programming environment LabVIEW. She is an ETCP Certified Rigger - Theatre and an ETCP Recognized Trainer.

EDUCATION

- University of Wisconsin-Madison, M.F.A. (Theatre), 2002
- Illinois State University, B.S. Cum Laude (Theatre), 1999
- College of DuPage, A.A. (Theatre), 1995

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Entertainment Services and Technology Association
- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (Fellow)



REPRESENTATIVE PROJECT EXPERIENCE (TCC)

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library: Rigging Replacement, Springfield, IL
- Cistercian Preparatory School Theatre, Irving, TX
- Durham School of the Arts Campus Replacement, Durham, NC
- Paramount Theatre Addition, Burlington, NC
- Paramount Theatre Rehabilitation, Burlington, NC
- Salisbury University: Performing Arts Center Study, Salisbury, MD
- Temple Beth Zion Auditorium Assessment, Buffalo, NY
- UNC School of the Arts: Steven Center Renovation, Phase 2, Winston-Salem, NC
- University of Mary Washington: Fine & Performing Arts Center, Fredericksburg, VA
- University of North Carolina: Stevens Center Renovation, Winston-Salem, NC
- University of North Carolina: Taylor Theatre Infrastructure Renovation, Greensboro, NC
- University of Toronto: Centre for Civilizations, Cultures & Cities, Toronto, ON
- Wildlight Theatre: Program Verification / Concepts, Wildlight, FL
- Winston-Salem State University: K.R Williams Auditorium Renovation & Expansion, Winston-Salem, NC

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECT EXPERIENCE (OTHER)

- Allan Hancock College: Fine Arts Complex, Santa Maria, CA
- Arts United Center Renovation & Addition, Fort Wayne, IN
- Ashland-Greenwood Middle School, Ashland, NE
- Beverly Hills High School: Modernization of Buildings B3 (Auditorium) & B4 (Salter Theatre/Music Rooms), Beverly Hills, CA
- Boone High School: Performance Systems Upgrades, Boone, IA
- Canyon View High School, Waddell, AZ
- Choate Rosemary Hall: Recital Hall, Wallingford, CT
- Compton High School, Compton, CA
- Crafton Hills College: Performing Arts Center, Yucaipa, CA
- Denison University: Michael D. Eisner Center for the Performing Arts, Granville, OH
- Ella Baker Global Studies & Humanities School: Auditorium & Science Classroom Renovations, Minneapolis, MN
- Greer Cabaret Theatre Renovation, Pittsburgh, PA
- Irvine Valley College: Fine Arts Building, Irvine Valley, CA
- Long Beach City College: Music and Theatre Building, Long Beach, CA
- Milton Hershey School: Founders Hall Renovation, Hershey, PA
- Minuteman High School Theatre, Lexington, MA
- Ohio State University: Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts Building, Columbus, OH
- Ohio State University: Timashev Family Music Building, Columbus, OH
- Riverside County Office of Education: Broadcast/eSports Studio, Riverside, CA
- Rochester Public School: Performance Systems Upgrades for Three High Schools, Rochester, MN
- SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, Sacramento, CA
- Sandusky State Theatre Restoration / Rebuild, Sandusky, OH
- University of Nevada-Reno: Harlan O. and Barbara R. Hall Recital Hall, Reno, NV
- West Park High School: Multi-purpose Building, Roseville, CA
- Woodstock Opera House Study, Woodstock, IL

**while with DLR Group | Westlake Reed Leskosky*

