



HIGH SCHOOL

Bonita Center for the Arts

San Dimas, CA

New Construction/ Addition

Performing arts center

Rachlin Partners
8640 National Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232
www.rachlinpartners.com
Michael Rachlin, AIA
310/204-3400

DESIGN TEAM

Richard Ingrassia, AIA, Principal
Rudy Monico, Project Manager
Robert Holte, Designer
Richard Byrd, SE, Structural Engineer
Richard Holzer, MEP Engineering
Principal
Michael McMackin, ASTC, Theatre
Design Consultant

OWNER/CLIENT

Bonita Unified School District
San Dimas, CA
Ann Sparks, Assistant Superintendent
of Business Services
909/971-8320

KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-12
Capacity: 700 seats
Size of Site: 16.5 acres
Building Area: 29,250 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 41.8 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$17,310
Square Foot Cost: \$769
Construction Cost: \$22,500,000
Project Cost: \$24,500,000
Completion Date: October 2014
Sustainability Rating System/
Applied/Status/Level: CHPS-Verified
(Pending)

PHOTOGRAPHY: 2014 TOM BONNER



A project that has been 25 years in the making, Bonita Unified School District's \$22 million, 700-seat performing arts center was created as an important asset for the district and the cities of San Dimas and La Verne, California. This facility included a selected advisory group in the planning process. This group consisted of community members, as well as representatives from each school within the district. Based on information gathered during a





benchmarking tour, the advisory group established the program and basic planning criteria for the facility.

The heart of the building—the stage and audience chamber— informed the project’s design. The audience chamber has a shell shape that is reflected in the façade of the two-story lobby. The design team wanted to create an exterior façade that would

welcome users and guests, but needed a way to provide shading to the glass façade. The solution is a louver system on the building façade that performs double duty as both a design element and solar shading. The louvers, or solar shading fins, track the angle of the sun, and open and close automatically to let more or less light into the facility.