



Columbus Chamber: Hire IBS to save money, reduce stress of an office move

Digital signage lights up the lobby while letting light into the conference room behind it. How? The signage is a high-tech, transparent film applied to a glass wall.

Client: Columbus Chamber

Project: Plan, design, install, and coordinate all technology for office relocation

Client Need

In 1884, the Columbus Chamber began its quest to champion economic growth and development. Today, the Chamber serves its 2,500-plus members by offering opportunities for networking, savings, and professional development.

When the Chamber discovered that its existing office space could no longer support its members' needs, the Chamber decided to design and build new offices in the historic Lazarus Building in downtown Columbus.

Michael Goldbeck, Vice President of Finance and Administration for the Columbus Chamber, hired Integrated Building Systems to project manage technology for the move, based on a recommendation from the Chamber's architect, Glavan Feher.

"I thought we had IT covered," Goldbeck explained. "But after IBS helped me understand the actual demands of getting technology up and running, I knew we needed their help to make sure every detail was covered."

First Steps

To meet the Chamber's needs for a tech-savvy and "future-proof" design, IBS outlined a master plan and budget to:

- conduct a technology needs assessment
- plan, design, and develop RFPs for cabling infrastructure, phone/PBX, security/access control, and audio/video—and then coordinate and inspect the installation of same
- coordinate with the architect and design team on technology space needs
- coordinate with the construction manager and electrical and mechanical contractors
- manage and evaluate vendor solicitations and RFPs
- negotiate and coordinate the installation of phone and internet services
- coordinate all other technology logistics

"In the same way that we make technology simple for our clients, we made the construction process simple and easy for the Chamber," said IBS President Chip Chapman. "We took a lot of pressure and stress off Mike by handling every detail, and keeping him informed every step of the way."



The Solution

“IBS listened to and understood where we were today and what we wanted for the future. They took our ‘wish list,’ considered our budget, and gave us some options,” Mike said. “IBS didn’t push one solution, but instead collaborated with me to give me some choices and their recommendation, which was very important.”

One creative solution presented by IBS was digital signage—actually a high-tech film—applied to a glass wall behind the reception desk. This film allows video to play on a transparent “screen” and light to filter through to an inner room.

Challenges

Goldbeck expected bumps in the road. He explained: “The biggest concern I had, before we even hired IBS, was how to coordinate work between the architect and the general contractor. I know sometimes things don’t connect. When IBS came along, I didn’t have to worry about these issues.”

Goldbeck credits IBS for coordinating a stress-free move: “IBS was actively involved with the contractors and subcontractors...we didn’t have any ‘oh-no’ moments.”

“The best decision I made was engaging Integrated Building Systems.

If I had to do this project all over again, I’d hire them sooner.”

—Michael Goldbeck



To give the Chamber a clean, finished look in its board room, IBS installed a ceiling-recessed lift system for the projector. IBS also set up the wireless conference phone shown on the table.

The Results

For 16 years, Integrated Building Systems has successfully guided organizations through the high-stress moments of an office move. “We’re there every step of the way for our clients,” Chapman said. “Any time we can avoid change orders, and make timely construction and installation decisions, we stay on budget and save clients money.”

This experience literally paid off for the Columbus Chamber. “Through IBS’s work, we probably saved about 20% off our technology budget. IBS became a trusted advisor,” Goldbeck said.

To get advice on how to make your office move easier, download our free “Moving Guide” at www.TheOfficeMovingGuide.com.

