



*When you need boots on the ground,
these are the ones you want! – Dorothy
Technology*

St. Francis Neighborhood Center Project Lü Product – Interactive Playground

by Colton W. Wolf



*Saint Francis in the Neighborhood Center
photo credit: RM Sovich Architecture*

Expanding Possibilities:

A New Era for St. Francis Neighborhood Center

Nestled on Linden Avenue is St. Francis Neighborhood Center – the oldest continually-operating neighborhood center providing enrichment in all of Baltimore City, Maryland. With over 60 years of service to the community, St. Francis focuses on dismantling inequity by cultivating community connections through tailored education and social interventions for West Baltimore. Serving a diverse set of community stakeholders, including children, the socio-economically challenged, and the elderly, the neighborhood center has an ever-evolving need to advance its facilities, resources, and technical capabilities.

In alignment with those advancement needs, St. Francis broke ground on the final phase of an exciting facility expansion which brought new classrooms, interactive spaces, and a multipurpose auditorium in 2023. As the expansion progressed, the process of selecting the necessary technology to compliment the new spaces was set in motion.

St. Francis envisioned a dynamic space – one that fosters children's activities, supports adult wellness, and accommodates third-party event needs. The question became: "What technology can offer this kind of versatility while also delivering state-of-the-art functionality?" Clinton Learning Solutions, a premier reseller of advanced education technologies, was quick to answer.

Engineering Success: The Lü Installation Journey

Clinton Learning Solutions recommended the Lü Interactive Playground for the neighborhood center's multipurpose space needs. The Lü solution offers an end-to-end technology system inclusive of a 3D motion-tracking camera, customizable lighting, interactive audiovisual, and a built-in computer module that delivers a new-age learning experience unlike any other.

Lü turns a 19-foot by 12-foot wall space into an interactive projection surface, capable of everything from simple presentations to immersive learning-through-play applications and games. By integrating physical activity with traditional academic learning, the Lü system maximizes the impact of teaching, boosts audience engagement, fosters healthy habits, and promotes positive social-emotional connections.

After receiving a live demonstration of the Lü system, St. Francis was ready to move forward with implementation. Dorothy Technology, the expert installation and service partners of Clinton Learning Solutions, were ready to assist.

Lü implementation for the neighborhood center was far from straightforward, with the actual construction of the addition still ongoing. This led to changing design in the landscape of the ceiling, joists, and cabling, which are all essential to properly placing and mounting the Lü system. In addition, the center's installation space did not meet the standard size requirements set by Lü for a common installation.



*Dorothy Technology
Installs new Lü System*

Despite these obstacles, Dorothy Technology was able to develop a solution and deliver a positive installation process for St. Francis. By employing a non-traditional hardware installation, possible only through numerous hand calculations to ensure proper projection and operation, Dorothy was able to alleviate these pain points of the client. Their ability to cope with the shifting designs and overcome the structural challenges were deeply appreciated by the St. Francis team. In the words of Mark Tough, IT Specialist in charge of the Lü project Technology for St. Francis, "We had a multifaceted and multivendor situation, with changes being made in parallel with the Lü installation. Dorothy Technology hung in there with us and executed very well. Their physical performance on site was very impressive."

More Than Play: Lü's Lasting Impact

With the new multipurpose auditorium set to open in April of 2025, St. Francis and the community it serves are excited about how the Lü system will revolutionize their various educational and social programs. The Lü system will not only get their nearly 70 after-school students moving and learning in a new way, but it will also provide an outlet for health and wellness in the elderly population of West Baltimore. While the system is designed and primarily utilized by K-12 education markets, St. Francis is a perfect example of the versatility of the interactive product.

Conclusion

Despite installation challenges, Dorothy Technology successfully adapted the Lü Interactive Playground to fit St. Francis Neighborhood Center's unique space, ensuring seamless integration. Their expertise in navigating construction obstacles and customizing the setup enabled the center to maximize its new multipurpose auditorium. With Lü set to launch in April, 2025, this installation stands as a testament to innovation, adaptability, and the power of technology to transform community spaces.

Working Together

Dorothy Technology is a women owned and led integrator that focuses on commercial AV integration and structural cabling. Our services encompass design and full-service electrical integration, security cameras, networking, audiovisual design and more, ensuring seamless and efficient operation in various settings. **Let's partner today to help your clients!**

