

North Idaho College
RFP #27-01 – Schuler Auditorium Sound System

October 5, 2026

- Vendor written questions are due 9/30 and are listed in this document. If there are any questions or clarification needs that arise during the development of the proposal, is there a procedure to contact specific personnel for clarification?
 - The RFP Cover Page states, “All communications regarding this RFP and the selection process must be coordinated through NIC Purchasing via email (nicpurchasing@nic.edu).”
- Section 1, Purpose of Proposal mentions the target completion date as January 2027. This is approximately 90 days after signing the contract. Typical procurement/lead times for a system of this scope, especially custom color products, could be greater than 90 days. Can the target date be determined after the selection of the preferred system? Installation timeline is fully dependent on procurement lead times.
 - The January 2027 completion target remains the preferred schedule. NIC recognizes that the final installation timeline will be dependent on equipment availability, manufacturer lead times, custom finishes, structural approvals, and other project-specific factors.
The selected vendor will work with NIC to establish the most practical installation and commissioning schedule based on actual procurement lead times. Proposers should identify any equipment or materials that may affect the January 2027 target and provide anticipated lead times with their proposals.
- Section 2, Scope of Work. Is the removal of the existing system part of this scope?
 - Removal of the existing sound system is not included in the vendor's scope of work. NIC will handle the removal of the existing system prior to installation of the new system.
- Will any architectural modifications or repairs needed be the responsibility of the Vendor or Facilities Operations?
 - Architectural modifications or repairs associated with the project are preferred to be handled by NIC Facilities Operations. Vendors should identify any required modifications or repairs in their proposals so they can be coordinated with Facilities Operations.

- Sound System Performance Requirements. Section F, Stage Monitor System. “Ability to create multiple independent monitor mixes”. Does the Vendor need to supply a dedicated monitor mixer or are the monitor mixes done at FOH (DM7)?
 - No dedicated monitor mixer is required as part of the base proposal. Monitor mixes will be created and managed from the Yamaha DM7 at FOH. The system should also allow for easy integration of a comparable Dante-enabled console at stage position when a dedicated monitor console is desired.
- Does the cabling and distribution for the monitor system exist already on the stage or is the vendor required to install new cabling and a patch system?
 - Existing monitor cabling and stage distribution are in place and available for reuse. The vendor should verify the existing infrastructure during the site visit and identify any required additions or modifications to support the proposed system.
- Sound System Performance Requirements. Section G, System Integration. Software control of systems best practices is to have a dedicated computer (laptop or workstation) running all the needed software. Would this computer need to be supplied by the Vendor or would it be supplied by the owner?
 - The control computer will be provided by NIC. NIC currently provides a Windows laptop located adjacent to the Yamaha DM7 at FOH for system control and management. A Mac may be provided instead if required for compatibility with the selected system. The vendor should identify any specific hardware or software requirements in its proposal.
- Is this a prevailing wage job?
 - NIC has not determined whether this project is subject to prevailing wage requirements. Bidders should identify any applicable prevailing wage, labor, or related requirements in their proposals and clearly state any assumptions.
- On the cover sheet there is a reference to “all required response documents” but we don’t see an actual list of documents. Is there a checklist?
 - NIC has not provided a separate checklist of required response documents. Proposers should submit all information and documentation specifically requested throughout the RFP and its associated forms and requirements.

- Is the college IT team providing data switching for the AV network or does the installer need to provide necessary data infrastructure?
 - NIC IT and Event Services will provide all network equipment and data infrastructure required for the AV network. The vendor will be responsible for coordinating with NIC IT and Event Services to ensure the proposed system is compatible with the provided network infrastructure. Vendors are welcome to recommend network equipment, configurations, or infrastructure improvements as part of their proposal, but network equipment will be provided by NIC.
- May bidders submit a fully compliant base design plus separately priced performance enhancements or alternatives?
 - Yes. Bidders may submit a fully compliant base design along with separately priced performance enhancements or alternatives. The base proposal should clearly demonstrate compliance with all stated requirements, with any enhancements or alternatives identified and priced separately.
- Does NIC have preferred or prohibited manufacturers, touring-rider expectations, or an approved-equivalent process?
 - NIC generally prioritizes **touring-rider-friendly manufacturers and equipment that is widely accepted in the professional touring market**. There is not necessarily a fixed list of preferred manufacturers; products should meet the technical requirements, be reliable, serviceable, and compatible with common touring practices. Approved-equivalent substitutions can be considered when they provide comparable performance, reliability, and support.
- If new AC electrical circuits are required, should electrical work be included by the AV contractor or furnished separately by NIC?
 - All AC electrical work will be done by NIC.
- The RFP mentions “360-Surround (if appropriate)”. Does that statement mean immersive style surround that allows the FOH audio engineer to pan individual audio sources may be proposed? Or does it mean including cinema style surround sound, such as Dolby Atmos?
 - Immersive style surround for live audio
- Is “360-Surround” part of the required base proposal, an optional alternate, or merely a design consideration?
 - “360-Surround” is suggested as an optional design approach rather than a required component of the base proposal. Bidders may include it as a separately priced alternate, with the base proposal remaining fully compliant with the stated requirements.

- Does NIC require redundant DSP, network switching, or an emergency analog bypass?
 - NIC does not require redundant DSP, redundant network switching, or an emergency analog bypass as part of the base proposal. Bidders may propose such features as optional enhancements if desired.
- The photograph shows existing left/right arrays and a center hang, but the RFP does not identify what must be removed, retained, or reused.
 - NIC will be responsible for removal of old equipment.
- The RFP gives two different frequency-response requirements. Which one should we use as the official requirement:
 - 20 Hz–20 kHz in Section 3
 - 40 Hz–16 kHz minimum in Section 4
 - A frequency response of 20 Hz–20 kHz is preferred. A minimum frequency response of 40 Hz–16 kHz is acceptable.
- The ± 3 dB coverage requirement is not tied to a measurement method, frequency range, averaging, or room occupancy condition. May we choose the references and methods we use in our own acoustic simulations and measurements?
 - Yes. Bidders may use their standard industry-accepted measurement methods and acoustic modeling practices to demonstrate the ± 3 dB coverage requirement. Proposers should clearly identify the software, measurement method, frequency range, and relevant assumptions used in their simulations and measurements.
- Are the specified 95–100 dBA average and 105–110 dBA peak levels required at every seat? What test signal, duration, weighting, and crest factor will be used?
 - The 95–100 dBA average and 105–110 dBA peak levels should be understood as system performance targets within the audience listening area, rather than a requirement that every individual seat achieve the exact same level. Testing should be based on typical program material or an agreed-upon test signal, measured using A-weighting for average levels and an appropriate peak measurement method. Test duration, measurement locations, and acceptable variation across the seating area should be established during system commissioning so the requirement is objective and repeatable.

- How will the $STI \geq 0.60$ requirement be tested, and what ambient-noise and room occupancy conditions apply?
 - $STI \geq 0.60$ should be treated as a design target rather than a strict acceptance test at every seat. The system should be designed and commissioned to provide clear speech intelligibility throughout the primary audience area, with STI measurements used as a verification tool at representative locations. Testing should be performed under normal building operating conditions, with ambient noise documented. Room occupancy should not be required for acceptance testing unless specifically agreed upon in advance.
- Will NIC accept manufacturer prediction software, or must modeling be provided in a particular platform or format?
 - NIC will accept manufacturer-provided prediction and modeling software, provided the results demonstrate that the proposed system meets the project requirements. No specific software platform or file format is required, provided sufficient information is included to review the system design and coverage.
- Is there a target or identified budget amount that NIC has allocated for this project?
 - NIC has not identified a project target or budget for the scope of work described.
- Are acoustic treatment or noise-control modifications within the project's scope if the STI requirement cannot be achieved through loudspeaker directivity and tuning alone?
 - Yes. Acoustic treatment or noise-control modifications may be considered within the project scope if required to achieve the desired speech intelligibility. However, any modifications must not adversely affect the existing acoustic performance or intended use of the space.
- NIC expects an award around October 30–31 and completion in January 2027. That is extremely aggressive once engineering, approvals, manufacturing, rigging, installation, commissioning, and the holiday period are considered. Will there be a possibility of extending the completion date past the end of January 2027?
 - An extension beyond the end of January 2027 may be considered if necessary to accommodate engineering, approvals, manufacturing, rigging, installation, and commissioning. However, NIC considers the replacement time-sensitive due to the age and condition of the existing system and therefore intends to maintain the January 2027 completion target to the greatest extent practical.

- The three-year warranty requirement does not distinguish between manufacturer warranty, installation workmanship, onsite labor, and travel. Please specify the requirement for each type of warranty.
 - NIC expects a minimum three-year warranty covering the complete installed system. Manufacturer warranties shall apply to equipment, while the integrator shall warrant installation workmanship, configuration, and system integration. Any onsite labor and travel required to correct a warranty-related issue should be included at no additional cost to NIC.
- The RFP references wireless coordination training but does not include a wireless microphone system in the stated equipment scope. Are there requirements for supplying wireless microphones systems that are missing from the RFP?
 - No, sorry there is no wireless coordination training needed.
- As the required site visit occurs after the September 30 written question deadline, will NIC provide a post-site-visit question period and issue a final addendum before proposals are due?
 - Yes. NIC will provide an opportunity for post-site-visit questions and will issue a final addendum addressing applicable questions and clarifications before proposals are due.
- Will NIC consider extending the October 21 proposal deadline if material technical information is released during or after the October 14 walkthrough?
 - NIC does not anticipate extending the October 21 proposal deadline. Proposers should plan accordingly, with any material information identified during the October 14 walkthrough addressed through the final addendum to the greatest extent practical.
- Will bidders be permitted to take laser measurements and photographs during the site visit?
 - Yes.
- The supplied architectural drawings are 1979 as-builts. They are useful for orientation, but not sufficient for loudspeaker rigging or final acoustic modeling.
 - The 1979 as-built architectural drawings are the most current drawings available to NIC and are being provided for reference and site orientation. NIC does not have more current architectural, structural, theatrical rigging, electrical, loudspeaker, cable pathway, rack, or network drawings available, nor are CAD, Revit, EASE, SketchUp, or other electronic room files currently available. Proposers should verify existing conditions during the scheduled site visit and account for field verification as part of their design and engineering process.

- Please provide the most current architectural, structural, theatrical rigging, electrical, loudspeaker, cable pathway, rack, and network drawings available. Is CAD, Revit, EASE, SketchUp, or other electronic room files available?
 - The 1979 as-built architectural drawings are the most current drawings available to NIC and are being provided for reference and site orientation. NIC does not have more current architectural, structural, theatrical rigging, electrical, loudspeaker, cable pathway, rack, or network drawings available, nor are CAD, Revit, EASE, SketchUp, or other electronic room files currently available. Proposers should verify existing conditions during the scheduled site visit and account for field verification as part of their design and engineering process.
- Please provide a current seating plan, reflected ceiling plan, stage/proscenium dimensions, loudspeaker trim heights, and any known sightline or lighting-position restrictions.
 - NIC does not have current electronic drawings or plans beyond the 1979 as-built drawings previously provided. Proposers should use the available drawings for general reference and verify current seating, ceiling, stage/proscenium dimensions, loudspeaker trim heights, sightlines, and lighting positions during the site visit.
- Please identify the existing loudspeaker attachment points and their documented load capacities.
 - NIC does not have documented load capacities for the existing loudspeaker attachment points. Proposers should verify existing attachment points and supporting structure during the site visit and include any required structural verification or engineering as part of their proposal.
- May the existing hangs be reused, or should bidders assume entirely new rigging and structural attachments?
 - Existing loudspeaker hangs may be reused where they are suitable for the proposed system and can be verified as structurally adequate. Bidders should evaluate existing conditions during the site visit and identify any required modifications or new attachments.
- Who is responsible for structural engineering, stamped rigging drawings, permits, special inspection, and certification of existing or new attachment points?
 - NIC has not established a specific allocation of responsibility for structural engineering, stamped rigging drawings, permits, special inspections, or certification of existing or new attachment points at this time. Proposers should identify any required engineering, permitting, inspections, and certifications in their proposals, including the party they anticipate being responsible for each item.

- Are lifts, scaffolding, house riggers, fire-watch personnel, or union labor required? Are there restrictions on attaching equipment to the fly system, roof structure, ceiling reflector, or proscenium?
 - NIC does not have specific requirements for lifts, scaffolding, house riggers, fire-watch personnel, or union labor at this time. Proposers should identify any such requirements in their proposals.
There are no known restrictions beyond applicable safety, structural, and venue requirements. Any attachment to the fly system, roof structure, ceiling reflector, or proscenium must be reviewed and approved by NIC prior to installation.
- Please provide an inventory of the existing sound system, including loudspeakers, amplifiers, DSP, racks, patching, cabling, network switches, Yamaha DM7 components, Dante stage boxes, and control equipment.
 - NIC does not currently have a complete, up-to-date inventory of the existing sound system. Proposers will have the opportunity to inspect the existing loudspeakers, amplifiers, DSP, racks, patching, cabling, network equipment, Yamaha DM7 components, Dante stage boxes, and control equipment during the scheduled site visit.
Bidders should use the site visit to verify existing equipment and conditions and should identify any significant discrepancies or assumptions in their proposals.
- Which existing components must be retained and integrated? Is the Yamaha DM7 specifically owner-furnished and required to remain?
 - The Yamaha DM7 is owner-furnished and is required to remain and be integrated into the new sound system. Other existing system components should be evaluated by the proposer for suitability and compatibility with the proposed system.
- Is the selected vendor responsible for removing the existing arrays, center loudspeakers, amplifiers, cabling, rigging, and rack equipment? Who retains ownership of removed equipment, and is disposal included?
 - Removal of the existing sound system equipment, including loudspeakers, amplifiers, cabling, rigging, and rack equipment, will be performed in-house by NIC. The selected vendor is not responsible for removal or disposal of the existing equipment.
- May existing conduit, cable pathways, loudspeaker cabling, rigging points, racks, electrical circuits, and network infrastructure be reused if testing confirms they are serviceable?
 - Yes.

- Please provide the existing Dante/network topology, switch models, firmware versions, VLAN configuration, clocking arrangement, IP scheme, and available port capacity.
 - The venue currently utilizes Cisco Business (CB) series network switches distributed throughout the facility. Detailed information regarding switch models, firmware versions, VLAN configuration, clocking arrangement, IP scheme, and available port capacity is not currently available. Proposers should verify the existing network infrastructure during the site visit and identify any required network equipment, configuration, or modifications as part of their proposed system.
- Will NIC IT provide and configure the network infrastructure, or must the sound system vendor furnish dedicated managed switches and network configuration?
 - NIC will provide and configure the network infrastructure required for the sound system. The sound system vendor should coordinate with NIC regarding network requirements, configuration, and integration.
- Is remote support permitted? If so, what security, VPN, and account-management requirements apply?
 - No.
- Please define the touring-production interfaces expected at FOH and the stage, including analog, AES, Dante, tie-line, split, and patching requirements.
 - The system should provide flexible, touring-friendly interfaces at both FOH and stage. Specific analog, AES, Dante, tie-line, split, and patching requirements are not prescribed at this time. Proposers should identify their proposed interface and patching strategy and provide sufficient connectivity to support typical touring productions and integration with the venue's Yamaha DM7 and Dante infrastructure.
- What specific date in January 2027 constitutes required completion: installation, beneficial use, commissioning, training, or final acceptance?
 - The target is for the system to be fully installed, commissioned, tested, and ready for beneficial use by January 31, 2027. Final acceptance and training should be completed as soon as practical thereafter, with the goal of completing all project requirements within the January 2027 target whenever possible.

- Please provide the auditorium event calendar, installation blackout dates, permitted working hours, loading access, and available shutdown windows.
 - NIC has a busy event schedule, and specific installation dates and working hours will need to be coordinated with venue operations. The preferred installation window is December 22, 2026 through January 31, 2027, when the venue has the greatest availability.
NIC will work with the selected vendor to develop the most practical installation timeline and coordinate access, loading, shutdowns, and other scheduling requirements. Proposers should identify any anticipated scheduling or access requirements in their proposals.
- Will NIC accept a schedule dependent upon manufacturer's lead times, structural approvals, and timely owner decisions?
 - Yes. NIC recognizes that the project schedule may be dependent on manufacturer lead times, structural approvals, permitting, and timely owner decisions. The selected vendor should identify these dependencies and communicate any potential schedule impacts as early as possible. NIC will work collaboratively with the selected vendor to support timely decisions and maintain the overall project schedule.
- Does the minimum three-year warranty require onsite labor and travel for the full three years, or may the proposal distinguish manufacturer's equipment warranties from the contractor's workmanship warranty?
 - The proposal may distinguish between manufacturer equipment warranties and the contractor's workmanship warranty. NIC expects a minimum three-year warranty on the complete installed system. Proposers should clearly identify the duration and coverage of manufacturer warranties, workmanship, onsite labor, and travel, including any costs that would apply to warranty service.
- Please provide the required insurance limits, bonding requirements, payment terms, retainage provisions, and proposed form of contract before proposals are due.
 - NIC will provide the applicable insurance, bonding, payment, retainage, and contract requirements to the selected vendor as part of the contracting process. Proposers should identify any assumptions or exceptions to these requirements in their proposals.
- The schedule states that the contract is due October 30, while Section 18 states October 31. Which date controls?
 - October 30, 2026 is the intended contract award date. The October 31 date stated in Section 18 is a typographical error.

- Existing Structural Rigging Points - RFI: Please provide available structural drawings, engineering documentation, load ratings, and certification for the existing Left, Center, and Right loudspeaker suspension points. Please confirm whether the existing suspension points may be reused for the new loudspeaker arrays or whether the AV Contractor is responsible for providing structural engineering and new attachment points.
 - The available documentation for the existing Left, Center, and Right loudspeaker suspension points consists of the original 1979 as-built drawings. No additional structural engineering documentation, current load ratings, or certifications are available.
The existing suspension points should not be assumed to be suitable for the new loudspeaker arrays based solely on the 1979 as-built drawings. The AV Contractor shall be responsible for verifying the suitability and allowable loading of any existing suspension points proposed for reuse and for providing structural engineering and/or new attachment points as required.
- Structural Engineering Responsibility - RFI: Please confirm whether stamped structural engineering calculations and drawings associated with the new flown loudspeaker system are to be provided by the AV Contractor, Owner, or Owner's Structural Engineer. If structural engineering is the responsibility of the AV Contractor, please identify the applicable structural design criteria, required design loads/safety factors, and submittal requirements.
 - NIC has not established a specific allocation of responsibility for structural engineering, stamped rigging drawings, permits, special inspections, or certification of existing or new attachment points at this time. Proposers should identify any required engineering, permitting, inspections, and certifications in their proposals, including the party they anticipate being responsible for each item.
- Existing Loudspeaker System Removal and Disposal - RFI: Please confirm the AV Contractor's responsibility for removal and lowering of the existing Left, Center, and Right loudspeaker arrays and associated amplifiers, processors, cabling, rigging hardware, and related equipment. Please identify whether removed equipment is to be turned over to the Owner at an identified location or disposed of by the AV Contractor.
 - NIC Facilities will be responsible for removal, lowering, and disposal or disposition of the existing loudspeaker system and associated equipment.

- Final LCR Loudspeaker Locations - RFI: Please confirm whether the AV Contractor may modify the existing Left, Center, and Right loudspeaker locations, elevations, trim heights, array configurations, and aiming angles where predictive modeling demonstrates improved coverage and compliance with the specified performance requirements, or whether the new arrays are required to utilize the existing loudspeaker locations.
 - The AV Contractor may modify the existing Left, Center, and Right loudspeaker locations, elevations, trim heights, array configurations, and aiming angles as necessary to achieve the specified performance requirements.
The goal is to minimize sightline obstructions for the audience, stage lighting, and projection systems while maintaining appropriate acoustic coverage.

- Predictive Modeling and ± 3 dB Coverage Criteria - RFI: Please define the required methodology and acceptance criteria for demonstrating compliance with the specified ± 3 dB audience-coverage requirement, including the applicable frequency range or octave bands, measurement or prediction resolution, audience-plane height, measurement locations, and whether direct-field or direct-plus-reverberant SPL is to be evaluated.
 - The ± 3 dB coverage requirement is intended as a **target design criterion**, not an absolute acceptance requirement at every frequency and audience location. Standard industry-accepted measurement and predictive modeling methods may be used to demonstrate the anticipated performance of the proposed system.
Manufacturer prediction software is acceptable. The AV Contractor shall provide sufficient modeling information to demonstrate the expected coverage and identify any areas where the target may not be achievable due to room geometry, architectural constraints, or other site conditions.
The AV Contractor shall identify the software, frequency range, prediction resolution, audience-plane assumptions, measurement locations, and SPL calculation methodology used in the submittal.

- Required Soundvision Modeling Deliverables - RFI: Please confirm the required predictive-modeling submittal deliverables and whether an L-Acoustics Soundvision model and associated report are acceptable for demonstrating loudspeaker-system coverage and performance.
 - An L-Acoustics Soundvision model and associated report are acceptable for demonstrating the proposed loudspeaker system's coverage and predicted performance.
The AV Contractor shall provide the predictive model and associated coverage plots and data sufficient to demonstrate the proposed system design and its ability to meet the specified performance targets. The ± 3 dB coverage criterion is a target design number and is not intended to require compliance at every frequency and audience location.

- Existing Yamaha DM7 Integration - RFI: Please confirm that the existing Yamaha DM7 console will remain in service and identify the required interface between the existing console/Dante infrastructure and the new loudspeaker processing/amplification system. Please identify the required audio channel count, redundancy requirements, sample rate, clocking requirements, and preferred digital interface format.
 - The existing Yamaha DM7 console will remain in service. No specific interface between the DM7/Dante infrastructure and the new loudspeaker processing/amplification system is required by the Owner. The AV Contractor shall provide a compatible interface appropriate to the proposed loudspeaker processing and amplification system. Channel count, redundancy, sample rate, clocking, and digital interface format may be determined by the AV Contractor based on the proposed system design.

- Existing Dante Network - RFI: Please provide available information regarding the existing Dante network, including network-switch manufacturer/model, topology, available ports, VLAN configuration if applicable, and available copper/fiber connectivity. Please confirm whether the new sound system may utilize the existing Dante network or whether a new dedicated AV network is required.
 - The existing Dante network utilizes Cisco CBS-series switches distributed throughout the venue. NIC will be responsible for all network equipment purchases and network configuration. The AV Contractor shall coordinate with NIC regarding the network requirements for the new sound system. The AV Contractor is not responsible for providing network switches or network configurations.

- Dante-to-L-Acoustics System Interface - RFI: Please clarify the required method for interfacing the existing Yamaha/Dante infrastructure with the proposed L-Acoustics loudspeaker processing and amplification system. Please confirm whether conversion/interface via AES3 is acceptable or whether integration/bridging to the L-Acoustics Milan-AVB environment is required or preferred.
 - Dante is the preferred interface between the existing Yamaha/Dante infrastructure and the proposed L-Acoustics loudspeaker processing and amplification system. The AV Contractor may propose an alternative interface, such as AES3 or Milan-AVB, if appropriate to the proposed system and if it meets the specified performance and functionality requirements. Any additional conversion or interface equipment required shall be provided by the AV Contractor.

- Existing Cabling Reuse - RFI: Please identify which existing loudspeaker, analog audio, AES3, Ethernet, fiber, control, and power cabling may be reused as part of the new system. For any existing cabling approved for reuse, please confirm whether the AV Contractor is required to test, certify, label, and document the cabling prior to connection to the new equipment.
 - No existing loudspeakers will be reused.
 The AV Contractor may propose to reuse any existing cabling or provide new cabling as part of their proposed system. The determination of which existing cabling, if any, is suitable for reuse may be made during the site visit or after contract award.
 Any existing cabling proposed for reuse shall be tested and verified by the AV Contractor prior to connection to the new system.

- Amplifier/DSP Equipment Location - RFI: Please identify the required location(s) for the new amplified controllers, DSP/processors, network switches, P1 processor, patching, and associated equipment. Please provide available rack-unit capacity, rack dimensions, available rack depth, ventilation/cooling conditions, and any applicable equipment heat-load limitations.
 - Current equipment locations are as follows:
 - **FOH catwalks:** Amplifiers, DSP, and network switches for the main PA
 - **Stage Left:** Amplifiers, DSP, and network switches for the stage system
 - **Booth:** Amplifiers, DSP, and network switches
 Locations for any additional equipment may be determined by the AV Contractor during the site visit and proposed as part of the system design.

- Existing Electrical Power Capacity / Sound System Power Requirements - RFI: Please provide or confirm the existing electrical service available at the proposed sound-system equipment location, including voltage, phase, circuit amperage, number of available dedicated circuits, and panel/circuit identification where available. If the existing electrical infrastructure is insufficient for the new sound system, please confirm whether required electrical-service upgrades and associated branch circuits will be provided by the Owner or by others outside the AV Contractor's scope.
 - Electrical power capacity and specific circuit information may be determined by the AV Contractor during the site visit.
 Sufficient power is available in the FOH catwalks and on stage for the proposed sound system. The AV Contractor shall verify the available power and circuit requirements during the site visit and coordinate any specific requirements with NIC.
 All electrical work, including the installation of new circuits or modifications to existing electrical infrastructure, will be handled by NIC.

- Emergency Power / Life-Safety Interface Requirements - RFI: Please confirm whether any portion of the auditorium sound system is required to operate from emergency or standby power or interface with the fire-alarm system, emergency-shutdown system, life-safety systems, or building-management system. If an interface is required, please provide the applicable sequence of operation and identify the system/interface points to be provided by others.
 - No emergency or standby power or life-safety system interfaces are required for the auditorium sound system.
Vendors are encouraged to propose such features if desired as part of their system design.
- Subwoofer Location Restrictions - RFI: Please identify any architectural, structural, sightline, stage-use, orchestra-pit, floor-space, egress, or other restrictions affecting proposed subwoofer locations.
 - Existing subwoofer pockets are located on the left and right sides beneath the stage and may be considered for proposed subwoofer locations.
Center-flown subwoofers are also an acceptable option. The AV Contractor shall determine the appropriate configuration based on system performance, sightlines, stage use, and structural requirements.
- Front-Fill Installation Requirements - RFI: Please confirm whether permanent loudspeakers may be installed along, beneath, or within the stage lip to provide front-row coverage. Please identify any restrictions associated with stage flooring, orchestra-pit operation, removable stage sections, sightlines, architectural finishes, cable routing, or required loudspeaker concealment.
 - Existing front-fill loudspeakers are located on the front lip of the stage.
Permanent loudspeakers may be installed into or along the front of the stage where feasible.
Installation within the stage structure may present structural challenges. The AV Contractor shall evaluate the existing conditions during the site visit and propose an appropriate installation method that maintains stage functionality, sightlines, and required access.
- Balcony / Rear Delay Loudspeakers - RFI: Please confirm whether dedicated balcony and/or rear delay loudspeakers are specifically required as part of the base bid, or whether the quantity, type, and placement of supplemental loudspeakers may be determined by the AV Contractor's predictive modeling as necessary to satisfy the specified audience-coverage and intelligibility requirements.
 - The existing system utilizes delay loudspeakers. Dedicated balcony and/or rear delay loudspeakers are not specifically required as part of the base bid.
The AV Contractor shall determine the quantity, type, and placement of any supplemental or delay loudspeakers based on predictive modeling and the specified audience-coverage and intelligibility requirements.

- Stage Monitor Connectivity and Patching - RFI: The specification requires eight stage monitors with eight independently controlled monitor mixes/amplifier channels. Please identify the required stage-monitor connection locations. Please also confirm whether existing stage loudspeaker wiring and connectors may be reused or whether the AV Contractor is required to provide new dedicated monitor cabling, receptacles, connector panels, and associated patching.
 - Eight channels of stage-monitor wiring are already installed and terminate at the Stage Left amplifier rack. If the proposed stage-monitor amplifiers are installed at this location, the existing monitor wiring will be available for reuse. The AV Contractor shall verify the existing wiring and connectors for suitability prior to connection. Any additional cabling, receptacles, connector panels, or patching required by the proposed system shall be provided by the AV Contractor.
- Work Schedule and Auditorium Availability - RFI: Please provide the anticipated auditorium availability, blackout dates, scheduled performances/rehearsals, allowable work hours, and maximum allowable periods during which the existing sound system may be offline. Please confirm whether demolition, rigging, installation, commissioning, acceptance testing, and training must be completed within a defined shutdown window.
 - The theater has a busy performance season throughout the year. The first anticipated window available for project work is December 22, 2026 through January 20, 2027. NIC will work with the selected vendor after award to develop and finalize the project schedule, including work hours and coordination with theater activities.
- Final Commissioning and System Acceptance Testing - RFI: Please define the required onsite measurement and acceptance-testing methodology for verification of system SPL, frequency response, STI/intelligibility, specified ± 3 dB audience coverage, and overall system performance. Please identify required measurement standards/procedures, test locations, frequency ranges, operating conditions, documentation, and pass/fail criteria.
 - Final commissioning and acceptance testing shall use standard industry-accepted measurement and testing methods.
 SPL: 95–100 dBA average and 105–110 dBA peak are audience-area targets, not requirements at every seat. Testing shall use typical program material or an agreed test signal.
 STI: Minimum STI of 0.60 is a design target. Limited verification may be performed at representative audience locations as appropriate.
 Frequency response and coverage shall be evaluated over 20 Hz–20 kHz where practical, with 40 Hz–16 kHz acceptable. The specified ± 3 dB audience coverage is a target design criterion and may be verified using standard industry-accepted modeling and measurement methods.
 The AV Contractor shall document test methods, representative measurement locations, operating conditions, and results as part of final commissioning documentation.

- L-Acoustics Manufacture Approval - RFI: Please confirm that L-Acoustics is acceptable as a proposed loudspeaker-system manufacturer, provided the submitted system design and Soundvision predictive model demonstrate compliance with all specified performance requirements, including SPL, frequency response, audience coverage, intelligibility, rigging, processing, control/monitoring, and warranty requirements.
 - Yes. L-Acoustics is an acceptable manufacturer and is one of NIC's preferred loudspeaker system manufacturers. The proposed system shall meet all specified performance, rigging, processing, control/monitoring, and warranty requirements.
- Existing System Documentation / As-Built Drawings - RFI: Please provide available as-built drawings, signal-flow diagrams, rack elevations, equipment schedules, loudspeaker-circuit documentation, network drawings, and existing system programming/configuration files applicable to the auditorium sound system.
 - Available as-built documentation is limited to original 1979 drawings showing the venue architecture.
Current cabling documentation, signal-flow diagrams, rack elevations, equipment schedules, network drawings, and system programming/configuration files are not available.
- Access, Lift, Scaffold, and Rigging Logistics - RFI: Please identify any restrictions or Owner requirements associated with access to the existing and proposed loudspeaker suspension locations, including use of personnel lifts, material lifts, scaffolding, chain motors/hoists, temporary rigging, stage access, orchestra-pit access, and protection of existing architectural finishes.

Please confirm whether suitable lift equipment can be operated from the auditorium floor/stage and provide applicable floor-loading limitations, door/opening dimensions, access routes, and permitted equipment staging locations.

Please also identify whether any Owner-provided rigging, lift equipment, house rigging personnel, or other access resources will be available to the AV Contractor.

- NIC has a 19-foot scissor lift available for use on the stage. Scaffolding will be required for work within the auditorium.
NIC will coordinate with the selected vendor after award to determine appropriate access methods, equipment, staging, and access to specific work areas. Any additional lift, scaffolding, or rigging equipment required beyond the available scissor lift shall be identified by the AV Contractor as part of the proposed work.

- System Control - RFI - System Control: Please clarify the intended remote-control functionality and user interface for the new sound system, including whether control is expected through manufacturer software only or if a dedicated touchscreen/control system is required.
 - System control is expected to be handled through an NIC-provided laptop located adjacent to the Yamaha DM7 console in the booth. A dedicated touchscreen or separate control system is not required. Vendors are encouraged to propose a dedicated touchscreen or other control interface if they feel it would provide additional functionality or benefit to the system.
- Required Project Completion Date - RFI: Please confirm the required project completion date in January 2027 and whether this date represents system installation completion, commissioning/acceptance, or final project completion.
 - The system should ideally be fully installed, tested, commissioned, and user training completed by January 20, 2027. NIC recognizes that equipment availability and delivery times may require the project completion date to extend beyond January 20. NIC will work with the selected vendor to establish the final project schedule based on equipment availability and delivery times.
- Warranty Requirements - RFI: Please confirm the required system and labor warranty period, the date the warranty period begins, and whether onsite warranty service is required.
 - A three-year system and labor warranty is required. The warranty period shall begin upon final system acceptance. Onsite warranty service is expected for issues that cannot be resolved remotely.
- Owner Training - RFI: Please confirm the required operator/technical training for the new sound system, including the number of training sessions or hours required.
 - Owner training shall include basic operation and troubleshooting of the new sound system. The AV Contractor shall provide sufficient training to ensure NIC staff can operate and perform basic troubleshooting of the system.

- Under Section 13. “Proposal Requirements” A-System Design Drawings - What level of detail is necessary for this requirement? Line connection drawings? Equipment and rack elevations? B-Loudspeaker Modeling Predictions - Similarly, what level of detail is necessary for this requirement?
 - A – System Design Drawings: Proposal drawings only need to identify proposed loudspeaker and major equipment locations. Wiring paths should be considered as part of the proposed design but do not need to be shown in the proposal drawings.
 - B – Loudspeaker Modeling Predictions: Provide sufficient modeling information to demonstrate the anticipated system coverage and performance. L-Acoustics Soundvision or other industry-accepted predictive modeling software is acceptable. Detailed construction-level modeling is not required at the proposal stage.
- Are there any flow drawings showing the existing systems that the speakers will be connected to?
 - No existing system flow drawings are available.
The proposed loudspeaker system will interface with the existing Yamaha DM7 console at FOH and the theater network, which includes Dante infrastructure. No other existing audio system components are required to be integrated.
- Are there any issues or pain points with the existing speaker solution that you would like to ensure are mitigated with a new one? Or is this purely a replacement of EOL (end of life) technology?
 - While this project is primarily an end-of-life replacement, NIC would like to use the opportunity to address the following issues with the existing system:
 1. **Sightlines:** The current loudspeaker system creates sightline conflicts with stage lighting and projection systems.
 2. **Intelligibility:** The current system directs significant sound energy toward reflective wall surfaces, contributing to reduced speech intelligibility.

The proposed system should address these issues through improved loudspeaker placement, aiming, coverage, and system design.
- Is there any documentation about the existing rigging structure?
 - Limited documentation is available. The only known documentation is the original 1979 as-built drawings. No current structural engineering documentation, load ratings, or certifications are available for the existing rigging structure.

- Under section 10 “Training” the specification calls out for wireless coordination, however, there doesn’t appear to be any wireless solutions as a part of the request. Is this to help coordinate existing equipment? And if so is that documented as to what wireless microphones, intercom or other devices may be using wireless frequencies?
 - The reference to wireless coordination under Section 10 “Training” was included in error. Wireless coordination training is not required as part of this project.
- Under Section 12 “Warranty and Support” the specification calls for minimum of 3-year warranty with a service response time but then mentions maintenance contract as optional. Do you want a full-service contract for 3 years or just warranty as the base bid?
 - The base bid shall include the required three-year warranty and associated service response requirements.
A full-service maintenance contract is not required as part of the base bid.
Vendors may provide an optional maintenance contract as an additional offering.
- Will a lift need to be rented or does the school have one dedicated to this space?
 - NIC has a 19-foot scissor lift available for use on the stage. Scaffolding will be required for work within the auditorium.
NIC will work with the selected vendor to coordinate access and equipment needs for specific work areas.
- As a part of the speaker replacement, is there any other construction going on? Modifications to infrastructure?
 - No.
- Based off the photos, it appears there are two spaces on either side of the orchestra pit. Are these currently containing subwoofer systems? If so, is there any documentation as to the size of the spaces?
 - Correct. The spaces on either side of the orchestra pit are existing subwoofer pockets. They are sizable spaces and may be considered for the proposed subwoofer system.
Actual dimensions can be determined by the AV Contractor during the site visit.
- Info Request – Wireless - Will existing wireless be used and/or new wireless be implemented? Qty / Type?
 - Wireless equipment is not included in this project. The existing wireless system will remain in place and is not part of the proposed work.
- Info Request – Demo - Will the integrator be responsible for removing the existing system?
 - NIC Facilities will be responsible for removal and disposal/disposition of the existing sound system and associated equipment.

- Info Request – Environment - Will need specification of all architectural surfaces, for acoustical analysis. (Walls, Ceiling, Treatments, etc.)
 - Detailed documentation of all architectural surfaces and acoustic treatments is not available. The AV Contractor should evaluate existing conditions during the site visit and account for the auditorium’s existing walls, ceiling, finishes, and acoustic treatments as part of the system design and predictive modeling.
- Info Request – ALS (ADA Requirement) – Is an Assisted Listening System (ALS) required?
 - An Assisted Listening System (ALS) is not required as part of this project.
- Info Request – Inputs – Existing - Will existing inputs / outputs be reused? Qty / Type?
 - The existing Yamaha DM7 console and theater Dante network will remain in use and shall be integrated with the new sound system.
Existing system inputs and outputs beyond the DM7 and Dante network are not required to be reused. The AV Contractor shall provide any additional inputs, outputs, or interfacing required for the proposed system.
- Info Request – Inputs – New - What is the input Qty / Type required?
 - No specific quantity or type of new inputs is prescribed. The AV Contractor shall determine any additional inputs required based on the proposed system design and the existing Yamaha DM7 console and Dante network.
- Info Request – Program Sources - What program audio sources are required / requested?
 - No specific program sources are required as part of this project. Program sources will be provided through the existing Yamaha DM7 console and associated Dante network.
- Info Request – RIR – Is there an existing Room Impulse Response (RIR) recording available?
 - No existing Room Impulse Response (RIR) recordings are available. The AV contractor should perform any RIR measurements necessary as part of system design, tuning, and commissioning.
- Info Request – Monitors - Will new cables / floor box plates be required for the (x8) stage monitors or are they existing?
 - The existing eight (8) stage monitor cable runs are installed and terminate at the Stage Left amplifier rack. Existing cabling may be reused if verified suitable by the AV contractor. New cables or floor box plates are not anticipated unless required by the contractor’s proposed system.

- Info Request – Equipment Rack - Will the existing equipment rack(s) be reused or are new required?
 - Existing equipment racks may be reused where suitable for the proposed system. The AV contractor shall evaluate existing racks during the site visit and determine whether additional or replacement racks are required as part of the proposed system.

- Info Request – Coverage - Page 6 of RFP states "Even SPL coverage across all seating areas" and "Target variance: ± 3 dB across audience area". Then states "Coverage includes: o Orchestra o Balcony o Front rows" Does all seating mean all 1,100 seats plus the areas listed seats or just the areas listed?
 - "Even SPL coverage across all seating areas" refers to all audience seating areas, including the Orchestra, Balcony, and Front Rows identified in the RFP. The intent is to provide coverage for the entire 1,100-seat audience area. The ± 3 dB variance is a target design criterion and is not an absolute acceptance requirement at every seat.

- Info Request – Existing Yamaha & Dante - Please identify all components of existing system. MFR / Model
 - The existing audio system components required to interface with the proposed system are:
 - **FOH Console:** Yamaha DM7
 - **Audio Network:** Dante network infrastructure

No complete inventory of the existing Dante network components, including manufacturer/model information for individual network switches and other devices, is currently available. NIC IT/Event Services will provide and configure the network infrastructure required for the project.

The AV contractor should coordinate with NIC IT/Event Services regarding the existing network and required system interfaces.

- Info Request – Color Matching - What existing auditorium color are we "matching", per the RFP? Will it require custom painting?
 - Color matching is not a requirement of the project. NIC is interested in maintaining a consistent appearance with the existing auditorium where practical. Vendors may propose custom painting or other finish options as part of their system design, but custom painting is not required.

- Confirmation – Frequency Response - Page 4 of the RFP says "Full-range system response capable of 20 Hz – 20 kHz reproduction" while page 6 says "System response: 40 Hz – 16 kHz minimum". Which is to be followed?
 - The 20 Hz–20 kHz specification on Page 4 describes the desired full-range system capability. The 40 Hz–16 kHz specification on Page 6 represents the minimum required system response. Vendors should design systems to meet or exceed the minimum 40 Hz–16 kHz requirement, with 20 Hz–20 kHz capability preferred where practical.
- Confirmation – Drawings (Proposal) - Please define the extend of the "System design drawings" as request at the time of proposal, as request on page 8 of the RFP.
 - At the time of proposal, "System design drawings" are intended to show the proposed loudspeaker system and major equipment locations, including loudspeaker locations, configurations, and general placement within the auditorium.
Detailed construction drawings, wiring diagrams, rack elevations, and construction-level documentation are not required at the proposal stage. Wiring paths should be considered as part of the proposed design but do not need to be shown on the proposal drawings.
- Confirmation – Balcony - The RFP requires balcony and under-balcony coverage but the drawings don't seem to show it. Verify there is no balcony.
 - There is no separate balcony structure in the auditorium. The term "balcony" in the RFP refers to the upper section of audience seating. There is no separate under-balcony seating area.
- Info Request – Update Reason - What is the reason for the system update? Does the current system perform, did it perform, as required?
 - The project is primarily an end-of-life replacement of the existing sound system. The current system is operational but has limitations that the new system is intended to address, including sightline obstructions for stage lighting and projection, as well as excessive sound energy directed toward reflective surfaces that can negatively affect intelligibility.
- Info Request – Headend – FOH - Where is the current rack? Will the new rack equipment reside in the same place? Where is the mixing console?
 - Existing equipment is located in three primary areas:
 - **Booth:** Rack containing DSP, amplifiers, and network switch. The Yamaha DM7 mixing console and control laptop are also located in the booth.
 - **FOH Catwalk:** Large rack containing DSP, amplifiers, and network equipment.
 - **Stage Left:** Rack containing DSP, amplifiers, and network equipment.
 Existing rack locations may be reused where suitable for the proposed system. The AV contractor shall evaluate existing rack locations and determine any additional or replacement rack requirements as part of the proposed design.

- Info Request – L/C/R Infrastructure - Will the existing cable infrastructure be reused? What is the cable pathway, if new cable is to be run?
 - Existing cabling may be reused where verified suitable by the AV contractor. If new cabling is required, cable pathways will be determined by the selected vendor in coordination with NIC staff. The auditorium provides relatively easy access for new cable installation through the ceiling spaces and behind the theater walls.
- Confirmation – SPL - The RFP states "Continuous SPL capability: o 95–100 dBA average o 105–110 dBA peak". Please confirm these levels. Are these levels to be measured at the audience? NOTE: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/noise/about/noise.html>
 - The specified 95–100 dBA average and 105–110 dBA peak levels are confirmed as system capability targets. These levels are intended to be measured within the audience seating areas and represent available system headroom, not required operating levels for normal program material or a requirement to operate continuously at these levels.
Final commissioning measurements should be performed at representative audience locations using standard industry-accepted measurement methods. NIC recognizes that sustained exposure to high SPL levels can present hearing risks; the cited NIOSH guidance identifies 85 dBA as its recommended occupational exposure limit averaged over an eight-hour workday.
- Confirmation – PE - Will rigging drawings be required to have a PE stamp?
 - PE-stamped rigging drawings are not required at the time of proposal. The responsibility for providing stamped rigging drawings has not yet been determined and will be coordinated after contract award.
- Info Request – Spares - What are the spare component requirements?
 - No spare components are currently maintained on site. Spare component requirements are not specified as part of the base project requirements.
- Info Request – Drawings (Design) - What drawings and in what format will be provided to create system construction plans from? (FP / RCP / ELEVATIONS / Etc...) (DWG / DXF / PDF / RASTER / ETC...)
 - Available existing documentation is limited to the original 1979 as-built drawings. These drawings are available in PDF format and primarily document the architectural layout of the facility.
No current CAD floor plans, reflected ceiling plans, elevations, or other construction-level drawings are available. The selected vendor should verify existing conditions during the site visit and coordinate with NIC regarding any additional drawings or documentation needed for construction plans.

- Are there any additional drawings available?
 - No additional current drawings are available beyond the original 1979 as-built drawings previously provided. The selected vendor should verify existing conditions during the site visit.
- Are current AS BUILT drawings available that show the existing system as installed?
 - No current as-built drawings are available showing the existing sound system as installed.
- Is there a Bill of Materials available that shows the existing equipment that is to be repurposed?
 - No Bill of Materials is available. The only existing equipment intended to interface with the proposed system is the Yamaha DM7 console and the existing theater Dante network. No other existing audio equipment is designated for repurposing.
- What are the specifications for the existing Yamaha DM7 and Dante network and any additional system components such as wireless mic, assisted listening and wired microphones?
 - The existing Yamaha DM7 console and theater Dante network will remain in service and shall be integrated with the proposed system. Detailed specifications and documentation for the existing Dante network are not currently available. Wireless microphones and the Assisted Listening System are existing systems but are not included in this project and are not required to be integrated or replaced.
No specific existing wired microphone inventory or specifications are available. The proposed system should accommodate the existing Yamaha DM7 and Dante network as required for system operation.
- Can existing speaker hang points be repurposed?
 - Existing speaker hang points may be repurposed where suitable; however, reuse of existing hang points is not required. Any proposed reuse shall be verified for suitability and allowable loading.
- Does the scope of work for this project include the replacement of audio input wall plates, stage boxes and wiring infrastructure?
 - No replacement of existing audio input wall plates, stage boxes, or wiring infrastructure is required as part of the project. The contractor shall provide only the new cabling, connections, and related infrastructure required for the proposed equipment and system design.

- Does the scope of work for this project exclude the replacement/upgrade of the common area PA system?
 - Yes. The replacement or upgrade of the common area PA system is excluded from the scope of work. The project scope is limited to the auditorium sound system.
- Has the customer expressed a preferred speaker manufacturer?
 - NIC prefers industry-standard, rider-friendly loudspeaker manufacturers, including but not limited to L-Acoustics, d&b audiotechnik, Meyer Sound, and Danley Sound Labs. Other manufacturers may be proposed provided the proposed system meets all project requirements and performance specifications.
- What is your current system?
 - The current system is a Broadway-style LCR system with eight (8) stage monitor channels. The main system consists of line arrays with a delay ring, floor-mounted subwoofers, and front fills.
- Rigging needs?
 - The proposed system does not need to be movable. Rigging requirements are limited to the permanent installation of the proposed loudspeaker system and any other equipment requiring overhead support. Vendors should evaluate existing rigging points and structural conditions during the site visit and identify any additional rigging requirements as part of their proposed system design.
- What is the budget for this?
 - NIC has not established a fixed project budget. Vendors should submit their best proposed system based on the project requirements and specifications.
- Why do you want to upgrade?
 - The project is primarily an end-of-life replacement of the existing sound system. NIC also wants to address current system limitations, including sightline obstructions for stage lighting and projection, as well as excessive sound energy directed toward reflective surfaces that can negatively affect intelligibility.
- Can you provide more pictures
 - Additional photos are not currently available. Vendors are encouraged to attend the site visit to review existing conditions and document the facility as needed for their proposed system design.

- RFI: The RFP references balcony and under-balcony loudspeaker coverage; however, the provided architectural drawings do not appear to indicate a balcony seating area within Schuler Auditorium. Please confirm whether balcony/under-balcony coverage requirements are applicable to this project. Please provide approximate dimensions and elevation for this section. Please include the total number of seats for the Balcony area(s).
 - There is no separate balcony or under-balcony seating area in Schuler Auditorium. The term “balcony” in the RFP refers to the upper section of audience seating. Therefore, balcony/under-balcony loudspeaker coverage requirements do not apply as a separate seating area.
The upper seating area is part of the overall 1,100-seat audience area and should be included in the system coverage design. Approximate dimensions, elevation, and seat count can be verified by vendors during the site visit.