



CLIENT: JOHN HANSARD GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
PROJECT VALUE: £13,000
PROJECT TIME FRAME: 1 WEEK

CDEC BRINGS JOHN HANSARD GALLERY TO LIFE

The John Hansard Gallery is a leading public art gallery and part of the University of Southampton. It recently moved into Studio 144, a purpose-built arts complex in Southampton city centre that also houses theatre company NST and City Eye, which supports film culture in the region. The gallery hosts major exhibitions, opening with a retrospective by German artist Gerhard Richter, as well as free tours, educational events and community engagement programmes.

PROJECT BRIEF

The creation of a new home for the John Hansard Gallery had been in the planning for some time, however the turnaround time between moving into the new site and the high-profile opening event was only a matter of weeks. It was at this point that CDEC were called in to bring the foyer, where the event was to be hosted, to life while providing visitors with information and wayfinding to make their visit more enjoyable. As the requirement was for as close to seamless a videowall as possible, four portrait format 55" LG videowall screens were specified and installed along with a Onelan digital signage player.



“We were extremely happy with the work CDEC did, especially in the timescale to deliver the quality within the time pressure was quite exceptional. CDEC were also able to give us the remote support to ensure that everything was in place and working for our high-profile public launch event.”

WOODROW KERNOHAN, DIRECTOR

PROJECT DETAILS

With a fixed deadline of the 12 May to work to, CDEC had just a week to specify and install a videowall in the gallery foyer. The wall was intended to be used for information, graphics and signage, welcoming and guiding visitors around the space and offering details of upcoming events.

Woodrow Kernohan, Director, John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton, UK, explains: "The videowall is a great way of drawing audiences and the public into the building; it can offer information 24 hours, so at night we can inform people when we're open tomorrow, for example."

However, the full potential of the videowall is only just beginning to be realised.

He continues: "We recently held a launch for a partner organisation who used it to screen a promotional video, so it has many possibilities for us both with information display but also as another way of displaying digital artworks within the gallery."

In fact, some artists have been so excited about the opportunities opened up by the videowall that CDEC will be returning to the gallery later in the year to install a larger display for showcasing artwork.

"The quality of the videowall leads to quite incredible possibilities for the artists to work with," adds Kernohan.

The team at John Hansard also see the potential of the wall when it comes to engaging the community and attracting visitors, and after undertaking Onelan training they are now able to operate and update the screens as needed.

"Everyone has a creative background in our communications team so they're excited about the huge potential to engage the public in a new way," concludes Kernohan.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

Without a doubt, the biggest challenge with this project was the extremely tight turnaround time. CDEC were able to produce a spec and all the proposed layout and installation options and have a working installation in place within a week, something Kernohan describes as "quite extraordinary". This was despite the fact that there was an issue with some of the hardware which also had to be resolved.

PRODUCT DETAILS

CDEC installed four 55" LG LV35A LED displays, four Peerless video wall mounts, a Onelan NTB-4K-1000-SA R3 Standalone Player and a Datapath Fx4 wall controller. CDEC also provided Onelan training and remote support.

