



CITATION

for Ceiling Feature

George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Theater

Salt Lake City, UT

Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting Design

Francesca Bettridge, Michael Hennes, Nira Wattanachote, and Glenn Fujimura



Pelli Clarke Pelli's Eccles Theater — Salt Lake City's premier performing arts venue — celebrates the city's architecture and the landscapes and starry skies of Utah. The lighting becomes a unifying element, imparting a welcoming street presence and articulating the building's design themes. The 2,500-seat performance hall's lighting recalls the dramatic landscape surrounding the city, with its evenly washed perimeter walls evoking the striated mountains. The theater's showpiece is the re-creation of the starry sky that blankets the city at night.

The design of the ceiling had to dramatically evoke the feeling of the night sky, while accommodating the functional demands of the theater itself. LED strings are stretched across frames and arranged in layers two-deep. Within each ceiling section, the strings are separated into nine different dimmable zones, allowing for random control and cross-fading. Using differently sized LEDs with varying on-center spacings, and then offsetting the panels at unequal distances from each other, creates a three-dimensional sense of depth. Tilting the frames at an angle enhances this effect and helps to avoid nearby theatrical equipment.

The architecture sets the stage, and the lighting completes the picture: a grand amphitheater under a clear, starry night sky, nestled among the mountains.

ARCHITECTS
Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects
HKS Architects, Inc.

OWNERS
Salt Lake City
Salt Lake County

PHOTOGRAPHY
Jeff Goldberg / Esto

"The project team would not have been able to execute the 'starry sky' without Francesca and her team. The process was challenging and memorable, from drawing inspiration from Utah's canyons, designing the stars' random pattern, to the final installation. I feel lucky to have been part of the team!"

—Gina Narracci, Apicella + Bunton Architects (formerly of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects)