JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER, THE REACH DONOR WALL, WASHINGTON D.C.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Owner undertook a substantial addition to the existing campus of the performing arts center, referred to as the REACH. The project added much-needed offices, theatres, and stages for the artists. This undertaking was greatly assisted by the generous financial donations of many individuals.

The names of the donors are now memorialized on a 1,200 sqft wall of Bianco Carrara, with panels measuring 8'x4'. We traveled to Italy to source the most uniform block for the large panels, the block selected was very uniform in background color and vein direction. This was critical as our carvers would later have the engrave all the donors' names on these large panels, and we didn't want the stone veining to interrupt the visibility of the lettering.

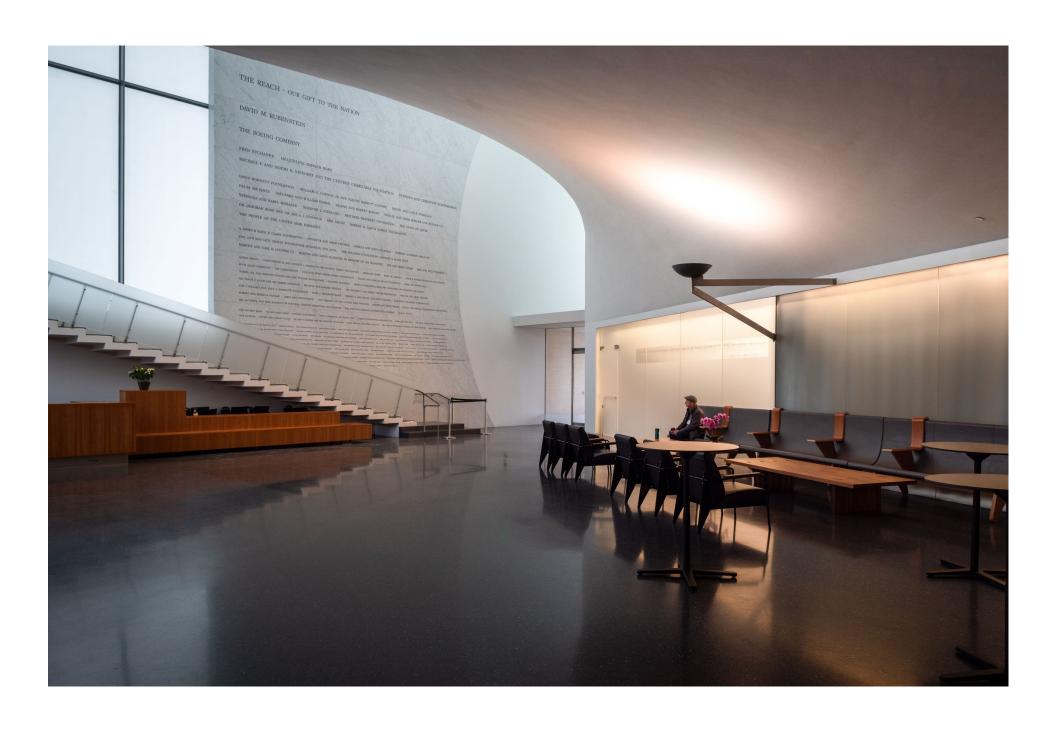
The marble was expertly fabricated with the subtle radius, and fully dry-set in Italy for a thorough inspection by the Owner's representative. Our team designed, engineered, and installed the marble wall as well as its steel support system. This was completed before the dedication of the building in the Fall of 2019.

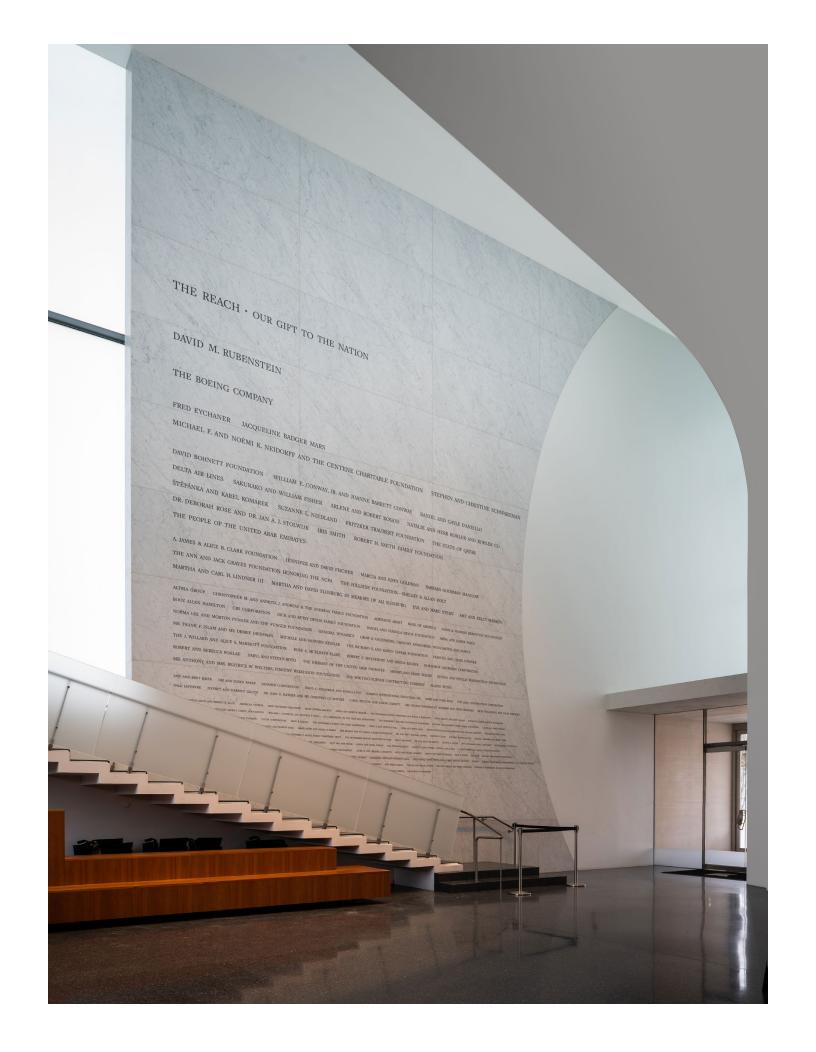
In the Winter of 2020, our engraving artisans returned to the now open to the public building to perform the engraving. The Owner was very much concerned about the dust, that would accompany the engraving process. Understanding the Owner's concerns as well as the hazards that sandblasting creates, our team created a dustproof scaffold system complete with a dust containment system designed to trap all the abrasive stone dust.

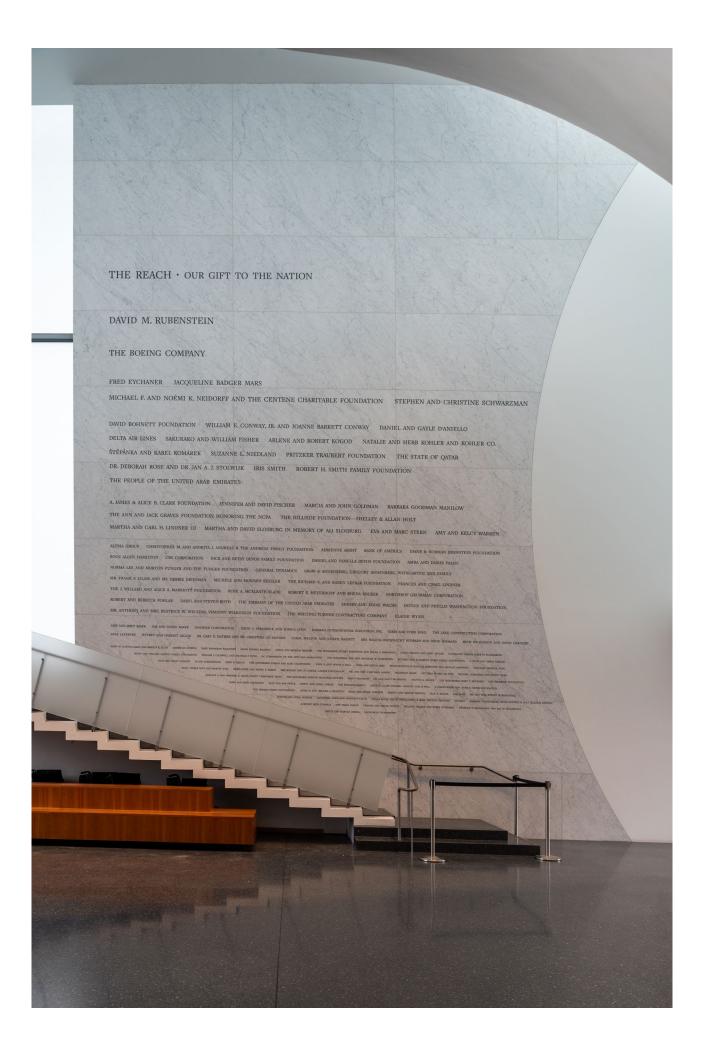
Our engraving designer worked very carefully with the Owner's graphic designer to prepare all the computer razor cut lettering templates. Our master carvers then mounted the templates with a very precise layout and set out to delicately sandblast the letters.

The engraving was performed with the use of an inventive portable sandblasting booth system, designed particularly for owner-occupied projects, that allows for easy blasting and containing the medium and the dust. The use of the booth allowed for the lettering to be completed within 3 weeks.

The Owner couldn't be happier with the result and work of our skilled stone carvers. The effect of their work is superb and the Donor Wall is truly a statement piece that gives a proper recognition for those individuals who helped fund the project.







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