We are proud to introduce state-of-the-art security technology across our multi-venue campus

The Evolv Express frictionless screening system enhances safety while preserving a seamless, world-class audience experience

July 31, 2025 - Our landmark creative campus is unveiling unobtrusive new technology to optimize audience comfort and security. The San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center (WMPAC), in collaboration with the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Ballet, and the San Francisco Opera, is installing a campus-wide frictionless patron screening system and introducing new, integrated radio communications infrastructure across our city's premier cultural complex, which includes Davies Symphony Hall, the War Memorial Opera House, and the Veterans Building.

We are installing Evolv Express, a next-generation, advanced security screening technology increasingly utilized in arenas and performance halls throughout the world. Our iconic stages join such institutions as Lincoln Center, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Hollywood Bowl where this cutting-edge security is a trusted and essential tool.

"I've experienced this system in use at some of the great opera houses of Europe. To see this same technology now protecting our historic venues here at home is both reassuring and inspiring. When patrons step through our doors, they can feel confident and fully enjoy the performance, free from worries or distraction." – Diane B. Wilsey, San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees President

TIMELINE
We are phasing implementation to minimize disruption of the performance schedule and patron experience. We are also conducting rigorous training and testing to ensure that, once this system is live, patrons can expect a smooth and efficient operation.

- **July 28th-29th**: The Evolv Express patron-screening units were delivered and installed at Davies Symphony Hall, the Opera House, and the Veterans Building.
- **Throughout August**: Our staff will be trained on and testing the system at Davies and the Opera House.
- **September 4th**: The system goes live and in-operation at Davies.
- **September 14th**: The system is live and in-operation at the Opera House, following testing at dress rehearsals in the days prior.
- **TBD**: The system will be implemented in the Veterans Building at a later date.
- For more information about the new system, view [Safety Measures](#) on our website.

HOW IT WORKS
Evolv Express offers fast, frictiontless screening **without requiring patrons to stop, empty their pockets, or open their bags**.

- The system can screen up to 3,000 people per hour, per lane.

(more)

- Patrons pass through (with their personal belongings) without stopping. Patrons may bring bags into the auditorium. Please see our Bag Policy for details.
- Evolv Express uses sensors inside rectangular units that can spot a potential weapons threat based on the object's composition, shape, size and density.
- If an anomaly is detected, the system identifies the location of the object and alerts the security staff. Security staff subsequently would ask the patron to step aside to a secondary screening station for inspection.

WHY NOW?

- Installation of the Evolv Express system follows a comprehensive security study initiated by the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center and its resident companies two years ago.
- A patron screening system was the top recommendation from Global Security Innovative Strategies (GSIS), the firm selected to advise us on keeping pace with advances in venue technology and security best practices.

The new system aligns our campus with industry-standard security protocols while maintaining the welcoming atmosphere that has made these venues beloved cultural landmarks.

"With stewardship comes a mandate: to preserve these historic venues at their best and to ensure the safety and comfort of our audiences, performing artists, licensees, staff, and the spectrum of visitors who enjoy our campus." – Kate Sofis, San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center Managing Director

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