



## MUSEUM OF BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS

CONVERSION OF PARKING GARAGE INTO A STATE-OF-THE-ART MUSEUM

**CLIENT** Museum of Broadcast Communications | **LOCATION** Chicago, Illinois (River North) | **SIZE** 4 stories, 70,000 sf

### PROJECT SCOPE

As part of a design-build team with Pepper Construction, Eckenhoff Saunders was challenged to convert an existing turn-of-the-century parking structure into a state-of-the-art exhibition and administrative facilities for this institution, previously located in the Chicago Cultural Center. Its new location in the heart of Chicago's River North Entertainment District allows the museum to reach its targeted audience and expand its public exhibit offerings. With Eckenhoff Saunders assistance, MBC partnered with the adjacent Marina City complex to use air rights of its property along State Street to enable the museum to have a recognizable State Street address. The building houses two floors of exhibit space, including the Radio Hall of Fame, fully functional radio and television broadcast studios, a large group education center, MBC's administrative offices, and a special multipurpose events venue.

The architectural design uses crisp metal panels, expanses of metal mesh, and broad expanses of glass to reflect the museum's interest in emerging communication technology to establish its new identity and celebrate its commitment to all forms of broadcast media. In tandem with tall, slender lobby columns that support the main cornice line, these materials create a composition that walks the line between contemporary and traditional museum design. Opened in 2010, the museum was planned to LEED Gold standards.