Sage 500 ERP | Customer Success

SF Museum of Modern Art Adds Sage 500 ERP to Permanent Collection

When it opened its doors in 1935, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) was the first museum on the West Coast devoted solely to twentieth-century art. SFMOMA's collection is distinguished by the major works of Clyfford Still, Robert Rauschenberg, Marcel Duchamp, Philip Guston, Alfred Stieglitz, Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Henri Matisse, Paul Klee, and artists from Mexico, Southern California, and the San Francisco Bay area.

In addition to its museum exhibitions, SFMOMA offers many educational activities, public programs, and runs a research library with more than 40,000 catalogued items.

SFMOMA operates Museum Stores at the museum, San Francisco International Airport, and the Embarcadero shopping center. Its Artists Gallery on the San Francisco waterfront rents and sells works by local artists on commission.

An Unruly System Collection

"Open for interpretation" is the watchword at SFMOMA. But like any business, there's no room for creative interpretation when it comes to the financials. With a budget topping $30 million, every penny must be accounted for.

SFMOMA had maintained separate nonintegrated systems for various parts of its business. It was difficult to get information out of the systems and impossible to integrate data from the museum's diverse operations. A consultant was retained to research and recommend alternative accounting systems. Of the top three, SFMOMA chose Sage 500 ERP* for its superior reporting and drill-down functions, flexible chart of accounts, and advanced distribution features.

A Masterpiece of Efficiency

Sage 500 ERP provides SFMOMA with an end-to-end business system for the ultimate in financial control. Deposits from museum admissions are entered into Sage 500 ERP on a daily basis, with end-of-month admissions data reconciled through the Cash Management module and recorded as revenue. Cash register receipts from Museum Store sales are rung up in Fusion 2000, an integrated point-of-sale system from Mik and Associates, and batched and posted to the Inventory, Accounts Receivable, and Cash Management modules daily.

*Sage 500 ERP was named Sage ERP MAS 500 when SF Museum of Modern Art initially implemented this solution. The product names have been updated in this case study to reflect current naming.

Customer
SF Museum of Modern Art

Industry
Private art museum,
nonprofit organization

Location
San Francisco, California

Number of Locations
Five

Number of Employees
350

System
Sage 500 ERP

Challenge

Acquire an advanced financial solution that can manage the diverse information integration needs, reporting, and distribution requirements of a $30 million operation.

Solution

Sage 500 ERP financial and distribution modules.

Results

End-to-end, streamlined integration; complete financial control; exceptional intercompany functionality; seamless data flow; easy look-up/drill-down features; precise transaction tracking; superb reporting.

Donations are entered as deposits through Raiser's Edge, a third-party module for fundraisers, and then transferred electronically into the accounting system using the DataPorter module.

"The Cash Management module has really made our lives easier," says Elizabeth Vaziri, controller at SFMOMA. "Before we had no way of getting AP to tie out to an outstanding check list. Now when we pull up Cash Management, we can identify exactly which entries were made to each of our eight bank accounts."

Vaziri also relies heavily on the Sage 500 ERP intercompany features to perform fund accounting and segregate expenditures. She sets up funds as restricted accessions, endowments, in-kind gifts, and parking garage, which facilitates general ledger entries and post voucher distributions between them.

Inventory purchases go through Sage 500 ERP, too. "Our store buyers love the Purchase Order module," says Vaziri. "They use the replenishment function to automatically determine order quantities. The system even creates suggested order lists. Goods received are immediately entered into the Purchase Order module. With the old system, we couldn't trace transactions until after the inventory arrived. It's great to have all this information automated now."

Security is another aspect Vaziri appreciates. She establishes users based on title, rather than name. As people come and go, she merely assigns a new name to a title, giving the new hire identical access to the person they replaced.

"I really like the look-up and drill-down features in Sage 500 ERP," Vaziri comments. "Now I can go from general ledger and find virtually anything I want, all the way down to the 'view/edit vouchers' screen."

> "Sage 500 ERP represents a heads-and-tails improvement over our old system. Although it's very powerful, it's also straightforward and flexible enough to meet the needs of a diverse organization like ours."
>
> Elizabeth Vaziri, controller
> SFMOMA

Drill-down capabilities have added value to reports for upper management and auditors as well. "We can trace financial statement line items to the actual GL accounts without using a map, which makes us look much better during an audit."

Vaziri says she's glad the museum switched business systems. "Sage 500 ERP is a heads-and-tails improvement over our old system. It's powerful, straightforward, and flexible enough to meet the needs of a diverse organization like ours."

About Sage

Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. At Sage, we live and breathe business every day. We are passionate about helping our customers achieve their ambitions. Our range of business software and services is continually evolving as we innovate to answer our customers' needs. Our solutions support accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services, and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 12,300 people and supports more than 6 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the website at www.SageNorthAmerica.com or call 866-996-7243. Follow Sage North America on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/SageNorthAmerica and Twitter at: http://twitter.com/#!/sagenamerica.

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