

A/V, Lighting, and Staging Considerations

Audio

Source: live or a digital signal (voice, CD, MP3 or MP4)

Output: quality and volume (speaker, recording, streaming)

Between source and output: microphone, mixing board (tweaks), signal processor (altering original file), amplifier (makes signal louder), speakers and monitors (a speaker on its side)

| Wireless vs Wired Microphones | |
|---|---|
| Wired (e.g. handheld mic) | Wireless (e.g. lavalier) |
| Best signal Cabling required Less expensive | Most movement Signal is iffy Power required Equipment and cost |

Questions to ask/answer

1. What type of mood are you trying to create
2. What type and how many sources are you going to have
3. What's the end product?
4. How many people in the audience?
5. What type of space will we be in? (materials and furniture)

Video

Source: film, digital file (video or presentation), live feed (camera, camera operator, lighting required)

Output (size regulated by room): LCD screens, projection (front, rear, or micro portable/desktop), with 16:9 the current format, front row of seats a minimum of two screen heights from the screen

Between source and output: switching/routing systems to save feeds or change between them

Questions to ask/answer

1. What are the sources of visual content?
2. What aspect ratio are they in?
3. What definition are they created in?
4. What output are you looking for?
5. What's the lighting in the space?
6. What's the distance for projection?

Lighting

Environmental: sets a mood or highlights architectural detail

Theatrical or programmatic: facilitates the delivery (tone, hue) and doesn't interfere

Stage or podium wash: general covering of light in an area

| Common Fixtures and Uses | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Type | Use |
| Leko | Hyperfocus of light |
| Gobo | Screens that slip into leko to create patterns (like logos) |
| Par | Very large and powerful for general washes |
| Intelligent | Range of colours and movements |
| LED | Battery and wireless changes (colours/patterns) |

Questions to ask/answer

1. How much power do I need and how much power can I pull? – lighting is more power intense than audio
2. Where do they live?
 - a. Floor mounted (trees - pipe and a base)
 - b. Towers of trussed lights
 - c. Trussed and flown up out of the way (if there are rig points)
3. What cabling do we need and where will it run?
4. How safe will our guests be (tripping hazards, visibility)

Staging

Deck: any surface on legs (lay people call this a stage), often in multipliers of 8 inches, may require stairs and railings

Surfaces: unfinished to carpet, astroturf, marley (a smooth non-slip surface for dancing)

Backdrops: hard set or soft set (drapes, curtains)

Stage set: table, chairs, stools, lectern or podium, props and décor

Questions to ask/answer

1. How big is the space and how high are the ceilings?
2. How many people is this for?
3. How does the space feel and are you working with it, or against it?
4. What needs to happen on stage? (e.g. a client who called 20 people on stage – not everyone can fit)
5. How will presenters and entertainment be getting to and from the stage?
6. What is happening with A/V from above, the sides, and below?