



# Alerus Center

## Grand Forks, North Dakota

**Electrical Construction:** \$4.5 Million

**Year Completed:** 2001

**Project Manager:** Russ Penn

**Architect:** Schoen & Associates/Johnson  
Laffen Architects with Ellerbe Becket

**General Contractor:** GW Sondreal  
Construction



The striking 447,000 square foot Alerus Center is a multi-purpose events and conference center in Grand Forks, ND. Built on 50.7 acres of land, the building has an arena large enough to host football games and concerts of up to 22,000 as well as a conference center complete with separate meeting rooms and a ballroom that can be subdivided into 5 separate spaces. The building also has a full kitchen facility along with seven concession stands.

Bergstrom Electric was awarded the project in July of 1999 and immediately set up a 60-foot office trailer to accommodate its on-site team, enabling the company to provide all design changes quickly with having their autocad designer right on-site.

Electrical components of the facility include three main distribution panels, two rated at 3,000 amps and one at 2,000 amps. A 1,400-kilowatt standby generator provides emergency power. The event-area lighting has 596 1,000-watt catwalk-mounted fixtures and 32 900-watt emergency-system fixtures. Conduit and cable tray

systems for the data and telephone systems were provided, with cable tray systems encompassing the entire lower level of the event area as well as the upper catwalk systems.

By the completion of the project, Bergstrom had provided more than 60,000 staff hours of labor and more than \$500,000 in change orders while finishing the job more than two months ahead of schedule. As many as 34 employees were working on-site at any given time on this massive project, the largest electrical project ever bid by the City of Grand Forks.

**Bergstrom received an Award of Excellence from ABC Minnesota in 2001 for their work on the Alerus Center project.**

