



CALARTS FOSTERS
COLLABORATIVE &

ULTRA-FAST WORKFLOW

Covering the campus with enterprise-grade storage

Supporting a wide range of student interests, CalArts is delivering multiple production assets and tools to their students via OpenDrives enterprise storage solutions. Everything from Adobe Premiere Pro editing suites to multiple Wacom Cintiq computer graphic & 3D labs to graphic design labs are being shared and accelerated with OpenDrives.





The Challenge

The California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) is fulfilling one of the deepest held dreams of its famous founders, Walt Disney. Along with his brother, Roy O. Disney, and Nelbert Chouinard, founder of the renowned Chouinard Arts Institute, Walt envisioned a school dedicated to fostering future generations of creative talent—one which was built around the real-life experience of working artists, rather than an ivory tower steeped in academic theory. This new school would be a multidisciplinary community of the arts, which tore down the traditional boundaries between creative disciplines and encouraged artists to mix and collaborate as a way of sparking new ideas and methods.

Over the last six decades, CalArts has grown into much more than its famous founders could have anticipated. At the bleeding edge of contemporary artistic thought and practice, CalArts has become a world-renowned institution and epicenter of artistic innovation. It has a wide programmatic scope, encompassing the traditional arts as well

as film, computer animation, digital design, and other emerging media.

The School of Film/Video, in particular, has come to have a significant influence on the industry, educating much of the emerging production and post-production talent now fueling the explosive growth in media and entertainment. With many of the world's preeminent filmmakers among its alumni, and crops of young visionaries being added to the ranks, CalArts is well-positioned to make lasting contributions to the film and entertainment arts for generations to come. Students are constantly pushing the envelope of artistic innovation and this demanding environment requires an enterprise data storage infrastructure geared toward speed, performance, bandwidth, and scalability. With over 400 students depending on the school's IT infrastructure to support their large volume of projects and high-intensity workflows, CalArts needed an enterprise-grade storage solution and turned to OpenDrives.

“We run all creative applications on OpenDrives shared storage experience ultra-fast project load times and reliability like no other systems. OpenDrives allows CalArts students to collaborate in real-time and have access to their projects when they need them.”

— Nathan Crow
Director of Technology,
CalArts School of Film and Video



The Solution

CalArts students can rest assured that the OpenDrives storage solution underpinning the entire campus will meet their needs for capacity and speed every single time, without performance-related issues impeding their educational pursuits in film, video, and entertainment. In this highly dynamic environment that sees complete re-provisioning of student storage accounts each semester, our solution grows and adapts with the school's needs.

OpenDrives provided a powerful hybrid flash storage solution that combines efficient SSD and cost-effective HDD technology. Our solutions are intended to support the most challenging and technologically advanced workflows for high resolution video and images. They are designed with flexibility and interoperability in mind, a true "production studio in a box" that can accommodate concurrent workflows including video editing, VFX, and color

grading. CalArts uses the OmniDrive media accelerator in the hybrid system to deliver superior cache management specifically designed to optimize high-throughput workflows. Additionally, CalArts uses OpenDrives' all-HDD solution to manage their project archives, which are now centralized and easily accessible in one place.

The Value

OpenDrives is dedicated to supporting CalArts to fulfill its mission of excellence in arts education within a highly collaborative, technology-driven creative environment. Rather than worrying about the underlying storage infrastructure and whether it can keep up with their pace of innovation, students and faculty can now focus on leveraging it to drive their creativity forward. We are deeply committed to all of our customers, and to be part of the next generation's formative artistic development is a particularly meaningful charter for us. It's more than just business for OpenDrives—it's our way of opening up horizons for all users.