

## Challenge:

Protect a unique permanent exhibition that displays one man's life-long passion for the Great American Circus, within the new John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Circus Museum's Tibbals Learning Center.



### THE MISSION CRITICAL CLIENT:

Howard Tibbals, an artisan who has dedicated the past 50 years to handcrafting a meticulously detailed 1/16th life-size model of a Traveling Circus and provided funds for the 30,600 sq. ft. Tibbals Learning Center to permanently showcase his masterpiece, as well as a vast collection of vintage posters, photos and other related artifacts.

### THE FIRE PROTECTION OBJECTIVE:

Protecting a national treasure—even a miniature one—is no small undertaking. Exhibited in a 3,800 sq. ft. glass enclosure some two-stories tall, this magnum opus is the world's largest model of its kind. Complete, yet discreet, fire protection was paramount for this client. Because the project required the installation of components within the display units, it was essential the system deliver the highest quality performance without stealing the show.

### THE FENWAL SOLUTION:

Upon review of the hazard analysis the Fenwal distributor, Borrell Fire Systems, Inc., working with Consulting Engineering Associates, Inc., specified the Fenwal FM-200<sup>®</sup> System which is capable of discharging at a lower mass flow rate. Borrell Fire Systems, Inc. knew the Fenwal FM-200 System would minimize the increase of pressure within the glass enclosures thus reducing the risk of damage to the displays in the event of a discharge incident. To accommodate the aesthetic needs of the project, Borrell's designer incorporated multiple Fenwal spheres hidden above the ceiling spaces to reduce pipe size. In addition, low-profile discharge nozzles were painted and located "in the clouds" to blend in with the exhibit's installation.

Borrell Fire Systems, Inc. selected the FenwalNET<sup>®</sup> 2000 Control Unit to manage the multiple components of the Fenwal system—a microprocessor-based networkable fire protection control system. The FenwalNET 2000 provides optimum speed and reliability by operating within a unique "distributed intelligence" architecture that disperses the processing power throughout the system with a microprocessor, memory and software in each component.

### RESULTS:

**The museum was pleased with the aesthetic incorporation of the system, as well as peace of mind knowing the artifacts would be protected 24/7.**

For more information on the Tibbals Learning Center visit: [http://www.ringling.org/circus\\_museum.asp](http://www.ringling.org/circus_museum.asp)

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