



Grainger Hall of Gems at the Field Museum, Chicago, IL.

BAND NEWSLETTER

April 2010

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our museum clients up to date on changes occurring in the museum lighting field. Band, Inc, has broadened its offerings to include not only fiber optics but LED and LEP lighting as well. We will keep you abreast of new field-driven inventions for you, the museum professional to consider when faced with similar exhibit challenges.

Each newsletter will feature a descriptive story about our experience with a museum installation...what the client was hoping to achieve, the considerations of space, light levels, case dimensions etc. We will then describe how we determined the best solution for each installation.



Gold Figurines



Amethysts

Our first feature in this series is the Grainger Hall of Gems located in the Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois. After successfully designing, lighting and installing this gallery ten years ago, the museum asked Band to create an entirely new exhibit experience. The lighting designers had several objectives, namely, the dramatic lighting of individual gems and specimens, illuminated text panels and complementary ambient lighting.





Elbaite Tourmalines

Using the Field Museum’s elegant gallery design as inspiration, Band, Inc. engineered a hybrid fiber optic and LED lighting system... a 3-tiered lighting approach. We took fiber optic light bars and lens fixtures and integrated them with LED line sources and illuminated panels. Band then custom fabricated modular drawer systems to enable the Field’s lighting designers to move and modify their lighting design program at their discretion.

Finally, to address the smallest gem and mineral specimens, Band engineered its proprietary zoom tube technology incorporating laboratory lens optics to permit a beam of light to be focused on a diameter the size of a dime (see photo).



Above: The freestanding diamond case features lightbar stanchions that span across the case front and wash the case interior with a cool white light.



Albite-Anorthite Sunstone pendant





Natural Red Coral

BAND MH150 Illuminate
and model delicate coral structures



North Atlantic Red Coral



Polished White Opals

The results were an unprecedented level of performance with state-of-the-art interchangeability to serve the museum's exhibition needs for its world class collection for many years to come.

