

PlanGrid Customer Success Story:

Ardent Construction

PROJECT SPECS

Avg Budget: \$2,470,000

Type of work: Small Commercial

Company type: General Contractor

PlanGrid license: 3-4 users

Region: Texas

AVERAGE SAVINGS

Labor and schedule savings \$27,500

Paper and printing savings \$2,000

Rework savings \$32,500

Total savings \$62,000

Cost of PlanGrid \$1,020

Savings as % of contract 2.46%

Return on investment (ROI) 8,192%

From paper to productivity

Ardent Construction began using PlanGrid after Jake Brown, lead Project Manager, tried it out in 2013. Brown was impressed with how easy PlanGrid was—both to use, and to implement. “PlanGrid was the only vendor that worked for our scope and size,” he said. “Everyone else required very high upfront costs.”

Brown cites PlanGrid as crucial to providing his colleagues with a resource that helps them work more efficiently. Using PlanGrid, Ardent Construction employees always have the latest plan versions at their fingertips; there are no more excuses about not having the current set. Brown believes that this accountability alone makes up for the cost of PlanGrid, and the financial return on investment is a bonus.

“It’s about time and money and doing things right the first time. Not screwing stuff up on the job leads to huge savings.”

—Jake Brown, Project Manager and Estimator Ardent Construction, LLC

Project 1: Uncle Julio’s Restaurant

This \$2.7 million, 150 day project required Ardent Construction to build a new prototype of Uncle Julio’s Mexican restaurant in Katy, Texas, and they uploaded all drawings and renderings to PlanGrid from the very beginning. Design and layout inconsistencies required quick revisions and tight collaboration between the Architect, Owner, Owner’s Rep, Project Manager, Superintendent, and Foreman (all of whom used PlanGrid).

Project budget: \$2,650,000

Labor and schedule savings	\$30,000
Paper and printing savings	\$2,000
Rework savings	\$50,000
Total savings	\$82,000
Cost of PlanGrid	\$600
Savings as % of contract	3%
Return on investment (ROI)	13,567%

Project 2: Friendswood Public Library

At time of publication, Ardent is still working on this project.

This \$2.3 million, 400 day project involves remodeling, adding on to, and completing new construction in Friendswood, Texas. The unique challenge of this project presented itself when Ardent Construction discovered that the existing conditions were not as depicted in the original plans. They used PlanGrid to create asbuilts to reflect existing conditions, get the latest drawings to field workers, and to document changes with photos and markups.

Project budget: \$2,290,000

Labor and schedule savings	\$25,000
Paper and printing savings	\$2,000
Rework savings	\$15,000
Total savings	\$42,000
Cost of PlanGrid	\$1,440
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Savings as % of contract	2%
Return on investment (ROI)	2,817%

Labor and Schedule

Project 1: Uncle Julio's Restaurant

This project had three PlanGrid users: one Superintendent, one Foreman, and one Project Manager. PlanGrid dramatically increased the team's efficiency, allowing them to get home earlier each day and see more of their families. Uncle Julio's was completed 2.5 weeks (18 days) faster than planned, saving Brown \$20,000 from the overall budget, and allowing him to move on to his next project ahead of schedule.

In addition to the savings in labor, Ardent saved about \$10,000 on 18 days worth of administrative costs (e.g. office trailer, equipment, overhead).

Project 2: Friendswood Public Library

At time of publication, Ardent is still working on this project.

This project includes three users: one Superintendent, one Foreman, and one Project Manager. While public projects are typically more slow paced than private ones, Brown suggested that PlanGrid helped shave off at least 2-3 weeks of the project in the early phases of site and concrete work.

The savings in both labor and general conditions have so far amounted to about \$25,000.

Rework

Project 1: Uncle Julio's Restaurant

Having to self-perform dirt, concrete, and carpentry on this job, it was crucial that Ardent did things right the first time. Thanks to PlanGrid, they had zero foundation issues, minimal regrading on earthwork, and minimal carpentry rework. Ardent estimates they saved \$50,000 on rework costs—all thanks to PlanGrid. “We ended up making a lot more on this job than anticipated,” Brown said.

Project 2: Friendswood Public Library

At time of publication, Ardent is still working on this project.

Ardent self-performs concrete, storm, and dirt work. They estimate PlanGrid has so far saved them about \$15,000 by having the correct plans accessible at all times.

Paper and printing

On both projects, Ardent saved approximately \$2,000 by cutting down their physical plan sets by half. Prior to PlanGrid, they would print half sets to walk the site and a full set for each person on the job. Now they only print a set to keep on site for inspectors (and a bid set for the office), and do most of their referencing on PlanGrid, using a computer, iPad, or iPhone.

Empowering the field

Reflecting on their newfound productivity, Brown is excited about empowering his team with PlanGrid. For him, that means answering fewer questions about issues, and focusing more time on contracts, bidding, and estimating. It also means knowing that everyone is equipped to do the job right: “We all like doing our jobs right and having a good relationship with each other. Having PlanGrid means you don't have to tell someone they messed up or did the wrong job.”

Cost of PlanGrid

Project 1: Uncle Julio's Restaurant

This team already had computers, iPads, and iPhones with which to use PlanGrid, so they only needed to purchase PlanGrid licenses.

3 PlanGrid licences

5 month duration

Total cost: \$600

Project 2: Friendswood Public Library

At time of publication, Ardent is still working on this project.

This team already had computers, iPads, and iPhones with which to use PlanGrid, so they only needed to purchase PlanGrid licenses.

3 PlanGrid licences

12 month duration

Total cost: \$1,440