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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contemporary Craft Will Move to New $5.5 Million Home in Upper Lawrenceville**

**PITTSBURGH (February 14, 2019) --** Contemporary Craft (CC) is buying a permanent home in Pittsburgh’s Lawrenceville neighborhood.

The building’s purchase and renovation will be a $5.5 million investment in the future of arts and culture in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Its new home will be at 5645 Butler Street\* in a former manufacturing facility. CC will own and operate a 13,500 square-foot facility, which includes a 2,500 square-foot exhibition space, a total of 1,800 square feet of flexible studio space for workshops and lectures, an 1,100 square-foot retail space, and a visitor’s lounge. Construction is slated to begin in July with a grand opening planned for March 2020.

State, county, and local elected officials joined Pittsburgh’s arts and tourism leaders, neighborhood organizations, and CC’s board and staff to celebrate the announcement of this transformational move by one of the region’s leading arts organizations. “Our new home represents a transformational moment for Contemporary Craft” said Janet McCall, Executive Director, Contemporary Craft. “We have an opportunity now to reach an even wider audience for our diverse range of nationally-renowned exhibitions, further our commitment to local artists, and expand our extensive public and student education and outreach activities.”

Founded in 1971, CC seeks to engage the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft with core focuses on sharing cross-cultural perspectives, using art to build community, providing vital support for artists, and filling critical gaps in public education. Its free admission policy provides accessibility to all in the community and beyond. CC is an international tourist attraction, valued regional arts education resource, accessible local makerspace, and unique shopping destination all under one roof. CC was recognized with an Award of Distinction in 2018 by the American Craft Council -- one of only a few organizations to receive this honor in the United States -- and the only one in Pittsburgh.

“Contemporary Craft will become the cultural gateway for Upper Lawrenceville,” said Matthew Galluzzo, Executive Director, Lawrenceville Corporation. By relocating, CC’s annual economic impact of $3.9 million will help revitalize Upper Lawrenceville, a historically industrial area that is already an incubator for many entrepreneurs and artisans. “Clustering” with other creative businesses and makers will amplify the creative synergy and arts collaborations within the community, increase foot traffic, and have a positive economic impact for all.

(more)

Within the 33 years it has been located in the historic Produce Terminal Building in the Strip District, CC’s current home, the organization has curated more than 250 exhibitions by more

than 2,400 artists, produced more than 80 exhibition catalogs and brochures, offered hundreds of artist-led workshops and education programs, established a satellite exhibition space in the Cultural District of Downtown Pittsburgh, and developed an innovative slate of community outreach programs for at-risk children and families, the elderly, and those experiencing homelessness.

“Contemporary Craft is one of Pittsburgh’s cultural gems—and with this major relocation to Lawrenceville, the organization has the opportunity to shine like never before,” said Mitch Swain, CEO, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. “The $5.5 million capital project is a major investment in rejuvenating a bit of Pittsburgh's industrial past while supporting cultural, environmental, and economic vitality with an annual $3.9 million impact on the city's future.”

The organization will continue to operate out of its current space in the Strip District until the end of 2019.

\*Edits: On May 24, 2019, the City of Pittsburgh Addressing Committee has verified the change of address on the permanent home of Contemporary Craft as 5645 Butler Street instead of its old address 5637 Butler Street.

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