

## BUILDING FACT SHEET

**BACKGROUND** Contemporary Craft (CC)—an internationally recognized and celebrated arts organization—purchased a former industrial building at 5645 Butler Street in Upper Lawrenceville in February 2019. Previously, the space was a light manufacturing facility for trophies and plaques.

The organization left its Strip District home of 34 years because of the commercial redevelopment of the historic Produce Terminal Building. In anticipation of the move to Upper Lawrenceville, Contemporary Craft closed to the public in October 2019 and left the Strip District location at the end of that year.

Renovation of CC's new home was to be completed by April 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its opening was postponed until September 2020.

The new Butler Street location is a highly visible eye-catching and welcoming arts center. The dramatic front entrance announces Contemporary Craft as a cultural landmark and destination in Upper Lawrenceville. Every aspect of the space is designed to enhance the visitor experience and audience engagement.

**PROJECT** \$5.5 million

**COSTS** Includes building and renovation

**PROJECT** Architects – GBBN Architects

**PARTNERS** General Contractor – JENDOCO Construction Corporation

**BUILDING** The total facility is approximately 13,000 square feet:

**FOOTPRINT**

- 2,500 sq. ft. of Gallery space for world-class innovative exhibitions.
- 1,800 sq. ft. of Studio space in three flexible spaces for classes, workshops, lectures, and artist community gatherings. Large windows in the studios provide natural light and window displays.
- 1,100 sq. ft. of retail space for The Store, a marketplace featuring established and emerging artists that is an important revenue source for Contemporary Craft and a haven for collectors.
- Staff and administrative offices on the ground floor and mezzanine level.

**SUSTAINABLE DESIGN** Sustainable design standards were tracked to achieve LEED Silver equivalency, which includes:

**DESIGN**

- The double-doored vestibule ensures that conditioned air stays in the building, helping to limit energy consumption. The walk-off mat in the vestibule traps dirt, keeping it in the vestibule and out of the building.
- Light fixtures utilize low-energy LED light bulbs.
- The skylight cut into the building brings natural daylight and a view to the sky. Large windows in the studios and gallery transform the former industrial space into a space for art that is comfortable for people.
- The natural wood grid ceiling in the gallery is salvaged from Contemporary Craft's previous location. The grid supports light exhibit partitions that are rearranged and re-used for changing exhibitions, reducing material waste.
- Lighted display cases that are adjacent to a canopied visitor rest area along with other cabinets in the studio and offices have been repurposed and relocated from the Strip District location.
- Plumbing fixtures are low flow fixtures that reduce water consumption by 25% of the calculated baseline estimated for standard fixtures.
- Insulation was added to the building walls and to the roof to provide maximum human comfort and to protect the artwork while minimizing energy consumption for heating and cooling. Site energy use is modeled and anticipated to be 32.4% less than the baseline condition.

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

- The exterior *Braddock Steel* mural is by internationally renowned street artist Swoon. The vertical piece is installed using a wheat-paste technique on the "orange slice" side of the building as a way to make Contemporary Craft more visible from the east.
- The scanimation panel on the building exterior is a permanent installation that defines the entrance. It animates sound waves that proclaim 'Art is Life,' visible as one moves along the façade of the building. The low-tech strategy known as barrier-grid animation originated in the late 1890s and is updated at Contemporary Craft through intentionally crafted digital design and fabrication techniques.
- Exterior benches, designed by artist Tadao Arimoto, are made of black locust and set on natural rock boulders. The main bench is located under the exterior scanimation panel with the second, more rustic bench, placed in a small meditation garden along the garage wall. According to the artist, the two benches relate to one another as inhalation (main

- entrance bench) and exhalation (garden bench).
- Bike rack of enameled steel, designed and produced by Techniques, features the new Contemporary Craft logo. It is located the Butler Street sidewalk near the front entrance.
  - Bones and All craftspeople Kelsey Henson and Zak Kruszynski made the custom L-shaped upholstered bench in the Visitors' Lounge. The bench and corner tables are made of soft maple with an ultra-flat water white finish.
  - Sculptural light fixture, *Sea Dreams*, in the Visitors Lounge is a boat made by furniture artist Steve Whittlesey from salvaged pine. The piece was relocated from Contemporary Craft's former home.
  - Custom woodworker Joe Kelly, who is based in CC's new neighborhood in Lawrenceville, designed the reception desk. The maple used in the desk, as well as two lighted jewelry cases, is locally sourced spalted maple.
  - Hanging above the reception desk are hand-blown light fixtures created at the Pittsburgh Glass Center by glass artist Jason Forck and Christopher Hofmann.
  - A bump out ceiling window is above the steel staircase leading to the administrative offices. Adjacent to the staircase is a fountain display area for objects available for sale in The Store.
  - Throughout the building there are feature pieces by nationally known craft artists on display including a Wendell Castle gallery seat and Jim Rose steel quilted chest.