

BUFFALO AKG ART MUSEUM
OMA / SHOHEI SHIGEMATSU

Project New building and campus renovation
Location 1285 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14222 USA
Site Elmwood Avenue Campus; situated at the edge of Delaware Park

Timeline

2012	Masterplan Competition
2016	Competition
2019	Groundbreaking
2023	Completion

Program *Jeffrey E. Gundlach Building and John J. Albright Bridge (new)*

Gallery	27,200 ft ²	2,530 m ²
Promenade/Terrace	6,100 ft ²	570 m ²
Indoor Public Space	13,800 ft ²	1,280 m ²
Services/Loading/Storage	7,000 ft ²	650 m ²
MEP/Back-of-House	16,800 ft ²	1,560 m ²
Underground Parking (80 spots)	27,200 ft ²	2,530 m ²
Total Area	98,300 ft²	9,140 m²

Campus, Robert and Elisabeth Wilmers Building, and Seymour H. Knox Building Renovation

Total Area	55,200 ft²	5,128 m²
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Height 65' (Gundlach Building)

SITE HISTORY

- **1868:** Delaware Park by Frederick Law Olmsted; one of the 3 largest parks in Buffalo
- **1905:** Albright Art Gallery construction completed; Opened to the public as Buffalo Art Academy's permanent home
 - o The Neoclassical building by Edward B. Green (now the Robert and Elisabeth Wilmers Building), was meant to serve as 1901 Pan American Exposition's Fine Arts Pavilion
- **1962:** Gordon Bunshaft/SOM modernist addition (now the Seymour H. Knox Building); more galleries, auditorium, outdoor sculpture court, members room
 - o Entrance shifted to 1962 building, demolished original 1905 stair and replaced with surface parking lot

ELMWOOD AVENUE CAMPUS

- New building adds **30,000 sf** of prime gallery space
- New Above grade education spaces **4,837 sf**
- Renovated Knox Building with **5 studio classrooms**
 - o **Children & Family Classroom – 532 sf**
 - o **Access AKG Classroom – 541 sf**
 - o **Multifunction Classroom – 532 sf**
 - o **Drawing & Painting Classroom – 1,596 sf**
 - o **Tech & Digital Arts Classroom – 632 sf**

JEFFREY E. GUNDLACH BUILDING (NORTH BUILDING)

- **13 new galleries** totaling **27,200 sf**
- **Gallery sizes** ranging from: **861 sf (F2 Gallery J) to 7,530 sf (F3 Gallery M)**
- **1,500 cubic yards** of concrete were poured in an 8-hr period for the **15,000 sf foundation**
- New 86,000gsf ground up building enclosed in glass and marble.
 - o Marble is Vermont Danby quarried from the same place as the marble used at the Knox Building.
- 27,000sf Gallery and 6,100sf Sculpture Terrace
- Campus Mechanical Plant in the sub-basement

Veil and Façade

- Glass façade has over 540 glass panels
- The facade frame acts as infrastructural support for the galleries; sprinkler lines, track lighting, art hanging, and shades are integrated into the veil mullion structure
- Total tons of steel = **250 tons**
- Total tons of glass = **330 tons**
- Total SF of glass = **47,500 sf**
- Total # of glass lites = **540**
- The largest glass panel (at WT-4 skylight) is approx. **26.3' x 6.6'** and weighs approx. **2 tons** itself
- The longest WT-4 steel mullion has **52.5'** length and weighs approx. **2.9 tons**
- The ground level exterior façade is composed of **White Vermont Danby Montclair marble**

F1

- **5 galleries** totaling **8,795 sf**
- Plus-configuration creates **enfilade galleries**
- Gallery portals are **Montclair Danby honed finish marble**
- South-facing double-height gallery is **38 ft tall**
- **Four corners** house four different programs: Lobby, Ronnen Glass Box Theater, Office and Loading
 - o Lobby (Southwest): **1,800 sf**
 - Reception desk, circulation core, with stair access from underground parking up to F2
 - o Ronnen Glass Box Theater (Northwest): **1,200 sf**
 - Curtain-clad flexible gallery space; can be used for multimedia, performances, and small events
 - o Office (Southeast): **2,700 sf**
 - F1 **1,460 sf** and mezzanine **1,267 sf** levels
 - o Loading (Northeast): **1,202 sf**
 - Adjacent to Iroquois Drive
 - Large freight elevator
 - o **2 freight elevators** – **18' x 10'** clear in plan
- F1 entry and lobby have **light pink terrazzo flooring**
- Floor terrazzo matrix and stone chip color transition gradually from saturated to light in tone from B1 to F3

F2

- Gallery box can be divided into a series of smaller galleries
- **6 galleries** totaling **7,115 sf**
- Floor-to-ceiling height **16 ft**
- F2 gallery is surrounded by the Sculpture Terrace, which includes a lobby and coffee bar
- 360-degree view of the campus: Elmwood Avenue, Hoyt Lake, and Delaware Park
- Exterior of gallery box provides **15,000 sf** of additional gallery wall display
- Sculpture terrace flooring is **grey terrazzo with white chip**
- Entry to Albright Bridge located on East side of the building
- North stair and balcony with views to the Buffalo History Museum

F3

- Open plan box suitable for large scale installations and offer flexibility
- **9,490 sf** of gallery space
- Largest single multi-function gallery: **7,530 sf**
- Floor-to-ceiling height **16 ft**
- **Only two** permanent structural columns, both mirrored and cruciform
- Accessible from F2 promenade stairs at the opposite end of the lobby circulation core

B1 / Parking

- Visitors enter Gundlach building through a circular lobby
- B1 Lobby feature site-specific, textile wall installation by **Miriam Bäckström**
- **Terrazzo floor** color palette complementary to installation
- **80** parking spots
- Underground parking lot provides access to the Gundlach Building

Sub-basement

- **9-custom air handlers**, largest nearly **40,000 pounds**

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT BRIDGE

- Connects Gundlach Building F2 to Wilmers Building (Gallery 17)
- The bridge enters the Wilmers Building through a new opening cut to the size of an existing bay (**8'1" x 16'6"**)
- **9 by 9-foot** clearance facilitates both pedestrian movement and art handling between the old and new gallery space
- ADA-compliant ramp at **1:20 ramp slope**
- Built around a grove of historic oak trees preserved on site
- Column supports are different sizes and placed randomly to blend in with the surrounding trees
- Clad in curving **reflective glazing and polished stainless steel**
- Elevated **max height 15 ft** off the ground
- Total length: **300 ft**

ROBERT & ELISABETH WILMERS BUILDING (1905)

- Updates and improvements: new roof, thorough cleaning (micro-abrasion) of marble façade, new wood flooring
- Historic copper crest along roofline repaired, conserved, and restored during renovation
- Cracked marble flooring of all Wilmers Building galleries replaced with new, warmly-hued red oak flooring enhancing visitor comfort and gallery acoustics, with careful detailing in consideration of the century old terracotta arched flooring below.
- Rehabilitation and replacement of cracked tile in the indoor sculpture court. Hand selected marble that would match marble quarried over a century ago. Carefully selected and replaced over 28% of the tiles.
- Glass coffered ceiling in indoor sculpture court restored to reveal 118 gilt starburst paintings
- Renovation of the ground floor corridor including new restrooms, coat closet and Docent Lounge
- Updated MEP systems including LED lighting, security and access control
- Installed new ADA compliant passenger Elevator
- Installed new Art Lift blending seamlessly with the Gallery floor
- Renovated existing staff restrooms to be ADA compliant
- New roofing and façade restoration led by Thornton Tomasetti

Restored Exterior Stair

- Original 1905 grand staircase was demolished in 1962 to make way for surface parking lot
- Material: over 150 precast concrete panels, matching the **Barre Granite** of historic 1962 plinth

THE GREAT LAWN

- Museum parking moved underground to restore large lawn at the heart of the campus
- **36,360 sf** of new green space open to the public year

SEYMOUR H. KNOX BUILDING (1962)

- Open to the public free of admission year-round
- Renovation of the interior spaces including **3,800 sf** of new classroom studios, **2,000 sf** gallery and a new restaurant/café complete with state-of-the-art kitchen.
- **5** new state-of-the-art classrooms
- **2,000 sf** M&T Bank Gallery
- Cornelia: new restaurant with seating extending out into the South end of the Town Square
 - o Existing office was relocated to make way for restaurant
- Creative Commons, a center for learning and creativity resulting from the first ever philanthropic partnership between the LEGO Foundation and a fine art museum.
- Shop AKG: located on the east side of the Knox building
- **350-seat Stanford and Judith Lipsey Auditorium**
- New Roofing on main level and Auditorium
- Restoration of the Existing West vestibule including new HVAC, flooring, and foundation.
- New East Vestibule connecting the building to the Olmstead Park and allowing .
- New HVAC ,FP, lighting, security and access control.

RALPH C. WILSON JR. TOWN SQUARE

- Existing entry vestibule from East is preserved
- New West entry from Delaware Park establishes connection from city to park through Town Square
- Large swinging windowed door allows activities of Knox Building to spill out into the courtyard
- Site specific installation, *Common Sky* by Olafur Eliasson and Sebastian Behmann of Studio Other Spaces, encloses the original open-air courtyard for year-round use
 - o The double-layer, domed steel roof structure is made of primed and painted architecturally exposed structural steel, glazed with **clear and partially mirror-coated glass**, supported around its perimeter by the existing, reinforced structural columns surrounding the 1962 courtyard space.
 - o The canopy terminates in, and is supported by, a trunk-shaped 'funnel' structure fixed to the floor of the existing courtyard. **Triangular mirror-foiled acoustic panels** are attached to the inner layer profiles of the roof structure.
 - o The various angles of the mirrors cast complex, kaleidoscopic reflections that frame unexpected views as people move around the courtyard below.
 - o The entire glass and steel structure of *Common Sky* is **28.6m (ca. 94') long, 27.8m (ca.91') wide, and 7m (ca. 23') high**