



Excellence in Planning and Design

2009 Land Development Award



## FINE ARTS CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Whitpain Township

The Fine Arts Center of Montgomery County Community College, located on the main campus in Whitpain Township, earned a 2009 Land Development Award for successful building renovation and expansion. This project is recognized for its preservation and renovation efforts, effective site planning, complementary architecture, and well-designed sculpture garden.

### History

The building was previously used as a dairy barn until it was converted to a facility for fine arts instruction. The

renovation and expansion of this facility was identified as a key priority in the 2002-2010 college master plan. The project included renovating the existing art barn and silos and adding 21,468 square feet of new classroom, studio, and gallery space. This facility, which successfully expanded the fine arts program, opened to students in spring of 2009.

### Design Elements

The old art barn, including its signature silos, was extensively restored. A 2-story central gallery building



and spacious studio building were added to the barn to create the new center. The building expansion respects the past while responding to contemporary needs. Using complementary building materials, such as stone and wood, pitched roofs, window styles, and architectural details, the new addition successfully blends the old and new structures.

### Sculpture Garden

The large landscaped center of a traffic circle, used for access to the Fine Arts Center, was transformed into an attractive site amenity known as the Thompson Circle. The grounds surrounding the new Fine Arts Center were designed as a sculpture garden. The garden is attractively landscaped and features the work of the late Leon Sitarchuk, a noted local sculptor and painter in the modernist style. The central feature of the garden is the Thompson Circle, which was designed with pathways, grassy knolls, wooden pergolas, a stone plaza with seating, and carefully placed sculptures. Sculptures are also artfully placed in front of the building and in small pocket gardens, as well as an enclosed garden area used for informal gatherings.





**Amenities**

The attractive Fine Arts Center is connected to the rest of the campus by a new pedestrian bridge, which was constructed over an existing stream. Other notable design features include a covered building entry, naturalized stormwater management, attractive lighting, and landscaping.

The Fine Arts Center is an excellent example of how to preserve and expand older buildings in a way that respects the past while providing for contemporary needs. The center, with its appealing architecture and inviting sculpture garden, is an asset to the college campus and the community.



## Location

Dekalb Pike  
Whitpain Township  
Montgomery County

## Project Data

### Land Use

Institutional - Educational

### Tract Size

4 acres of 190-acre site

### Building Size

21,468-square-foot addition and  
9,610 square feet of restored space

## Key Features

- Preservation and renovation efforts
- Well-designed public spaces
- Effective site planning

## Owner/Developer

Montgomery County Community College  
340 Dekalb Pike  
Blue Bell, PA 19422

## Architect

Kramer/Marks Architects, P.C.  
156 South Bethlehem Pike  
Ambler, PA 19002

## Engineer

STV Group, Inc  
205 West Welsh Drive  
Douglassville, PA 19518

## Landscape Architect

DePallo Design & Planning, LLC  
320 Fayette Street  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

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