

FACILITIES

The Facilities Department spent half of Fiscal Year 2023 renovating and restoring The Athenaeum's facility as two very significant projects broke ground and were completed during this time period. The second half focused on the return of operations and normalizing procedures.

EXTERIOR PRESERVATION PROJECT

With generous funding from the William B. Dietrich Foundation, The Athenaeum addressed long standing needs of our National Historic Landmark building's facade. Under the skilled leadership of Scott Kreilick, Noah Yoder, Troy Williams and team at Kreilick Conservation, LLC, the masonry was completely cleaned, old patches were removed and corrected and the entire lower course of stone was replaced with new cast stone. Damaged relief elements were recreated, and the entire building was repointed. New exterior lighting was installed to illuminate the face of the building, and existing lamps were restored.

While the building was scaffolded, all of the exterior woodwork was repaired and repainted using building reserve funds. (The Athenaeum also installed a new roof in late fall, 2021.)



In June 2023, the Athenaeum was awarded a **Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia Grand Jury Award** and in August of 2023, Preservation

Pennsylvania announced that The Athenaeum would receive the **Leadership Award for Stewardship** at the **Preservation Pennsylvania's** 2023 PA Historic Preservation Awards (in October 2023).



21st CENTURY ATHENAEUM INTERIOR PROJECT

As part of the 21st Century Athenaeum Campaign generously supported by Athenaeum members, the board approved the first phase of its long-range master plan, created by KieranTimberlake. Haverstick Borthwick won the contract to handle the renovations. Marguerite Rodgers Interior Design led the interior design. The Campaign addressed the first floor spaces, Reading Room and third floor staff spaces.

The renovations combined the front three, first floor, northernmost rooms into a welcoming **Member Lounge** with reception, newspapers and periodicals, comfortable seating and coffee/tea station.



In **The Dorothy W. and F. Otto Haas Gallery**, the street and stairwell facing windows were exposed after years of being walled up; neutral carpeting, new track lighting and an external hanging system were installed; and the two chandeliers were moved across the hall into the new Member Lounge.



The **Executive Director's office** moved to the former member lounge. The two Paul Cret bookcases gifted by H2L2 Architects were brought out of storage. As they were in poor condition, Staack Moore Woodworking were able to use pieces of both to make one, and it was installed in the Executive Director's Office. The remaining pieces are stored onsite at the Athenaeum for future restoration and installation during a future phase.



In the **Reading Room**, we lifted the floor to install an influx of floor mounted electrical outlets and relocated the librarian's desk two window wells to the west. New book displays were designed by KieranTimberlake and built by Staack Moore Woodworking. Furniture was returned to service from storage, and the room reconfigured. Modifications to 2 tables created accessible workstations.



The **3rd floor east rooms** were renovated to create a healthy work space for staff, with the addition of a kitchenette and heat and the removal of wall partitions. Workstations were configured using existing furnishings.



Before renovations could begin, staff cleared out rooms and disposed of years of accumulated hoarding - common in old and venerable institutions like ours - in order to accommodate the storage of Athenaeum objects and supplies during the construction process. As renovations finished, the Facilities, Collections and Library Departments combined forces to restore the previously sequestered collections objects, recraft spaces and relaunch operations, staff offices, public areas and workstations after construction. The resurrection of the office and storage spaces is still ongoing although this work is nearing its end.

DILWORTH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PROGRESS PICTURES



The next door condominium construction, hereafter referred to as Dilworth Astoban, is another project having a major impact on The Athenaeum. With the help of Keast & Hood, we have been monitoring the construction sites' effect

on The Athenaeum. There have been no consequences as of yet to The Athenaeum. The construction has necessitated a move of our Liebert Condenser units in the back of our building. Astoban's construction company, Dale Corp, has provided a canopy over our rear entrance to protect our visitors from construction accidents.

OTHER JULY 2022-JUNE 2023 BUILDING PROJECTS IN BRIEF

- Mechanical service outlet, repaired on roof
- Ice breakers on roof replaced
- Busch room lamps changed to LED
- New Stage for Busch Room built
- HVAC: various Liebert repairs vault and gallery
- Fios line for internet run into building
- Steam: redesign of condensate trap, to keep basement areas cooler in summer
- Steam: trap repair
- Steam: insulation of pipes in basement