



Foellinger Foundation

Honoring a legacy.

Submission Category: Interior Architecture Under \$5 Million

Project Type: Offices for Charitable Foundation

Project Cost: \$3.6M

Project Address: 520 E. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Date of Substantial Completion: January 20, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Serving the community since 1958, the Foellinger Foundation was formed to support Allen County's nonprofit organizations through grants, leadership training, conferences, and additional support. In 1990, the organization built a new headquarters in downtown Fort Wayne to house their staff and host public meetings and events. However, as their discussions and approaches to their funders leveraged to better serve the community changed over the years – the original Foundation building remained virtually untouched.

Inspired by the notion of creating a vibrant and interactive space for both staff and funded organizations, the design challenges for the proposed renovation focused on two primary components: (1) reconsider staff workspaces to serve as both an attraction and retention tool for a growing team and (2) fit-out the unfinished basement area into a communal gathering space capable of hosting large events and programs.

The project was committed to strengthen the Foundations ability to serve the community while honoring the legacy of its founders. By expanding and modernizing the building's interior, the organization has encouraged activity between grantees and community members – generating momentum for positive change and offering a platform for continued dialogue within the region.



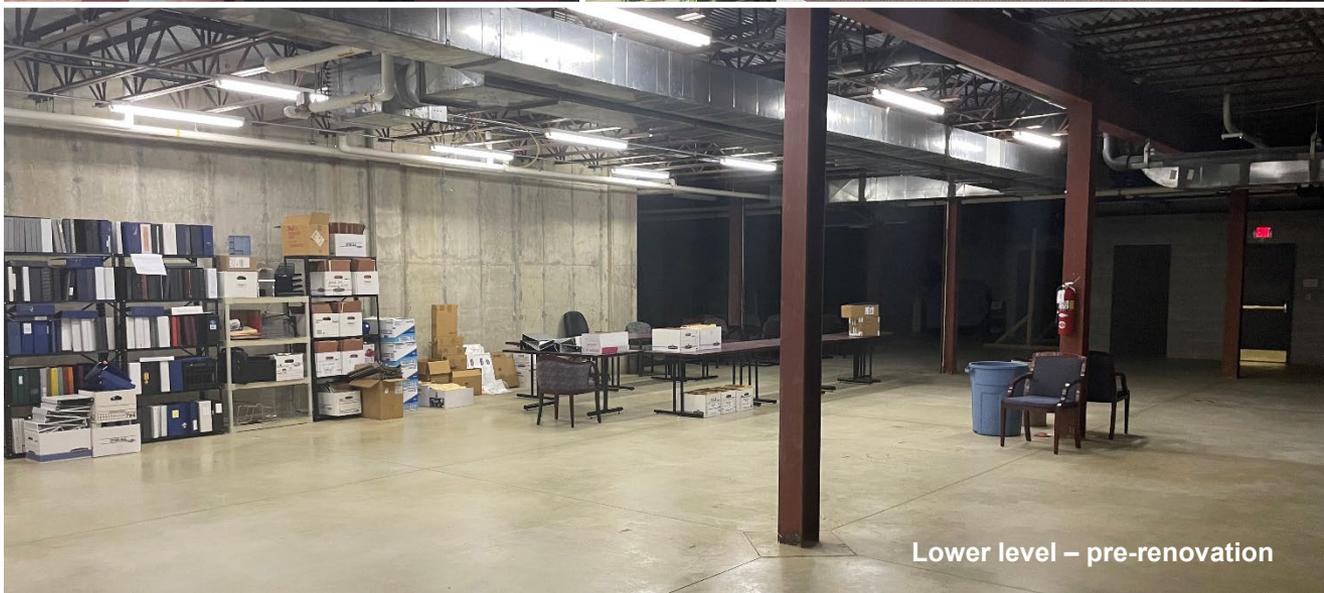
Main level – pre-renovation



Staff office – pre-renovation



Lobby and reception desk – pre-renovation



Lower level – pre-renovation

DESIGN APPROACH



ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

The renovation of the Foellinger Foundation presented an opportunity to reignite the excitement surrounding the mission of the organization and preserve the legacy of the long-standing charitable foundation. The focus on the project's design approach centers itself around a theme of "transparency" – both in terms of the building itself and the connection between the community and the staff.

The design of the original building utilized a collection of large format skylights that served the first floor. However, over the years the views from these skylights were obstructed from both staff and the visiting public. To strengthen the access to these features and expand the amount of natural light throughout the space, the renovation looked to redefine the organization of the building.

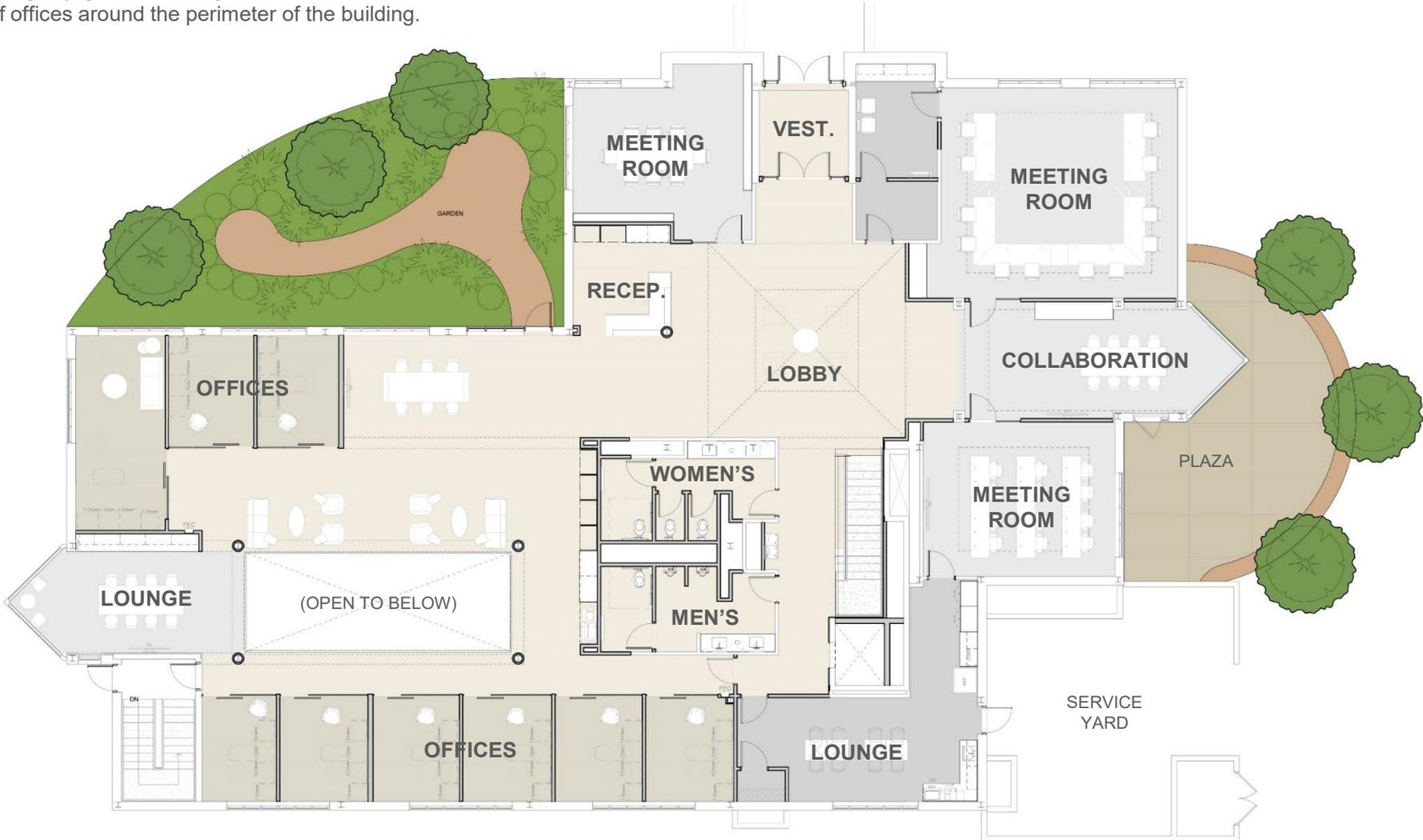
The first strategy was to remove a large section of the first floor (directly below a large, existing skylight) to allow daylight to flood the basement level. Additionally, new office spaces were equipped with full-height glass partitions, and a collection of collaborative spaces were scattered throughout the building.

The former fire stair was repositioned to expose a new public elevator and accommodate a reconfigured monumental stair, inviting the public to the lower-level communal spaces while a series of colorful, locally inspired murals serve as wayfinding elements throughout the building.

FLOOR PLAN

MAIN LEVEL

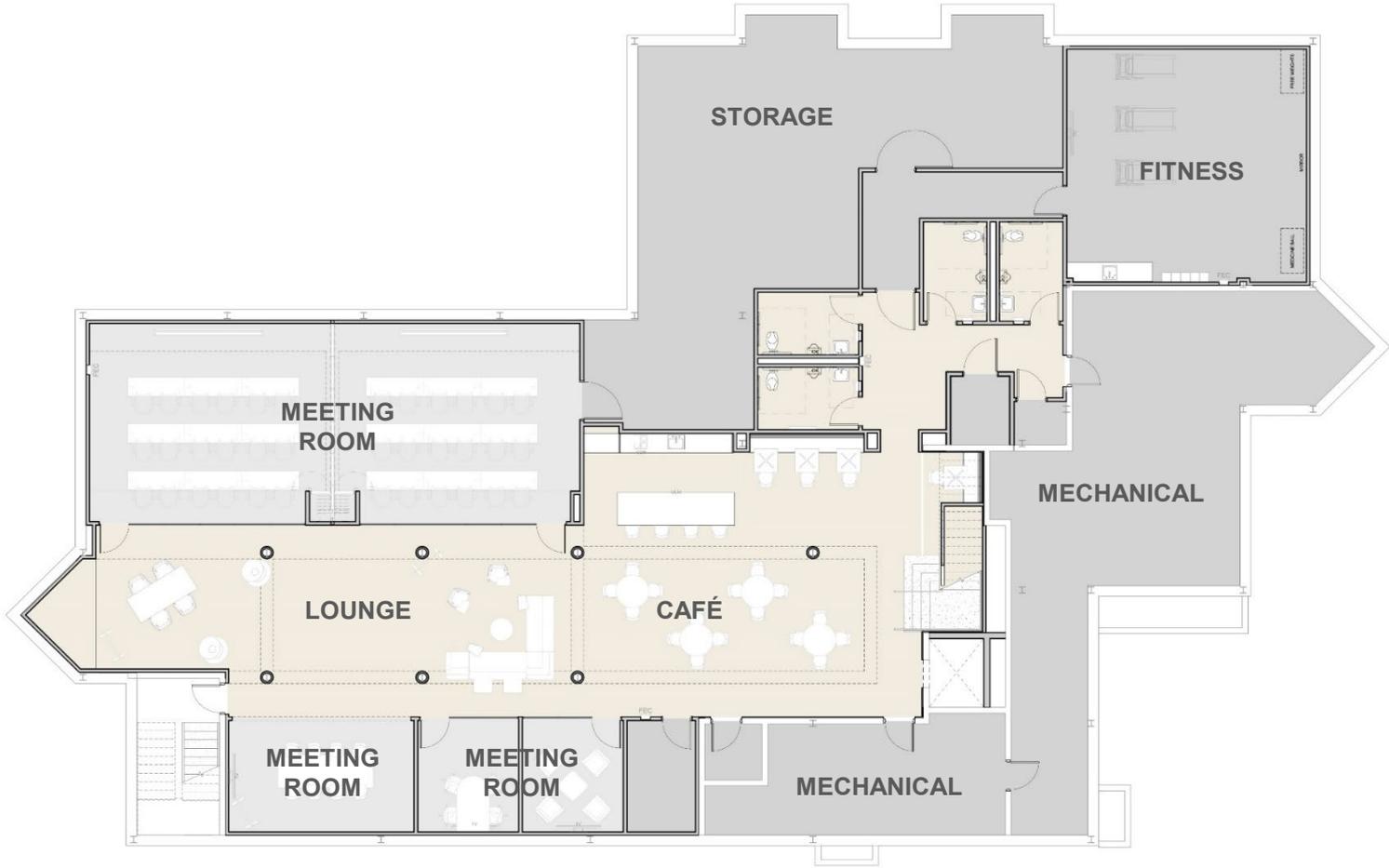
The organization of the Main Level centers itself around the existing skylights, centering a collection of collaborative and staff offices around the perimeter of the building.



FLOOR PLAN

LOWER LEVEL

The Lower Level positions a main collaborative space under the existing skylight above, with a collection of meeting rooms along the perimeter.



MAIN LEVEL - LOBBY



MAIN LEVEL – STAFF AREA

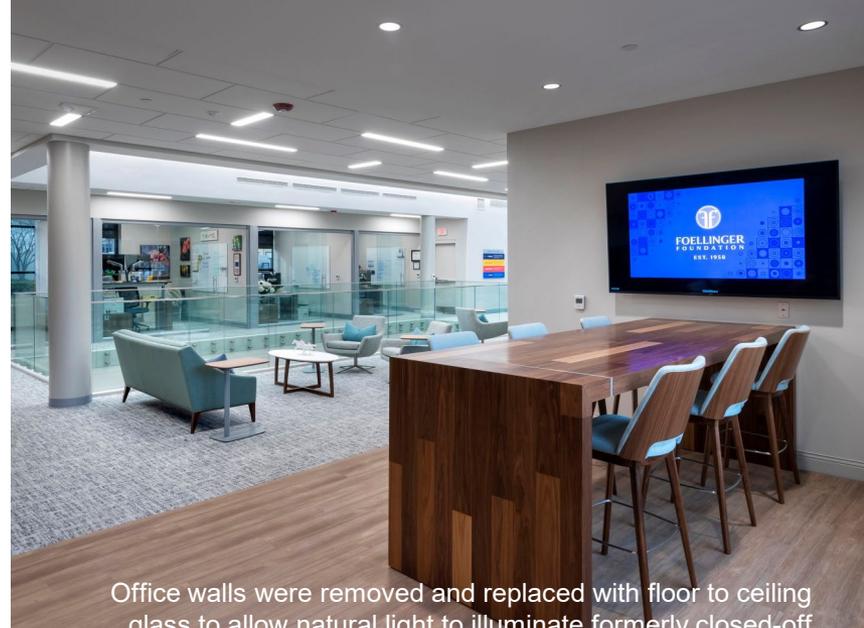


MAIN LEVEL - STAFF AREA



Removal of a portion of the floor on the upper-level exposed a view to the lower-level, allowing daylight to pass through from the skylight to the basement floor. A mural of the foundation's founder is centered within the atrium in the distance.

MAIN LEVEL - STAFF AREA



Office walls were removed and replaced with floor to ceiling glass to allow natural light to illuminate formerly closed-off offices and to encourage collaboration between staff members.

LOWER LEVEL - LOUNGE



LOWER LEVEL – LOUNGE & CAFÉ



A communal lounge offers an area for recreation and dining with a variety of seating options that create a vibrant and inviting opportunity for staff and community members to engage with one another.



LOWER LEVEL - MEETING SPACES

While daylight was the central theme for design decisions throughout the renovation. Additional sustainable strategies were deployed including energy efficient LED lighting, sustainably-sourced interior finishes, and a collection of living vegetative walls positioned to highlight key collaborative spaces.

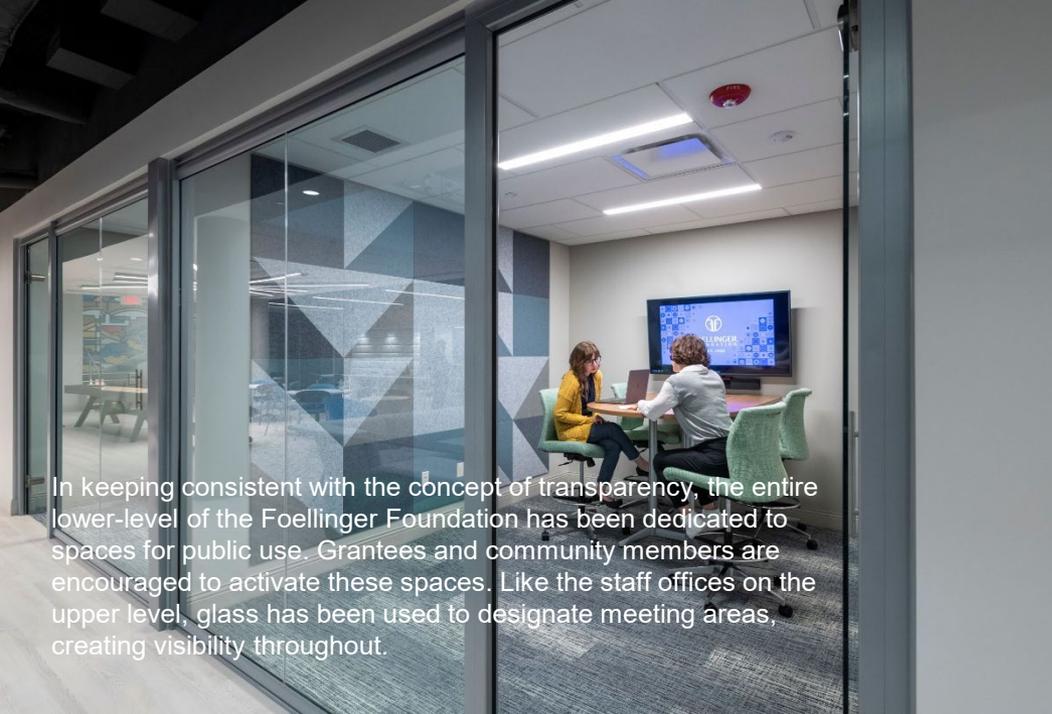


AN INFLUENCE FOR *Good* IN THE COMMUNITY

LOWER LEVEL - MEETING SPACES



A view of the basement level, looking up towards the first-floor skylight above.



In keeping consistent with the concept of transparency, the entire lower-level of the Foellinger Foundation has been dedicated to spaces for public use. Grantees and community members are encouraged to activate these spaces. Like the staff offices on the upper level, glass has been used to designate meeting areas, creating visibility throughout.



LOWER LEVEL - MEETING SPACES



A large meeting room, located on the lower-level, features a generously sized space for grantees and community members to meet. Audio and visual equipment makes it seamless to present to group members and to incorporate virtual attendees.