

Build-A-Village Capital Campaign

The Renovation of Lamp's Flagship Facility, Updated February 2010



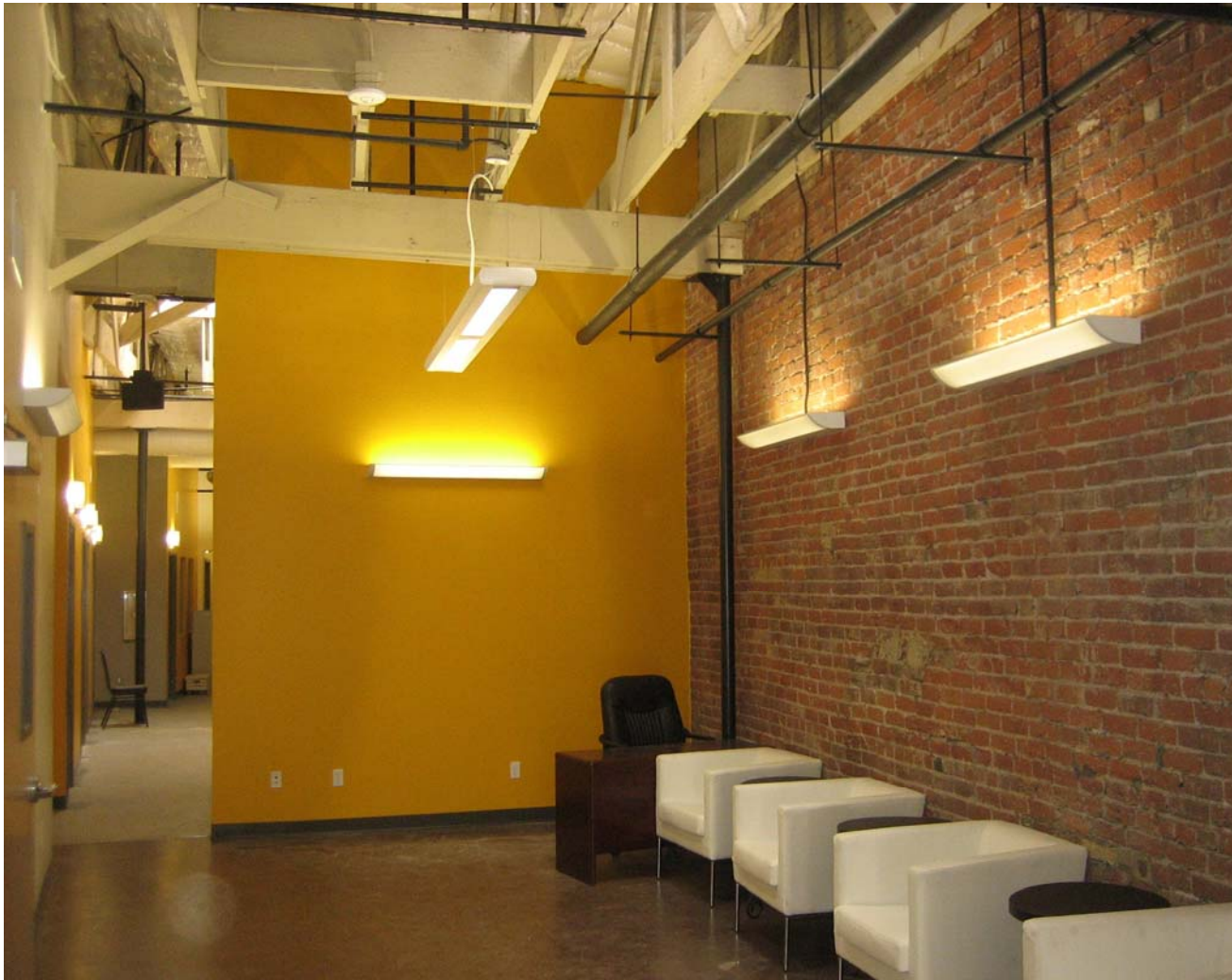
The Project

Lamp Community's Build-A-Village Capital Campaign called for renovation of Lamp's flagship facility in Los Angeles' Skid Row. This 25,000-square-foot former warehouse, known as The Village, serves several vital functions for Lamp and the surrounding community. It is Lamp's administrative and program headquarters, it is home to 50 formerly homeless adults, and it is the site of Skid Row's only public Laundromat, showers and toilets. A variety of programs and services for homeless and formerly homeless men and women living with severe mental illness are provided at The Village, including supportive housing without time limitations; a Wellness Center with clinical, recovery and support services; a full service kitchen serving 500 meals daily; and the aforementioned Laundromat, showers and toilets. More than 100 people use these facilities every day to meet the most basic of human needs.

Because many parts of the The Village were in dire need of repair, the renovation project called for extensive redesign of the building's public spaces, including everything but the private living quarters. Plans called for creation of new offices to accommodate key Lamp staff; a new public entrance on San Pedro Street; two music studios; additional toilets and showers; a larger Laundromat; and an activity room.

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Completion

Lamp broke ground on the Build-A-Village Capital Project in April 2009, and construction was completed in November. Work was accomplished with minimal disruption to residents and staff. Lamp members holding supported employment positions at the Laundromat and public toilets and showers moved to other sites and worked in a variety of new jobs, which allowed for no loss of income.



Public facilities were reopened in January of 2010, with twice as many washers, dryers, toilets and showers. Lamp's Money Management program, which offers personal banking services to hundreds of Skid Row residents, moved into a new public space that includes a highly visible teller window. The renovated warehouse also features a new lobby with an entrance on San Pedro Street, a community training and conference room, and 15 additional offices to concentrate Lamp's management staff under one roof for the first time.



The expanded services at the renovated Lamp Village will provide a series of long-term benefits to bolster housing stability, health and self-sufficiency among men and women living with mental illness.

Expanded showers and laundry facilities improve public health and safety among Lamp members and Skid Row residents. The new entrance on San Pedro Street increases visibility and branding for the agency, as well as privacy and security for those living at the Village. New community spaces and music rooms will, over time, allow Lamp to offer myriad support groups, community gatherings, and enhanced opportunities for creative expression for community residents. Finally, the concentration of management staff allows for more efficient program coordination and expanded advocacy services, aiding Lamp in strengthening and increasing permanent supportive housing in Skid Row and throughout Los Angeles.

The Impact



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