

## Program Summary:

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## Program Statement:

This organization is one of the region's largest food banks, carrying out a mission to end hunger by providing food access, advocacy, education, and disaster response. The organization provides food and support to 700+ community partners and programs across 23 parishes, and their staff and volunteers distribute the equivalent of more than 32 million meals to 210,000+ people a year.

Following the recognition that their operation had grown in size and stature over the years, and after touring several similar facilities around the nation, stakeholders set about renovating their workplace to be a physical manifestation of their very public mission in the community.

The renovation, executed while the project was occupied, was a particularly complex one—the design team frequently likened it to building a ship in a bottle. The project involved the painstaking process of taking former warehouse space and converting it to office use.

Given their active role in the community, the design team took inspiration from the organization's work itself, but also the colors and qualities of food—hues largely composed of green with pops of yellow and purple.

The space today features a new entry lobby, a warm, welcoming space for visitors, a board room, administrative and staff offices, a large conference room for training, and several communal spaces for employee congregation and socialization.

# IA-75.01

Building Area: (sf)  
**27,000 SF**

Cost per Square Foot:  
**\$265**

Construction Cost  
**\$7.2M**

Date of Completion:  
**January 2023**

# IA-75.02

## Design Inspiration

As one of the region's largest food banks, the design team naturally turned to food—crops and harvests—for inspiration.

At the same time, with their presence as a primarily local New Orleans institution, the team looked at traditional cultural customs, and places around the city that held resonance for the organization's mission, particularly the French Market, and its history as a convener and marketplace.

Finally, aesthetic nods to the city's historic past were taken and reinterpreted in a modern context.



DESIGN INSPIRATION

# IA-75.03

## New Main Entry

Prior to the renovation, visitors and volunteers to the food bank entered via a shared door with the warehouse space, a modest space that failed to externally signify the critical role the organization played in the community.

Today, a large donor sign heralds the organization's presence in the community, and a gracious entry sequence signifies their critical role in alleviating hunger.



THE EXTERIOR FOLLOWING THE RENOVATION



THE EXTERIOR CONDITION PRIOR TO RENOVATION



# IA-75.04

## Entry Sequence | Donor Wall

The entry sequence simultaneously served as a proud moment to share the names of its many benefactors, via a custom, hand-crafted donor wall.



# IA-75.05

## Entry Lobby

A new entrance lobby, flanked by an administrative board room, showcases a warm, welcoming space to greet visitors and guests.





# IA-75.06

## Board Room

A board room flanks the lobby, meant to be seen as visitors enter the project.

The board room also presented an opportunity to integrate artwork, donated to the organization from several community partners (in this case a stained glass piece lit from within) and a separate donor wall honoring the project's benefactors (a large donation coming from the Benson family of New Orleans).



# IA-75.07

## Training and Conference Room

The ability to organize and train in an accessible manner was critical for the new facilities.

The design created a large conference space directly adjoining the lobby, that can host a variety of activities.





# IA-75.08

## Administrative and Office Space

The second floor of the building, utilizing the double-height lounge of what was previously warehouse space, houses administrative and employee offices.

The space represents one of the many aforementioned “ship in a bottle” design constraints the challenges of building within an occupied warehouse.

The design team chose to expose and celebrate the industrial backdrop, leaving structural systems open, but painting them green.







# IA-75.09

## Lobby | Lounge Space

The lobby space features an array of comfortable, colorful furniture, for casual socialization and recreation.

The lobby also offered an opportunity for integrated art incorporating the history of the organization itself.

A far wall showcases an image dating back to the original days of the organization's founding and features several cherished leaders integral to their story.



# IA-75.10

Lobby | Lounge Space



# IA-75.11

## Employee Break Room

An employee break room presents a casual space for staff congregation.

Donated artwork, in this case a mural depicting one of the organization's inspirations, the historic French Market of New Orleans, adorns a nearby wall.



# IA-75.12

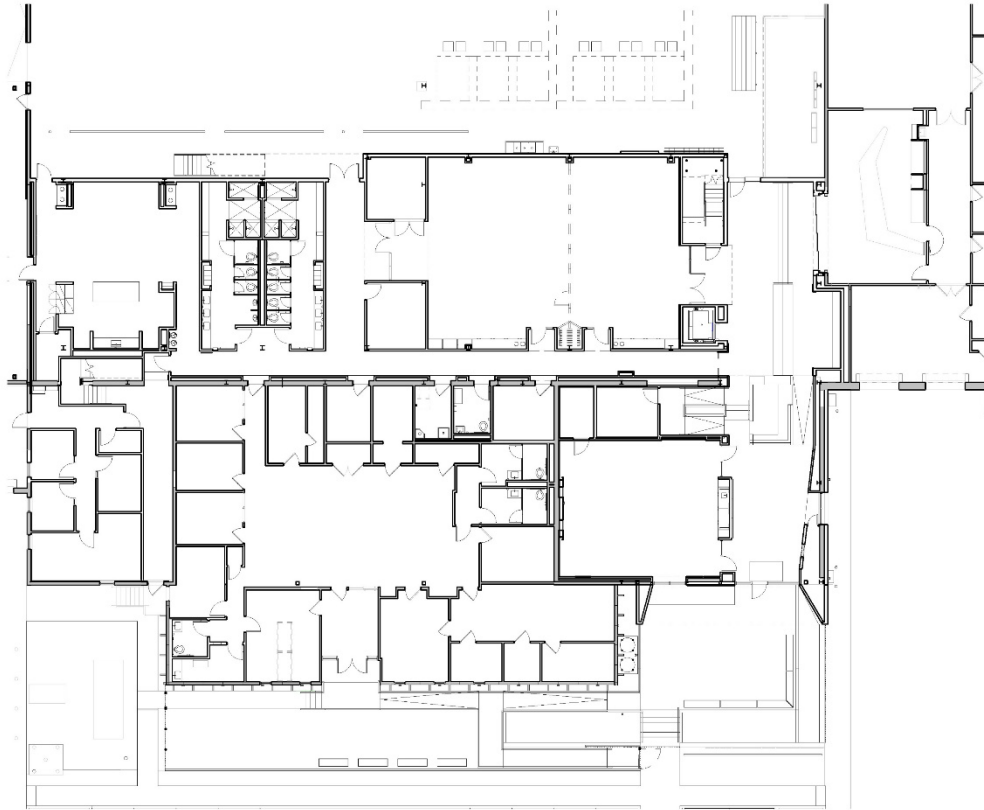
## Garden and Recreation Space

The area formerly utilized as the primary entrance is now a quiet recreation spot for employees to relax and socialize, as well as a working vegetable and fruit garden—an opportunity to practice what they preach when it comes to sustainable food.



# IA-75.13

Floor Plan | Level 01



Floor Plan | Level 02

