



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Myers Constructs, Inc., Infuses Historical Fleisher Art Memorial Renovation With Modern, Energy-Efficient Elements

Philadelphia, PA – October 5, 2009 – Myers Constructs, Inc., is closing in on the final stages of a major renovation and repair project at The Fleisher Art Memorial, the nation's oldest tuition-free art school, which comprises a collection of historic buildings on Catherine Street in South Philadelphia. The firm repaired and replaced 83 wooden windows – most of which were nearly a century old – with the goal of preserving the building's historical integrity while establishing future cost savings through energy-efficient upgrades.

The venture began in early 2008, when Fleisher received grants from the Pew Trusts' Heritage Philadelphia Program and the City of Philadelphia's Cultural Corridors Capital Program to develop a comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan for its facility. Myers Constructs and Philadelphia-based architectural firm Kise Straw & Kolodner worked together to devise this plan.

Stage one of Myers' process involved the repair and replacement of windows at the rear of the buildings that make up Fleisher's campus – a challenge because every building has its own window type and configuration, many of which fell

under Historical Commission guidelines that had to be considered. After carefully reviewing the conditions, the team came up with a game plan of retaining and repairing about half of the windows and replacing the other half with new, insulated-glass windows. The new windows match the configuration of the old versions, but they are now both energy-efficient and easy to use.

The project's second phase required more sensitivity to the historical nature of the buildings because Myers' team was working on the front façade, where the windows are very visible from the street. Some of the windows were saved and repaired, but where replacement was the only option, the crew worked to retain the exterior historical details as much as possible. In fact, the new windows were custom built at a local shop, and Myers Constructs Inc. carefully removed the old specialty fluted glass to re-install in the new frames. Fleisher received a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and support from the McLean Contributionship for the second phase.

“For us, the Fleisher job is a fun challenge to bring quality work with historical integrity and bring an added energy-efficiency element,” explains Tamara Myers, sales and design manager for Myers Constructs, Inc. “This combination is a great plus for a working institution like Fleisher that has to maintain the stewardship of a historic building but also has the real-world issues of buildings that are very heavily used by folks and real utility bills, like everyone else.”

Myers explains that this job was a great fit for her team's talents and personal philosophies, as well. “We could use our expertise in windows, support our love of old buildings,” she continues, “and have a chance to work on buildings for an institution whose mission we think is great: to bring art education to everyone – regardless of age or income.”

About Myers Constructs, Inc.

Myers Constructs, Inc., founded in 1997, is a certified Women Business Enterprise and a U.S. Green Building Council Member. To view the company's recent project in *Philadelphia RowHome Magazine*, visit myersconstructs.com/articles/PRH_Family_Space.html.

About Fleisher

Fleisher is a source of inspiration, creativity and community. Every year, more than 17,000 people experience the transformative power of art by participating in studio classes, exhibitions, and community-based programming. Fleisher is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing the vision of its founder, Samuel S. Fleisher, who believed that art is one of society's greatest assets and equalizer, and from the doorway of his graphic sketch club, “invited the world to come and learn art.” Visit Fleisher at 719 Catharine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 or www.fleisher.org.