



## Facility Award \$5,000,001-\$10,000,000

# Whetstone Community Center

The Whetstone Community Center, one of the most recognizable and important community institutions in Clintonville, has been transformed from a tired 50-year old recreation center into a thriving community center. The primary purpose of the project was to renovate and expand the facility to increase the number of programs, participants and revenue and allow for programming to occur year-round.

The project included the renovation of the 31,640-square-foot existing building, a 9,660-square-foot addition, 127 additional parking spaces and the relocation of playgrounds and horseshoe pits. The renovated spaces included a gymnasium, an auditorium, a kitchen, a dance studio, a weight room, a game room, classrooms, an art room, offices and a centralized control desk. The addition included a multi-purpose room, a community room, an elevator and restrooms.

The extensive planning process for this project involved gathering input from the community (through a community survey and several town-hall-style meetings), the Whetstone Recreation Center staff, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and Rogers Krajnak Architects, Inc. The Whetstone Renovation Initiative was established in the beginning of the process as a joint effort of the Whetstone Community Recreation Council, the Clintonville Area Commission, the Clintonville Community Fund, the Clintonville Chamber of Commerce and Clintonville Incorporated.



The first project goal was to improve the identity and increase the visibility of the center within the community. To increase the visibility of the facility, Rogers Krajnak Architects, Inc. designed the expansion with a new multi-purpose room prominently located in the front yard along High Street with large wraparound corner windows to allow the public to see the activities occurring within. A new, more visible entry canopy was created (at the former rear entrance) to clearly identify the primary entrance from the parking area.

A second goal was to provide increased flexibility for accommodating a variety of programs and improve accessibility throughout the building. The interior space was redesigned with rooms that vary in size and accom-

modate 20 to 320 occupants. Accessibility improved throughout the building with the addition of an elevator and new restrooms. New air conditioning allows the building to be used year-round.

The third goal, to improve the energy efficiency of the facility, was accomplished by replacing existing windows with energy-efficient windows and creating a cool roof on the existing building. The roof of the addition is a vegetated roof, which contributes to the sustainable design and energy savings for the facility.

A fourth goal of providing programming for the 70-plus age group was accomplished by creating the new Community Room, which accommodates the programs from the former Barber Roselea Senior Center.



Comparing the period of one year prior to renovation to the period of one year after renovation, the number of visitors has increased by approximately 1,000 visitors per week. The number of registered participants in classes has increased from 2,928 to 4,424, and the revenue has increased from \$54,400 to \$95,800. The center has been able to greatly increase the quantity and quality of programs and offer them year-round. If the successes of the first year are any indication, the renovations to the Whetstone Community Center should meet the recreation needs of the residents of Clintonville for many years to come.

*Submitted by Peter Krajnak, Rogers Krajnak Architects*