

Alumni Lofts – Over-the-Rhine Storied History of 1310 Sycamore

Alumni Lofts is housed in one of the most prominent buildings in Cincinnati's Over The Rhine Neighborhood, the former School for Creative and Performing Arts, Alumni Lofts is one of the most unique apartment communities Downtown Cincinnati has to offer. The redevelopment maintains all of the original charm of this early 1900's school, including: original chalkboards, Rookwood Pottery drinking fountains, mosaic tile hallway floors and marble staircases.

The Alumni Lofts is located on the plot of land donated by William and Abigail Woodward, who were landowners in Cincinnati during the late 1700's and early 1800's. Both were proponents of free education for the city's poorest children. In 1831 the doors opened to the first public school west of the Allegheny Mountains. This land also has deep connections to the Underground Railroad. Famous abolitionists Levi and Catherine Coffin lived on the land during the mid-1800s.

For nearly a century the school served the students of Cincinnati, one of which happened to be future President William Howard Taft. Soon after he was elected, he gave a speech and laid an original cornerstone of the five story building. Woodward High School was designed by architect Gustav Drach and was one of the most modern buildings of its time. Amenities included flushing toilets, central heating, two swimming pools and a series of ornate Rookwood pottery fountains. The stained glass window honoring William Woodward, dates back to 1855 and is located on the second floor landing in the lobby.

In 1977 Woodward became known as the School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA). It became the first private sector school in the country to offer kindergarten through 12th grade students a full range of curriculum catering to the arts. Famous alumni include Sarah Jessica Parker, Carmen Electra, Nick Lachey, and Drew Lachey. In 2010 SCPA was moved to a new, nearby location and its former home was sold to Core Redevelopment at auction.

Core Redevelopment will preserve the green space adjacent to the building.