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(Exclusive) Dayton Arcade gains new tenant

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A local arts and culture advocacy organization has been named the Dayton Arcade's newest tenant. The relocation adds to the enthusiasm around the major renovation project.

Culture Works will be moving from its current location at 100 N. Main St. into the Dayton Arcade. The organization will be joining the Arcade's two anchor tenants, University of Dayton and The Entrepreneurs Center.

The organization is tentatively looking at 2,000 square feet of space on the second floor of the Arcade, with office windows looking out onto Ludlow Street and near the rotunda inside. The new office will be larger compared to its current space, giving the organization enough room to grow in the future.

The relocation's timeline is still in the works, according to Development Manager Bill Perry. It looks like the organization could relocate early next year, but with its annual campaign running through the springtime months, it's likely the organization will not move until the summer or fall, once it has entered its new fiscal year. The move also depends on the Arcade's renovation progress.

"In a perfect world, we will move in with the first wave of tenants next year," he said.

In order to empower and serve the region's growing arts community, Culture Works must also grow and evolve. Along with supporting the local artistic institutions, the organization must develop new partnership and resources to shine a light on new and



TOM GILLIAM

A look inside the Dayton Arcade as it stands today.

emerging arts and organizations. To do this, the organization needs room to grow its programming, staff and space.

"We've decided that the time is right for us to make a move," Culture Works' statement read.

When looking for a new space to call home, the Dayton Arcade stood out due to its place within the history of the community, its dynamic design, public accessibility and its mission alignment. Plus, the project's developers envision a space that will foster intergenerational, interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations.

Other Arcade elements that will support the organization include larger, more flexible workspaces; access to meeting and event spaces; access to multiple common areas allowing for greater collaboration opportunities; and more.

"No other site in the region offers the strategic placement, visibility, flexibility and symbolism of the Arcade," the statement said.

Following this move, Culture Works has continued plans to invest in the local arts and culture community. The organization will expand its existing programming and continue its long-standing partnership with the Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District to provide artist grants, in addition to The Dayton Foundation to provide student scholarships to graduating high school seniors and college students.

The redevelopment of the Dayton Arcade has been described as the largest, most complex projects in the city's history. Leading the two-phased effort is McCormack Baron Salazar, Cross Street Partners and Model Group.

The full Arcade project will result in the redevelopment of more than one million square feet of vacant space in the city's urban core. The 114-year-old buildings have been vacant for nearly 30 years.

The first phase is currently underway, comprised of a \$95 million public-private partnership resulting in a cluster of affordable housing, arts programming, an innovation hub, retail and restaurants and community event space. Most recently, the Arcade developers unveiled [a new logo and tagline](#), designed by Dayton advertising agency Catapult Creative.

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