

WOODHILL COMMUNITY CENTER

The residents of Woodhill Homes are excited for the new community center that opened this Fall. The Woodhill Homes project included major renovations and additions to the two story gymnasium and multi-purpose building. “The community center is beautiful and I love the artwork. I have lived in this area for close to 40 years and I’m excited that the children have somewhere in the neighborhood to go and spend their time,” said Denise Petite, long-time Woodhill resident.

The existing building was built in 1939 and was vacant for 20 or more years. A new third floor was added over the existing roof patio for new management office. In addition, space was added for educational purposes and computer labs and kitchen areas. On the Baldwin side, a new main entrance with a electrical, and plumbing systems were replaced with new systems.

The Woodhill Community Center mural was painted in 1941 by Cleveland artist Leroy Flint as part of the WPA federal arts initiative. It is casein painted on Masonite, and ICA Art Conservation worked over the past year to combat the effects of environmental damage, meticulously cleaning and stabilizing the paint layer, and inpainting areas of loss. The mural itself depicts a heroic figure, actually a self-portrait of the artist, holding a blazing sun over noble tradesmen and hard-working Clevelanders in the center of the scene. The artwork appears to be building a new city, and reinforces the New Deal/WPA themes of community engagement and working together to build a brighter future.

These murals are the latest project to be completed in CMHA's seven year partnership with the ICA. From sculpture and ceramic tiles, to murals painted on canvas and board, these two organizations have worked together to restore and protect notable artistic treasures so they may continue to inspire future generations of Clevelanders.