Cleveland 2030 District  
Project Profile

Rational for Project:

As Cleveland's premier, world-renowned music conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music is dedicated to both preserving a long-standing artistic tradition and the environment of its Northeast Ohio home to better empower the next generation of classical musicians. As a non-profit organization, CIM is continually searching for ways to improve its bottom line, and improve the educational, artistic and performance environment for its students, faculty and guests.

After joining the Cleveland 2030 District, CIM connected with the Council for Smaller Enterprises (COSE) who provided a free energy audit for its 105,000 square foot University Circle campus. COSE recommended an LED lighting retrofit as one project that would provide the greatest return on their initial investment.

Cleveland 2030 District offered several Professional Partners and local firms who provided their expert advice and quotes for this project. CIM engaged Leff Electric to move forward with the project.

Project Achievements:

Replaced 1,878 T8 lamps, 196 T5 lamps and 417 compact fluorescents ahead of schedule.

Reduction of energy consumed by the lamps replaced by about 50%. This equates to a reduction in monthly energy costs of about $1200/month.

Installation of ballast-bypass style T8 lamps eliminated the need for ballast replacements, which are costly in terms of labor and parts.

Building Owner: Cleveland Institute of Music
Square footage: 105,000
Building Use Type: College/University
Project Name: CIM Lighting Retrofit Project
Built in: 1961
Project partners: COSE, Leff Electric
Project Start Date: 8/22/17
Completion Date: 11/22/17

Project Highlights:

The directive was to replace all T8, T5 fluorescent tube lamps, and all 18W, 26W and 42W CFL-style lamps with LED equivalents before year's end.

A rebate from FirstEnergy/Sodexo covered 95% of the cost of the T8 lamps. This meant the project has a return time of six months, making it extremely attractive from a bottom-line standpoint.

Challenges included sourcing lamps suitable for our environment and architectural detail in terms of brightness, color temperature. Also, CFL-style LED options compatible with dimming and emergency (battery backup) circuits are not widely available. The style we chose fit the widest variety of applications (down lighting, wall sconces and wall wash).

Matt Jackson at Leff was an invaluable source of information for lamp suitability and availability and made deciding on and purchasing the lamps a lot easier than it would have otherwise been.