



Showcasing a Brownfields property to do work for grantees on Brownfields sites

BEFORE



AFTER



Barnes Buick Company building had been abandoned since the 1980s and featured approximately 20,000 square feet that was in a state of ill repair. Located in an historically suburban hub, it was separated from downtown Baton Rouge in the 1960s when I-10 was constructed. 40% of the area residents live below poverty level and 84% are minority.

Providence Engineering saw the facility as a “gem in the making” although it was suspected that there were a number of environmental concerns, such as mold, asbestos tiles, lead-based paint, petroleum and paint containers and animal waste. They wanted to be close to the organizations with whom they do business; they wanted to help revitalize the mid-cities neighborhood and they felt an environmental company could and should headquarter on a former Brownfields site.

This project was made financially feasible through the use of several incentives including an Economic

Development District property tax freeze through the city/parish; creation of an Enterprise Zone to allow owners to recoup state sales taxes on investments in the area; an historic building tax credit and the help of a Brownfields Cleanup Grant, made to Main Street USA, Inc., a local non-profit, housed in the building.

Providence was able to convert the property into its headquarters, along with a substantial investment of materials purchased for the building. The mixed-use space accommodates approximately 60 workers, in retail, art studio, and office space.

