

POWERHOUSE WORKSHOP

About Powerhouse Workshop

Powerhouse Workshop is a contemporary arts center and art fabrication facility that supports investigation, experimentation, and collaboration across media and disciplines. Established to serve the needs of working artists, Powerhouse Workshop will be the first facility of its kind in the country when it opens in 2020, including industrial fabrication shops, a materials library and archive, as well as flexible spaces for exhibitions, installations and public programs. Located on the Gowanus Canal, the non-profit builds on Brooklyn's 200-year history as a center for industry and creates a critical new resource for artistic production in the heart of New York City.

Designed by Herzog & de Meuron, Powerhouse Workshop transforms and activates a former Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company power station, which was decommissioned in the 1950s. The transformation preserves the building's original industrial function and aesthetic, and includes the renovation of the existing Turbine Hall and reconstruction of the adjacent Boiler House building. The 170-square-foot project features 100,000 square feet of dedicated space for fabrication as well as additional outdoor areas for production, enabling artists and fabricators to take risks, explore different materials, and create new work.

At the heart of the center's mission are its fabrication programs and artist services, which will offer access to sophisticated production capabilities in multiple materials, including wood, metal, print, textile and ceramics. Master fabricators will collaborate with artists on the production of individual and small-run projects as well as large-scale editions. Member programs will create a platform for experienced artists and designers to access state-of-the-art equipment and technical staff on an ongoing basis. Powerhouse Workshop will also offer training programs and classes to meet the needs of individuals at varying skill levels, with courses ranging from fundamentals to specialized artist-led workshops.

A key resource for artists and fabricators will be the Powerhouse's materials library, providing access to material samples as well as digital and print resources that document a range of different fabrication processes and techniques. By collecting methodologies and creating a knowledge base that is both physically and virtually accessible, Powerhouse will support the development of new capabilities.

Powerhouse Workshop's public and exhibition program will take advantage of the historic building's volume and will consider, challenge, and celebrate the aesthetics, culture and politics of modern manufacturing and artistic production. The iconic uppermost floor of the Turbine Hall building will host exhibitions and large-scale installations showcasing the work of established and emerging artists. Flexible project spaces throughout the center will allow for the creation, staging and assembly of multi-media and large-scale works. These installations will be complemented by an active roster of artist talks, lectures, and publications that will encourage dynamic exchange and visitor engagement.