Sixth City Culture+Arts Center

Considered the melting pot of the North Coast, Cleveland embodies a diverse mix of ethnicities that contribute to its unique character. Originally drawn by work in the city’s steel and woollen mills, or the docks, individuals and families converged here sharing customs, foods, neighborhoods, and the American dream. That distinctive combination inspires this modern day addition to the city.

Developing the site at the North end of the East 22nd Street Corridor, between East 21st and East 24th Streets, along Rockwell Avenue, honors Cleveland’s rich heritage. This block, formerly known as “Old China Town,” encourages interaction with the surrounding city by linking the existing Campus District with a proposed waterfront development along East 18th Street. This mixed-use development of student housing, apartments, retail, restaurants, multiple green roofs and public gathering spaces is anchored by a new cultural center.

The Sixth City Culture+Arts Center, 6c+a, provides ample gallery space for public and private shows, classrooms, offices, a 160 seat auditorium for musical and theatrical productions, café, public rooftop garden overlooking the square below and fittingly, a library dedicated to celebrating Cleveland’s diversity.

Campus District goals

- Housing
- Entertainment
- Identity
- Greenspace
- Retail
- Aesthetics
- Public space
- Stormwater runoff
- Heat island effect

Site

East 22nd Street (red) terminates into “Old China Town,” emphasizing an opportunity for development while linking the Campus District to the waterfront via East 18th Street.

Existing conditions of “Old China Town” quantify a new urban design that reacts to goals of the East 22nd Street Corridor & Campus District masterplans.
The new Rockwell Avenue Extension frames two distinct zones of retail/mixed-use and residential housing in the east. This public and private relationship is fostered by Rockwell Square and public green space.
The Sixth City Culture + Arts Center programmatic relationships

Ground floor plan
Second floor plan
Active green roof

Interior atrium perspective
View looking north into Rockwell Square

Section perspective showing green roof and auditorium