

History

The Cummins Foundation was created in 1954, 35 years after Cummins was founded. It was one of the early corporate foundations and is part of the global giving arm of Cummins Inc. It makes grants primarily in Cummins' plant communities around the world and for projects that engage Cummins employees.

Investing in a vibrant and economically viable community in our headquarters location of Columbus, Indiana, has long been an important objective for Cummins. This vision started with Cummins' former Chairman and CEO J. Irwin Miller.

Mr. Miller, who had a lifelong interest in architecture, understood that Cummins' success in retaining the best and brightest employees was closely tied to the company's ability to attract this talent to Columbus. He wanted to help the community by providing an alternative to the standard, but uninspired, school buildings being built at a rapid pace across the U.S. in the late 1950s and early 1960s, in order to meet the demand created by the baby boom. Thus, in 1957, the Cummins Foundation made its first grant to support architecture fees, for the Lillian C. Schmitt Elementary School, designed by Harry Weese.

The Architecture Program became a formal part of the Cummins Foundation in 1960 with a grant for Northside Middle School. It began with schools, but later grew to encompass all facilities in the county owned and operated by public tax dollars. Mr. Miller once captured the spirit of the program with this statement:

“Every one of us lives and moves all his life within the limitations, sight, and influence of architecture – at home, at school, at church and at work. The influence of architecture with which we are surrounded in our youth affects our lives, our standards, our tastes when we are grown, just as the influence of the parents and teachers with which we are surrounded in our youth affects us as adults.

American architecture has never had more creative, imaginative practitioners than it has today. Each of the best of today's architects can contribute something of lasting value to Columbus.”

The program has become a major economic asset to the worldwide headquarters for Cummins Inc. More than 50 projects have been sponsored by the Cummins Foundation and numerous other significant works of architecture in the community have been privately commissioned. The resulting partnership between private and corporate resources devoted to design has created a critical mass of buildings that have captured national and international attention, attracting 40,000 to 50,000 visitors each year.

Mission

The mission of the program is to encourage architectural excellence in Bartholomew County. The Foundation's grants will continue to contribute to the unique role excellence in architecture plays as a cornerstone of the quality of life in our headquarters community.

Purpose

The Cummins Foundation will recommend architects and provide funds for the design portion of the architect fees for selected public projects to encourage architectural excellence in Bartholomew County.

How the Program Works

A qualified community entity completes the Project Qualification Form, which details the scope of the project, building purpose, budget, and other key details. Qualified entities include those which are owned and operated by public tax dollars (e.g., school board, the city, county government, etc.). The form is then submitted to the Cummins Columbus Committee representative and reviewed by the Cummins Architecture Program Core Team.

If the project is appropriate and meets the qualifications under the Architecture Program, the core team will make a recommendation on funding to The Cummins Foundation Board of Directors at the next foundation board meeting. The Foundation board will then vote on the request.

The core team will generate a list of architects, which is given to the requesting community entity. A core team representative will meet with the community entity and offer to help facilitate the architect selection using Six Sigma tools. Upon completion of the selection process, Cummins will provide funds for the design portion of the architect fees. The design architect will select and partner with a regionally-based production architect to construct the building. The fees of the production architect are the responsibility of the community entity. The Architecture Program may, at its discretion, pay for a project consultant to ensure that the design vision is appropriately executed timely and on budget.

It is important to note that the ultimate selection of the architectural team is up to the client – the community entity. While Cummins is available to facilitate the process if requested, the final decision resides with the community. The chosen architectural team should understand that the community is the client, not The Cummins Foundation.

A new list of architects is generated for each project. No permanent list is maintained. The method for developing a list is kept confidential to maintain the integrity of the process.

We will continue to make changes as necessary to ensure that architectural excellence in Bartholomew County continues as an important part of the development, prosperity and vitality of the community.

Past Projects

Projects commissioned under the Cummins Foundation Architecture Program for which architect's fees were paid:

1957	Lillian C. Schmitt Elementary School	Harry Weese
1960	Mabel McDowell Adult Education Center	John Carl Warnecke
1961	Northside Middle School	Harry Weese
1962	Parkside Elementary School	Norman Fletcher
1963	Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. Administration Building	Norman Fletcher
1964	Otter Creek Golf Course	Robert Trent Jones
1964	Otter Creek Clubhouse	Harry Weese
1965	W.D. Richards Elementary School	Edward Larrabee Barnes
1967	Four Seasons Retirement Center	Norman Fletcher
1967	Fire Station No. 4	Venturi & Rauch
1967	Lincoln Elementary School	Gunnar Birkerts
1969	L. Frances Smith Elementary School	John M. Johnson
1969	Southside Elementary School	Eliot Noyes
1970	Columbus Post Office	Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo
1972	Par 3 Clubhouse	Bruce Adams
1972	Mt. Healthy Elementary School	Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer
1972	Quinco Consulting Center	James Stewart Polshek
1972	Columbus East High School	Mitchell-Giurgola
1973	Fodrea Community School	Paul Kennon, Truitt Garrison
1981	Columbus City Hall	Edward Charles Bassett
1982	Sycamore Place Apartments	Gwathmey Siegel & Associates
1982	Clifty Creek Elementary School	Richard Meier & Associates
1984	Pence Place Apartments	Gwathmey Siegel & Associates
1987	Fire Station No. 5	Susanna Torre
1989	FlatRock-Hawcreek Elementary School	Taft Architects
1990	Bartholomew County Jail	Don Hisaka

1990	Parkside Elementary School – addition	Norman Fletcher
1990	Streetscape – Phase 1	CRSSirine, Inc.
1992	Schmitt Elementary School – addition	Leers, Weinzapfel
1992	Northside Middle School – addition	Leers, Weinzapfel
1992	Mill Race Park – renovation	Michael Van Valkenburgh & Stanley Saitowitz
1992	Bartholomew County Hospital – expansion	Robert A. M. Stern
1993	Bartholomew County Courthouse Square	Michael Van Valkenburgh
1993	Streetscape – Phase 2	CRSSirine, Inc. & Stanley Saitowitz
1997	Bartholomew County Veterans Memorial	Thompson & Rose
1997	Otter Creek Golf Course – expansion	Rees Jones
1997	W. D. Richards Elementary School – addition	Edward Larrabee Barnes
1997	Smith Elementary School – addition	John M. Johansen
1998	Clifty Creek Elementary School – addition	Stamberg & Aferiat
1998	Bartholomew County Library – Hope Branch	Deborah Berke
1998	Columbus – Woodside Fire Station No. 6	William Rawn Associates
1998	Columbus East High School gym – addition	Mitchell-Giurgola
1998	Solid Waste District Board – landfill	William Johnson
1999	Pence Place Apartments – renovation	Gwathemy Siegel & Associates
2000	Central Middle School – new	Perkins & Will
2002	Mill Race Center	William Rawn Associates
2006	8 th Street Roundabout Landscape	Michael Van Valkenburgh
2006	Urban Design Plan	Koetter Kim Associates
2007	4 th Street Parking Garage	Koetter Kim Associates
2008	Mill Race Center Landscape	Michael Van Valkenburgh
2008	The Commons	Koetter Kim Associates
2009	Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence	Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects