

**Our campus** occupies the former Sterling Steel Casting Company foundry in Sauget, Illinois. Opened in 1922 and closed in 2001, the foundry covers 13 acres and includes 13 historic casting, pattern storage, and office buildings. Since occupying the Sterling Steel foundry in 2005, the Center has initiated a rehabilitation effort that has preserved the historic character of the buildings so that their past use is emphasized. Currently access to our campus is restricted to guided tours.

*Please visit our website for current tour schedules at: [nationalbuildingarts.org](http://nationalbuildingarts.org)*

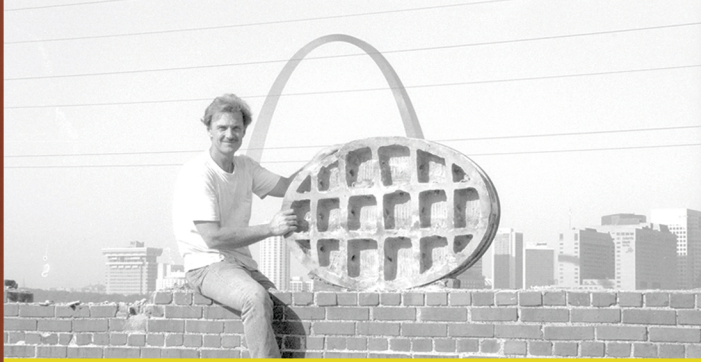
## Campus



**Our research library** holds more than 300,000 items related to architecture, industry, and the allied arts in single titles, periodicals, primary documents, construction drawings, and trade catalogs. Special collections include original source material from numerous manufacturers of building materials, various corporate archives, and an estimated 6,000 photographs and prints. The library contains a substantial St. Louis component with many rare and unique books and manuscripts.

*Our research library is open by appointment only Tuesday through Saturday 9am–5pm.*

## Research Library



## History

**Our founder**, Larry Giles (1947–2021), started work on the Center in 1982 in response to Eero Saarinen's proposal for a museum of American architecture on the Saint Louis riverfront. In 2002, Larry donated the inventory from his architectural salvage business to the newly incorporated organization and later oversaw the move to its current location in Sauget, Illinois. Under Larry's leadership, the Center became the world's largest repository of several categories of building-related materials and a destination for researchers worldwide.



## Future of NBAC

**The NBAC** currently offers limited access to collections through guided tours alongside contributing to exhibitions at other institutions. Our goal, however, remains staging the collections here at the NBAC in a museum setting open to the public. We envision opening a cafe and visitor center in the near term, and a main exhibition hall in our 40,000-square-foot foundry building. We are currently raising funds to make this dream come true, and welcome contributions large and small.



*Contact [staff@nationalbuildingarts.org](mailto:staff@nationalbuildingarts.org) to learn how you can help!*

# NATIONAL BUILDING ARTS CENTER

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# NATIONAL BUILDING ARTS CENTER

The National Building Arts Center is a unique, emergent study center housing the nation's largest and most diversified collection of building artifacts, supported with a research library offering broad holdings in architecture and allied arts. Our collection represents the single largest effort toward understanding the American built environment and the historical process of its creation. The Center strives to use its massive collections to educate the public on all aspects of the building arts from design to fabrication.

## A1 NBAC LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Main library stacks, special collections, patent library, regional collections, and building material archives  
*NBAC offices, lobby, and restroom*

**a** Deaconess Hospital Nursing School statues (1965)

## A3 THEATER AND CHURCH ARTIFACTS

Collections from churches and theaters including:  
Ambassador Theatre (1925; terra cotta)  
Rivoli Theatre (1896; sgraffito)

St. Louis Archdiocese ecclesiastical collections

**b** Statues of Minerva and Urania from the Equitable Building (1872)

## A4 CLAY TILE YARD

## B1 LITTLE LIBERTY STATUE

Thirty-foot tall pressed-metal (repoussé) replica of the Statue of Liberty. Originally installed in Manhattan in 1902 and relocated to the the Brooklyn Museum in 2005, the Statue of Liberty will be transferred to NBAC in the near future and installed here.

## B2 BUILDING ARTIFACTS

Displays of brick, terra cotta, and stone artifacts, including the Buder Building (1902), West End Hotel (1896), First District Police Court (1907), Marquette Hotel (1907), and Rosenheim Building (1888)

Display of selected parts of the ornamental brick collection

## B3 BUILDING ARTIFACTS

Mostly crated including New York City stone and terra cotta collections, the Missouri State Hospital East Wing (1907), Lincoln Trust Building (1898), Gaslight Square, Kiel Opera House (1934), and DePaul Hospital (1928)

## B6 MULTI-LEVEL ARTIFACT WAREHOUSE

Interior artifacts, restored interior and exterior ironwork, interior millwork, windows, doors, furniture, neon signage, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, Vitrolite

## C1 COMPRESSOR HOUSE

Ingersoll-Rand Imperial Type-10 Air Compressor and expansion tank

Future visitor center and exhibition area

## C2 FOUNDRY

Largest and oldest building of the former steel foundry (1922)  
Event space and future main exhibition space

**c** Ornamental brick collection (23,000+)

Schreiner Marble Works Collection

St. Louis Lightning Protection Company collections

**d** Foundry sand bunkers (future gallery space)

## E1 STONE YARD

**e** Paving brick collection

Clay sewer pipe collection

**f** Century Building marble entrance (1896)

Common and ornamental architectural stonework

**g** State Bank of Wellston "rotating spectacular" sign (1954)

## E2 MACHINERY BUILDING

Collection of production machinery including lathes, helve hammer, woodworking machines, and blacksmith equipment

## E3 IRON ARTIFACTS

Treated and restored cast and wrought iron artifacts including:  
Cast iron storefronts

**h** Wrought iron benches from Tower Grove Park

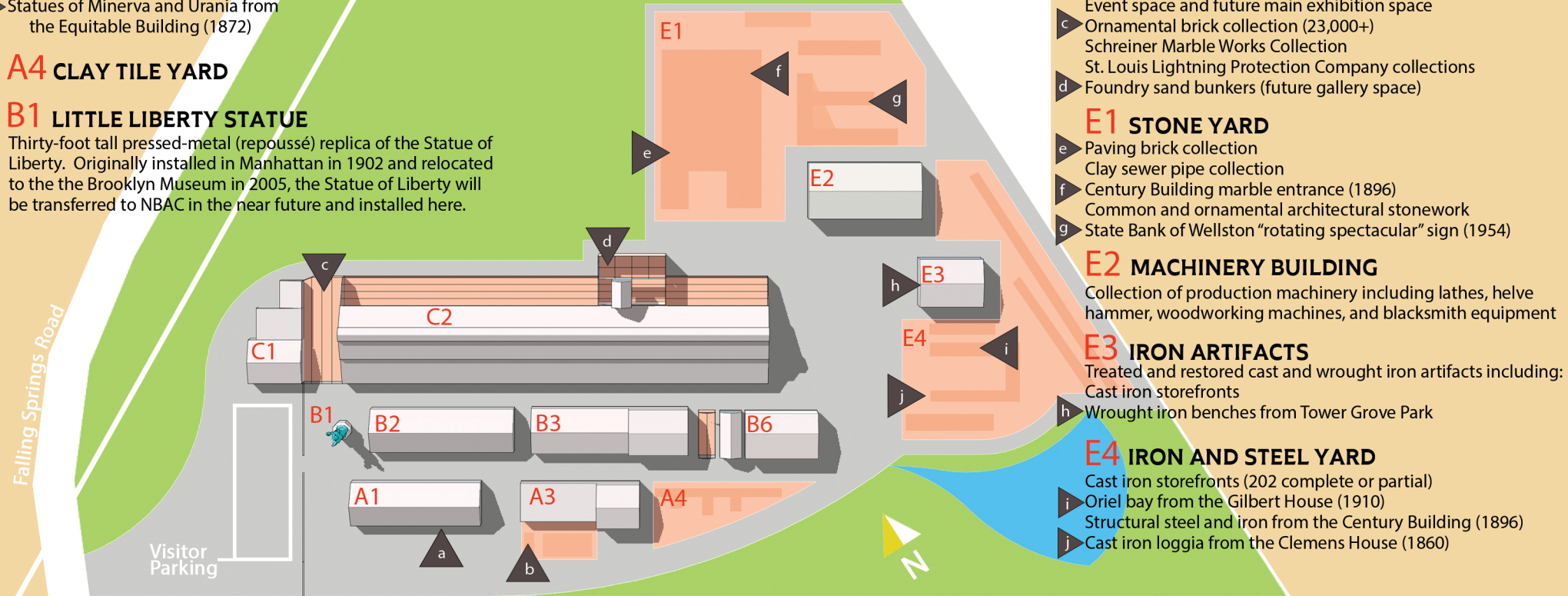
## E4 IRON AND STEEL YARD

Cast iron storefronts (202 complete or partial)

**i** Oriel bay from the Gilbert House (1910)

Structural steel and iron from the Century Building (1896)

**j** Cast iron loggia from the Clemens House (1860)



**▶** The campus has hard paving, but mostly gravel paving with uneven surfaces. Most buildings are not wheelchair accessible. Please call ahead for accessibility options.