

# RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO ARTS IN THE SUNSET AMARILLO, TX

Sunset Center was originally built as a shopping mall in 1960. After many years of success and transition, it was eventually acquired by the Crouch Foundation and adapted into a center for art education and working artist gallery space. Arts in the Sunset, a non-profit center based on the original vision of the Crouch Foundation, was developed into its current form through a combination of demolition, redevelopment, and partial demolition to expose the original structure and rethink the possibilities of community space.

The name Sunset came from its location on the far West side of Amarillo at the time of its original construction. This connection to sun and light informed the design concept for the new exterior event space born out of the skeleton of the original structure. Light and shadows paint the space throughout the day, from early morning Farmer's Market to evening concerts and fundraisers.

The original mall atrium remains as the common gallery space and circulation between the various building functions. Original retail spaces have been adapted into artist studios, a library, the art school, smaller meeting rooms, and larger event spaces. Permanent and temporary art installations rotate thru the atrium and event spaces. The exposed structure and skylight in the atrium remind visitors and tenants of the original Sunset Center and tie the interior space to the exterior elements.

Adding the perforated masonry walls and corten solar screens to the exterior space blends with the industrial relic of the original structure and blurs the line between new and old. The new stage anchors the outdoor event space with the same block and steel language.

By refining the hulking building plan (originally 320,000 sqft) and reimagining the remaining spaces, Arts in the Sunset has minimized their operating expenses while making new connections with the community.



## PROJECT TEAM

**CLIENT**  
Arts in the Sunset - Crouch Foundation

**ARCHITECT**  
Playa Design Studio  
Mason Rogers, AIA / Mike Ritter

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
Wiley Hicks, Jr. Inc.

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**  
LB Associates

**CIVIL ENGINEER**  
GDI

**MECHANICAL ENGINEER**  
Fincher Engineering

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEER**  
Spectrum Engineering

**LANDSCAPE**  
Custom Gardens

