

A look inside the designs and construction progress of Bounce Innovation Hub's Generator space

By Robin Goist | Posted on February 25, 2019 6:20 PM | Updated February 26, 2019 1:41 AM

AKRON, Ohio -- Akron's Bounce Innovation Hub has revealed its designs and construction progress for its first-floor "Generator" space and its renovated exterior.

"Transforming this former B.F. Goodrich plant into a 21st century work and ideation space honors Akron's rich industrial history and sets our sights on the future," Bounce Board Chair Deb Hoover said at Monday's unveiling.

Comprising more than 300,000 square feet of office, lab and light-manufacturing space spread across nine floors, Bounce houses 49 tenants. Forty-six businesses currently participate in the incubator program, some of which are located off-site.

The "open" innovation hub concept will offer programs, services and access to resources for entrepreneurs of all types.

"We want to be the reason why people come to Akron - to live, to work and to stay in Akron," Bounce CEO Doug Weintraub said of the space.

For passersby, the most noticeable renovation will be the facade of the building at 526 S. Main Street.

Local artist Dominic Falcione of Krunchworks Design + Build conceived of a lighting installation representing a version of the B.F. Goodrich smoke stacks, which will be five- and seven-story tall illuminated towers built by Power Media. At the ground level will be a parklet seating area.

Blending the exterior with the interior, Falcione also designed the welcome kiosk that will be set up at the Generator's front entrance. From there, Hazel Tree Design Studio planned the interior design, much of which uses works from local artists, Hazel Tree owner Karen Starr said.

Welty Building Company managed the construction of the design by Hasenstab Architects.

Open to the public will be Remarkable Coffee and Cafe, owned by Chef Dan Remark who co-owns Magic City's Remarkable Diner in Barberton with his wife, Valeri. The cafe will have seating for about 40 people.

The space also includes four rentable conference rooms, ranging in capacity from five to 30. People can also rent the 3,093-square-foot event space, which has capacity for 250 people and can be broken into four quadrants.

A membership-based co-working space with capacity for 67 people includes eight private offices, 33 open co-working spots, 16 reserved desks and six phone booths.

A 3,046-square-foot "Makerspace" will be built in phases, the first of which is scheduled to be completed in May. It will offer equipment including computers with CAD design software and 3-D printers.

In partnership with the University of Akron, an esports lab will include 24 computer terminals and machines that can handle both esports and creative software.

An open house date has not been set for the May 2019 grand opening of the 27,000-square-foot Generator space.

"Bounce Innovation Hub, its co-working space, cafe, Makerspace, meeting rooms and esports lab will form an entrepreneurial ecosystem inside this building," Hoover said. "But the connectivity will not stop at these walls. Energy, ideas, networks and synergies will flow into and out of Bounce, enlivening our entire Northeast Ohio entrepreneurial ecosystem, and connecting to other parts of the state, nation and globe."



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