55 Laguna Street

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The campus at 55 Laguna Street in San Francisco was built in 1924 and expanded in 1930. The building was formerly part of the San Francisco State Teachers' College and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several WPA artists were commissioned to create murals for the college, including Hebe Daum and Jack Moxom.

EverGreene was first contracted by Page & Turnbull to examine the overpainted frescoes for the San Francisco City Planning Department's environmental review process. Conservators removed layers of post-historic overpaint in Richardson Hall, exposing large sections of the frescoes remarkably intact. Overpaint removal made it possible to better understand their composition, conditions, and conservation needs.

Our conservators uncovered a 1937 fresco spanning multiple walls in Room 22, using mechanical scraping and chemical paint removal processes. The fresco by Hebe Daum depicts children of different ages, races, and ethnicities playing together. We implemented treatments including surface cleaning, plaster and paint consolidation, and documentation.

In addition to Daum's frescoes, the conservation of six out of nearly a dozen frescoes by Jack Moxom began with removing overpaint and a conditions survey. Damaged paint and plaster were then repaired by means of consolidation, infilling, priming, and inpainting of losses. As work progressed, the client decided to preserve an additional Spanish Colonial Revival-style decorative scheme on a barrel-vaulted ceiling in a corridor adjacent to the Moxom frescoes. Selected sections of graffiti lining the corridor were also conserved for display.

Throughout the project, we worked closely with Mercy Housing, a California based nonprofit housing developer, who was converting the college into San Francisco's first affordable senior LGBTQ+ housing. EverGreene met the client's budget and construction schedule to integrate the phased treatments and conserved artwork into the modernized building.

SERVICES PERFORMED

Conservation Treatments
Decorative Painting & Finishes
Plasterwork

PROJECT DETAILS

Restoration Architect
Page & Turnbull

MORE INFORMATION:
https://evergreene.com/projects/55-laguna-street/

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