

# KSU Center for Visual Arts Reaches New Heights with Redesigned Loading Dock and Integrated Hydraulic Lift

## Equipment Focus: Serco SDL Series Hydraulic Lift



Kent State University's (KSU) visual arts programs are finally under one roof. That was the KSU School of Art's primary goal when it decided to create the institution's new Center for the Visual Arts (CVA).

By renovating, repurposing and connecting two older adjacent campus structures — a former industrial arts building built in 1950 and a vintage heating plant dating to 1916 — KSU's School of Art was able to centralize all its programs that were once dispersed across campus into one home.

The result for the CVA is a blend of old and new construction in a 127,900-square-foot facility — twice the length of a football field — that is LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) registered and Silver certified for efficiency and sustainability.

### New hydraulic lift services redesigned loading dock

Located on the CVA's north side is a newly redesigned and reoriented loading dock, complete with a customized brick alcove that houses a [Serco SDL Series hydraulic dock lift](#).

The new loading dock (at nearly seven feet high) and its hydraulic lift replaced an old four-foot-high dock that previously faced south along with a smaller scissor lift. The former loading dock and lift were serviced via an access drive and cul-de-sac which have since been

*(continued)*



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## Impacts & Results



### End User Focus: *Easy Operation*

On-board lift control allows one person to easily operate the lift.



### Key Impact: *Increased Safety*

Much safer loading and unloading for personnel.



### Financial Benefit: *High-Value Art Protected*

Enables the proper movement of art for insurance purposes.

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replaced with landscaping and green space, said Aaron Thompson of Domokur Architects, the firm that handled the CVA's new loading dock design.

*"Now we can move things on our own if needed, where using the old lift was always a two-person job."*

Anderson Turner, School of Art Collection & Galleries  
Kent State University

The new lift was intentionally integrated into the new dock structure itself on all three sides and doesn't sit fully exposed as the old lift did, according to Mike Wasowski, R.A., Project Manager II, Office of the University Architect, KSU.

[Timbers-Kovar Company](#) (Serco distributor in Mentor, Ohio that assists local and national customers with a variety of scissor lift solutions) actively worked with KSU's general contractor and Domokur Architects on the project's overall design and installation.

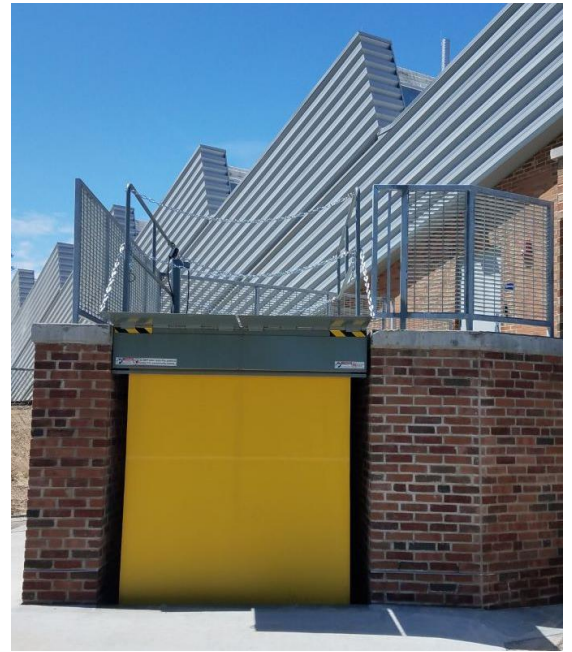
Anderson Turner, Director, School of Art Collection & Galleries, KSU, who oversees seven campus gallery locations as well as one in downtown Kent (Ohio), pointed out that the new dock's orientation is now how it should have been built in the first place.

"The new dock and lift are making loading a small box truck, minivan or even car much easier and safer," Turner explained, emphasizing that he uses the dock and lift daily. "I move expensive things like sculptures and other art that can cost \$100,000 per piece. Being able to rely on the dock and lift we have now makes this possible."

## No further need for two-person operation

Turner further added that the lift's on-board control (pre-wired NEMA-4X push-button) is a huge improvement over how his previous lift was configured: "Now we can move things on our own if needed, where using the old lift was always a two-person job."

Turner stressed that the new loading dock enables the School of Art's galleries to bring in exhibits from around the country and the world. "With art collections worth several millions of dollars, insurance companies won't cover shows and art handling companies won't



deliver if we can't follow best practices and properly move objects in and out of our main building," Turner explained whose CVA Gallery, the largest exhibit space in the building, operates as a small museum.

The lift's default position is fully extended, flush with the loading dock's surface which serves as an important fall prevention measure. A yellow roller curtain covers the exposed lift opening which helps keep out the elements and debris to ensure consistently reliable operation.

Wasowski shared Turner's initial primary concern about the new dock and its reversed orientation: "I don't care if you change the direction of the dock, I just need it to work as well as it did before, if not better," Turner emphasized before the project started.

All parties involved in the project fully agree that the KSU CVA's new loading dock and lift have accomplished exactly what was promised and will service the CVA's needs for decades to come.

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