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Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Welcomes Blumenthal Arts to the Iron District

Leading arts organization reimagines castings warehouse for new immersive experience offering and helps set a path for Iron District's future

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — April 8, 2024 — Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company, the nation's leading maker of cast iron and plastic pipe and fittings for plumbing applications, has partnered with Blumenthal Arts to transform the Company's former commercial castings warehouse into an immersive experience event venue that will help bring the historic Iron District property to life.

"We're thrilled to welcome Blumenthal Arts as the first resident of the Iron District, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry's former cast iron foundry location," said Hooper Hardison, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company CEO. "This is the first step in realizing what we see as dynamic potential for the Iron District. We can't imagine a better way to start to bring that vision to life than with Blumenthal Arts, whose innovation and creativity have shaped Charlotte's arts offerings for decades."

The warehouse sits on a 55-acre parcel of land in Uptown and South End that served Charlotte Pipe for more than a century before the Company relocated foundry operations in 2023 to a new state-of-the-art facility in Oakboro, just east of Charlotte. Charlotte Pipe and Foundry dubbed the parcel the "Iron District" in a nod to the area's rich history in cast iron manufacturing.

The former warehouse that will serve as the venue for Blumenthal Arts' new immersive experience series is at the intersection of West Morehead and South Clarkson streets, adjacent to Uptown. Within view of Bank of America Stadium and the city's skyline, the location has access from neighborhoods including Uptown, South End, Wesley Heights, Freedom Drive and Camp Green. The Iron District is also close to the interstates, giving visitors from across the region easy access to Blumenthal Arts' new home for immersive experiences.

"We are over the moon to announce the future of Blumenthal Arts programming," said Blumenthal Arts President and CEO Tom Gabbard. "For more than two years, our fans have been wondering, 'what's next?' Charlotte has cultivated a growing

international reputation in the immersive space. We've traveled the world to prepare for this moment and usher Charlotte into the future of experiential art."

Gabbard added, "Real estate developers are coming to understand the power of what we do to not only draw crowds, but also provide color, texture and a creative spark that brings economic vitality and success to a growing community. We are honored to be the first residents and partners to help bring the Iron District to life."

Blumenthal Arts will play Space Explorers: THE INFINITE, a captivating immersive journey inspired by NASA missions aboard the International Space Station, September 20-November 10, 2024.

Blumenthal Arts serves the Carolinas as a leading cultural, entertainment and education not-for-profit, managing four theaters that host 1,000 events annually, presenting the Charlotte International Arts Festival and innovating with cutting-edge immersive experiences, including the 2022 presentation of Immersive Van Gogh with over 300,000 tickets sold. Blumenthal's presence in the Iron District reflects Charlotte Pipe and Foundry's vision for the promising future of its former industrial site.

"Today's announcement is the first step on our journey to cast a bright and prosperous future from an industrious past," Hardison said. "We look forward to partnering with Blumenthal Arts as we open a new chapter in our storied history."

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About Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company

Charlotte Pipe and Foundry is the nation's leading manufacturer of cast iron and plastic pipe and fittings for plumbing applications. Founded in 1901 and privately held, the Company is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, and operates seven manufacturing plants across the United States. The Company's wholly owned subsidiary, Neenah Enterprises Inc., is a preeminent manufacturer of municipal castings and operates three plants in the U.S.