The rehabilitation of the US Federal Building (Kendall College of Art and Design), Grand Rapids

Ferris State University and its Kendall College of Art and Design, Christman Capital Development Company, the Christman Company, TowerPinkster Architects, Hopkins Burns Design Studio, and the City of Grand Rapids

Built in 1909, the US Federal Building in Grand Rapids served its original purpose until 1981 when it became home to the Grand Rapids Art Museum. The museum relocated in 2007, and the building remained vacant until Ferris State University redeveloped the structure for its Kendall College of Art and Design. Christman Capital Development led a public/private partnership to rehabilitate the structure while preserving the historic character of the monumental Beaux Arts building. Using State Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Brownfield Tax Credits, Christman undertook a historic rehabilitation to provide an auditorium, an art supply/book store, exhibition galleries, classrooms, and more for students.

The rehabilitation of the US Federal Building represents a $22.4 million investment in downtown Grand Rapids and has helped revitalize the Division Avenue corridor, which continues to emerge as a hub for creativity, innovation, and higher education in West Michigan.