



## ***Fine Cut Insider***

### ***Fine Cut helps save a historic mural***

***"Months of planning took place in preparation for this job"***

Every city has unique characteristics that set it apart from others. Our nearby big city is no different. Kansas City is known for jazz, barbecue and notable architecture in places like Union Station and the Country Club Plaza just to name a few. One of the main influencers and artists of the Country Club Plaza was Arthur Kraft. Kraft was a very popular artist and completed another significant piece of art in downtown Kansas City which brings me to write about this job Fine Cut completed last month.

Arthur Kraft created a colorful mosaic glass tile mural in 1960 on the side of what used to be the city's main library branch. Then later became the building for the Kansas City Board of Education. Unfortunately this building has been in disrepair for many years and demolition is certain. The execution of this demolition, though, has been drawn out due to the unknowns of all the pieces of art including Kraft's mural which lies on the west wall of the building. Throughout the process, the building's owners, Copaken and Brooks have pledged that the late Arthur Kraft's mosaic mural won't be reduced to rubble. Brooks also claims, "I have spent more time on the murals than the demolition itself". Further, there was a lot of pressure from neighboring businesses to save this artwork. Decisions made concerning the mural must be approved by the Kansas City Municipal Art Commission. As of May 21, Brooks was at a loss of how to save the art structure. Very soon after, Fine Cut was called to do the job!



***"Brooks was at a loss of how to save the art structure"***

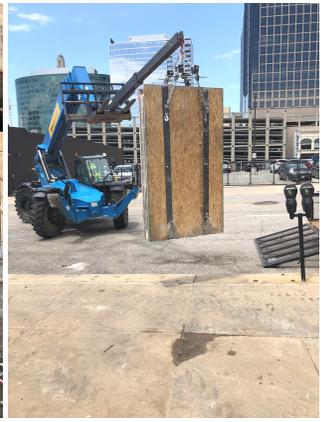


Months of planning took place in preparation for this job. We worked with two additional contractors to execute the plan. On the big day, the 3 companies worked together to set the art free. We first made a flush cut partially through the wall from the back side and allowed The contractors to fully shim the mural. The mural was to be separated into 9 pieces. After that, we created an access opening on the top of the blocks to later be filled so they would be more stable when moved. Next, The contractors strapped and braced the wall sections from both sides and installed 16 rods in precise locations so that we could mount our wall saws and cut the pieces free.





Our very skilled Nate Sharp was one of the operators on this job. After the job was completed, Nate discovered his grandfather was actually one of the workers to install this mural for Arthur Kraft in 1960! It is so fitting that Fine cut was the company called for this particular job.



As well as Kraft's wall mural, there was also an intricate floor mosaic we removed from the inside of the building. Once the art is taken out of the old building, it will be stored until ready to install at a new location on a later date. Complete demolition will carry on to the rest of the building. This notable job has been entertaining to follow along with and we are happy to be such a big help to Kansas City. Make sure to follow us on social media to keep up with what we are doing!



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