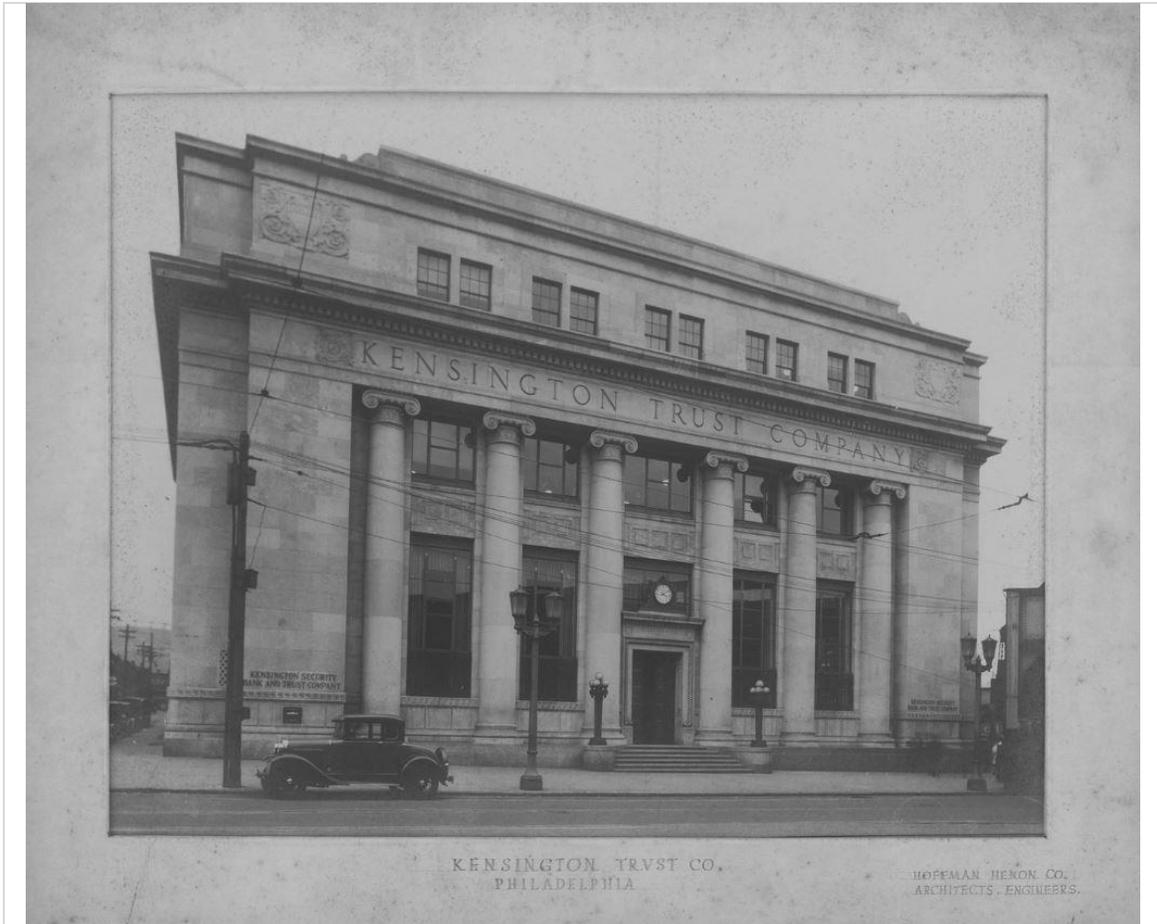


# Esperanza Health Center

*2020 Grand Jury Award Winner*





**Esperanza Health Center**

861 E. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia

**Owner:** Esperanza Health Center

**Project Team:** Brawer & Hauptman Architects; OmniVest Management, Inc.; Target Building Construction

The adaptive reuse of the Kensington Trust Company Building as a state-of-the-art outpatient facility for Esperanza Health Center provides a beacon of hope for one of the most troubled neighborhoods of Philadelphia. As a landmark historic building at the intersection of Kensington and Allegheny -- ground zero for the city's devastating opioid epidemic -- the building's renovation promises to uplift a neighborhood in desperate need of optimism and support.

The building's location was once the center of Philadelphia's industrial expansion in the late 19th and early 20th century. As manufacturers built their factories north of Center City, residents followed. Vast townhouse neighborhoods grew up around these facilities; the elevated transit line ran through Fishtown and Kensington on its way north, and the

Kensington and Allegheny elevated station became an important commercial hub. Major institutions were built to serve the growing and increasingly prosperous population. Kensington Trust already had a smaller building on the site and, in 1928, began construction of the current building, incorporating portions of the original structure. At about the time the new Kensington Trust Company building was completed, the stock market crash ushered in the Great Depression, and the neighborhood began its lengthy and steady decline. Remarkably, the building was occupied by Wells Fargo bank until 2015, but little had been done in the way of maintenance or renovation.

This renewed health center is an exemplary project, one that demonstrates how preservation and adaptive reuse of a neighborhood's architectural assets can build community, uplift its residents, and help provide essential public services. Taking full advantage of the building's existing architectural features that could never be feasibly replicated, while introducing modern elements and uses, creates a unique programmatic experience that would otherwise be difficult to provide. This project serves as a model for adaptive reuse excellence in Philadelphia and will hopefully serve as a precedent for future projects in our city.



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**PLEASE NOTE**  
**The 2020 Preservation Achievement Awards**  
**have been postponed until**  
**Tuesday, September 29**