The Jessie Ball duPont Center

The Jessie Ball duPont Center is housed in one of Jacksonville’s architectural jewels — the former Haydon Burns Library. In a setting that appreciates this rich history, the Jessie Ball duPont Center provides offices for nonprofits and work and gathering spaces for the community in an energy-efficient environment equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Named for Jessie Ball duPont, long-time resident of Jacksonville and one of the country’s greatest philanthropists, the Jessie Ball duPont Center serves as a gathering place for philanthropic and nonprofit organizations.

Made possible by direct investment of a portion of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Center demonstrates philanthropic leadership in sharing resources, participating in downtown revitalization and responsibly retrofitting and repurposing a half-century old historic structure.

A gathering place for philanthropy and nonprofits in the heart of downtown Jacksonville

Completed in 2015, the Jessie Ball duPont Center houses more than a dozen local nonprofits in one of Jacksonville’s most iconic buildings — a remarkable Mid-Century Modern structure that was once the city’s public library.

The Jessie Ball duPont Center is designed to:
• Provide affordable office space for nonprofits, reducing the organizations’ occupancy costs and, thereby, freeing up resources to support their missions;
• Nurture collaboration among tenant organizations and enhance their collective voice;
• Raise the visibility of the nonprofit sector in Jacksonville and help business, civic and governmental leaders understand the nonprofit sector’s potential to help meet community challenges.

In developing the Jessie Ball duPont Center, its owner, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund:
• Demonstrated its commitment to downtown Jacksonville, in keeping with the Fund’s broader commitment to revitalizing communities;
• Demonstrated the benefits of restoring historic structures and using green building technologies;
• Demonstrated a fresh approach to the use of institutional endowments.

Vibrant spaces for your work, your gathering or your special events

Filled with bright colors and awash in light, the Jessie Ball duPont Center’s 120,000 square feet of space fill four floors — three above-ground and one below ground. Thanks to unique construction and thoughtful renovation, the Center offers a variety of spaces for work, meetings, gatherings and events.

The building features:
• A conference center with an auditorium seating 148 and three seminar rooms;
• A Great Hall for receptions and exhibits;
• A roof garden for social events;
• A board room seating 45 overlooking the roof garden;
• A training center with four training rooms;
• Meeting spaces that accommodate groups from 4 to 40;
• “Hot Desks” that provide short-term work spaces — for a day, a week or a year.

For details and information on rental policies, rates and fees, visit www.dupontcenter.org.

A new life for one of Jacksonville’s architectural treasures

The Jessie Ball duPont Center is housed in one of Jacksonville’s last remaining examples of Mid-Century Modern architecture.

Built in 1965 to serve as the public library, the building was designed by architect Taylor Hardwick and named for Jacksonville’s longest sitting mayor, Haydon Burns. The City of Jacksonville vacated the building in 2005 when a newer, larger public library was constructed. During the next several years, the former imposing public library fell into disrepair until the Jessie Ball duPont Fund purchased it in 2013.

The Fund invested $25 million to restore and repurpose the building, creating the Jessie Ball duPont Center.

The Jessie Ball duPont Center officially opened in June 2015, five months shy of the 50th anniversary of the original grand opening.

An example of innovative thinking around community investments

In developing the Center, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund chose to direct a portion of its investment capital away from traditional investment vehicles into the purchase, repurposing and retrofitting of a downtown historic property, developing a permanent community asset.

The return on this capital investment is measured not by the value of this real estate asset but by the benefit to the local nonprofit sector and the community in general.

In pricing rental rates, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund seeks to cover the cost of operating the building and establishing a maintenance reserve fund but will not recover its purchase and construction costs.

Its rental rates are currently half of commercial rates for comparable properties.