

LED LIGHTING UPGRADE BRINGS
NEW ENERGY TO ART GALLERY

CASE STUDY
COLORADO



Momoyo Torimitsu, “Somehow I Don’t Feel Comfortable” (large, pink bunnies); Vik Muniz, “Last Supper” (triptych on back wall); Simon Periton, “Anarchy Doily” (pink/black piece in safe).

Art can be a very subjective topic. How we see it and react to it can make all the difference, so when it comes to the business of art, presentation is everything.

Situation

The Dikeou Collection is a contemporary art collection located in downtown Denver. This not-for-profit organization is housed on the fifth floor of the historic Colorado Building. Built at the turn of the century, the building has undergone various transitions from its origins as a department store, where a majority of the lighting was primarily incandescent bulbs.

Challenge

When Saniego Sanchez, director of this growing collection, started to consider new lighting options for the gallery, he took a long and calculated view. He explains, “Color is key to all that we do here. The light brings out the true nature of the art.”

Sanchez recalls, “While we had been casually considering new lighting, the a-ha moment came when we did an exhibition trade with Artpace, a contemporary art non-profit based in San Antonio, Texas. We had on display a vivid blue neon piece that made our surroundings seem so drab. Our collection features many black and white photos, pencil drawings along with a variety of sepia tone watercolors. This observation helped us realize how much the incandescent light bulbs were affecting the artwork, and led us to examine the potential of LED lighting.”

“A new and vibrant energy was added to the entire collection and gallery.”

Saniego Sanchez,
Director, Dikeou Collection



Anya Kielar, “Sand Face 1” and “Sand Face 2” (colorful abstract facial features on left/right wall); Lucky DeBellevue, “Otter” (sculpture in center of room).

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
Project	Installed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 144 LED lamps• 32 wall sensors• Three LED troffers fixtures
Project total cost	\$4,725.48
Xcel Energy rebate	\$2,780.21
Total kW savings	10.629
Total kWh savings	31,796
Estimated annual energy savings	\$1,271.84
Estimated payback	One year

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Solution

After searching online, Sanchez came across information about Xcel Energy's Small Business Lighting Efficiency program, and saw that he could get a free lighting assessment conducted at the collection. "Within a week after I signed up, the assessment was complete, and it was a smooth and easy process." Sanchez received a report which gave him a roadmap to follow—outlining what type of LED upgrades he should make, along with expected rebate dollars and energy savings.

"It was about more than just the rebates or extended lifetime of LED fixtures, it was really about the quality of the light. Although, I admit it was easy to get buy-in from our accountant and financial managers when they saw the immediate rebate savings and the value of using notably less electricity."

The Dikeou Collection worked with Xcel Energy and a local LED lighting contractor to implement their retrofit.

Result

Once the LEDs were installed, Sanchez exclaimed, "It was like a new and vibrant energy was added to the entire collection and gallery. Regular visitors would comment, 'there's something different going on here, but I can't put my finger on it.'"

The lighting retrofit included 144 LED lamps, 32 wall sensors and three LED troffers fixtures totaling around \$4,700. Sanchez remarked, "We were able to complete the implementation in two stages, and the Xcel Energy rebate of over \$2,700 on the first phase helped finance our second stage."

Discover savings for your business

Small business customers under 50,000 square feet are eligible to receive a free, on-site energy audit which is a comprehensive audit of your facility and its energy use. In addition, for customers with a peak kW use under 100 kW the visit includes no-cost installation of instant energy saving measures such as LED screw-in lamps, and faucet aerators. Sign up for your audit today and we'll help determine what type of lighting upgrades can have the biggest impact on reducing energy costs, identify rebates and provide assistance with completing and submitting rebate paperwork.



Top: "Zebra (Huh/What)" (large zebra paintings).

Bottom: Royal Art Lodge, "Christmas Future" (framed drawings on three walls); Drue Langlois, "Polio and Palsy" (soft sculpture to right).

Photos Courtesy of Dikeou Collection,
Photographer: Mike Straka

For more information, call a program representative at 877.287.2250,
or visit [xcelenergy.com/SmallBizLighting](https://www.xcelenergy.com/SmallBizLighting).

