

December 28, 2020

RE: Metis Construction Services / 175 E. Erie Street, Suite 303 / Kent, OH 44240

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of The Burbick Companies, I am pleased to present this Letter of Reference for Metis Construction Services (Metis). The Burbick Companies first hired Metis as the general contractor in 2010 for the Acorn Alley II mixed use development project located in the heart of historic downtown Kent. Construction began on Acorn Alley II in late 2010 with the first business opening in the fall of 2011. This 25,000 sq. ft., \$6 million project consists of a pedestrian friendly development that offers a welcoming, locally owned and operated mix of unique shops, boutiques, full-service restaurants, service-oriented businesses, and commercial office space.

The Burbick Companies continued redevelopment in 2011 with the purchase of the old Franklin Hotel located within the historic preservation district in downtown Kent. Without hesitation and foregoing the bid process, we hired Metis as the general contractor for this highly anticipated project. The five-story, 25,000 sq. ft., concrete and masonry building was a prominent historic landmark in downtown Kent for several decades, but the building had been neglected and fell into major disrepair. The \$5.5 million restoration project of the historic structure began during the summer of 2012 with an aggressive completion date of spring 2013. We were confident that Metis would not only meet the deadline date put forth, but that they would also work to restore the historic fabric and integrity of this Neo-Classical Revival style building. Metis lent their expertise and attention to detail as demonstrated throughout the Acorn Alley II project with respect to cost control measures, meeting of deadlines, management of subcontractors, and quality of work. They also shared our enthusiasm and sense of pride in restoring this century old building to its original stately fashion, preserving the history and character of the past and revitalizing its use for the future.

In 2016, we called on Metis again after members from the community of Kent raised nearly \$300,000 to build a pocket park in downtown Kent in memory of Kent's former economic development director, Dan Smith, who lost his courageous battle to cancer in 2014. The Dan Smith Community Park not only honors Dan's legacy, but it also provides free public access to community green space with natural elements, play areas, and a gathering space for the local population and visitors of all ages and all walks of life. The park includes a sandstone rock wall area; a patio area; a tiered lawn/game area; a stage with urban swings; a trellis at each of two entrances; a water feature; and a playground train with embankment slide. Metis displayed a high level of professionalism throughout the construction process, but more importantly, they were instrumental in assisting with a community development initiative by transforming an empty plot of land into an urban open space with social, environmental, and cultural benefits in honor of a person who made an indelible impression on the community of Kent.

Throughout each of these projects, Metis acted as a partner with members of The Burbick Companies, the City of Kent, architects, engineers, inspectors, and others involved with the projects. We look forward to working with Metis on future projects, and highly recommend Metis Construction Services.

Please feel free to contact me at 330.815.4315 with any questions or for more information.

Best regards,



Michelle M. Hartman
COO/Executive Vice President
The Burbick Companies