



# CASE STUDY

## BENTON MUSEUM OF ART AT POMONA COLLEGE

Like most older museums, the Pomona College Museum of Art struggled with the issues of being able to expand its art collections, the need to improve access for students, faculty and the surrounding community; and the overcrowding and substandard care of PCMA's art collections. Steve Comba, the Associate Director/Registrar of PCMA, selected Olpin Group to help resolve these issues. Selection was based on a blend of OG's relationships with desired manufacturers and qualifications vetted by Steve.



Steve's vision for PCMA was to increase access for students, faculty and community, increase storage space and visibility, and raise the standard of storage conditions to preserve collections. It was also important to consolidate similar collections into their own areas (former storage was in the museum and another building). Steve wanted to ensure the ability of the museum to grow and expand over the next 20 years. In 2017, construction on the new **Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College** commenced.

PCMA's largest collections were of paintings and paper (photography, drawings, prints). These were moved from substandard storage to state of the art Staba Arte racks and to the expanded Delta flat file cabinets. The art racks save floor space, allow the consolidation of PCMA's collections and future expansion, and provide visibility with ease of access.

The Native American object collection, also formerly housed in substandard shelving, was moved to the newly expanded Delta flat file cabinetry and the Aurora compact high density mobile units. Olpin Group customized the compact shelving with heavy duty pull-out shelves that support more weight and shelving units based on storage needs.

IOPC custom tables and millwork were also added to provide flexibility to the museum's

storage and operations. The registration and workroom area (where basic care of collections takes place) boasts a mat table dubbed the "Comba Table." Olpin Group customized a general use table with multiple functions: It harbors an extension that allows the table to expand, is mobile so it can be easily moved, and includes custom notches to fit the mat cutter exactly!

The new state-of-the-art storage equipment and components installed by Olpin Group create the desired multi-functionality of the **Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College**: Safe professional storage, expandability, visibility and ease of access of art collections by students and the community.



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*"The Olpin Team, Scott and Craig, were extremely responsive to questions, changes and needs that I had, and had great follow up with questions or concerns as installation came in. They completed the project within the proposed time frame. Their concern for quality of install and my needs were exemplary. Compared to the drama that goes into a new building, the high point was working with them. I would highly recommend them! ... Olpin Group continues to help on an ongoing basis with additional solutions we are looking for."* Steve Comba, Associate Director/Registrar (10.2019)

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