

Tile Collection

Walled Lake Consolidated School District

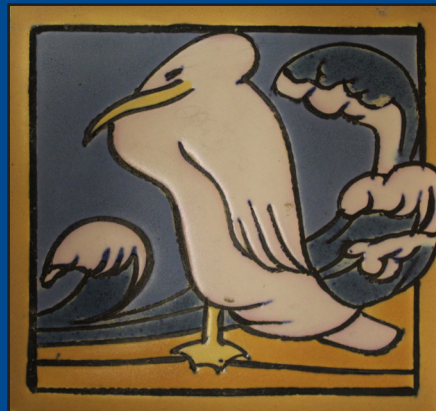
Community Education Center

1992-2017

Walled Lake Community High School
1995-2010

Walled Lake Junior High School
1955-1992

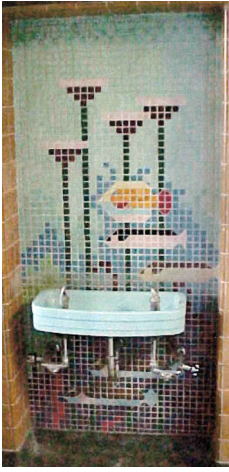
Walled Lake High School
1922-1955



Vintage Tiles were carefully salvaged from the CEC Building



Terrazzo floors and Flint Faience Vintage Tiles, often thought to be Pewabic tiles, adorned the walls of the CEC hallways.



The Sanskrit Symbol: The American Indian symbol on the floor at the main entrance of the former CEC building celebrated the life of the Indians who lived in the Walled Lake area; and welcomed visitors to a place where students began on the path of learning and continued on the path, following their life's journey after graduation.

History of the Flint Faience Tile Co.

During the early years of General Motors, ceramic tile became a quirky offshoot of the auto manufacturing process. Albert Champion, who manufactured and sold spark plugs for General Motors (Champion Ignition Company and later AC Spark Plug Company), realized that kilns used to create the porcelain caps on spark plugs could be damaged by repeated cycles of heating and cooling as they were turned off at the end of the day. So he devised a way to keep the kilns consistently hot, using them to fire colorful tiles during off-hours from spark plug production. Thus the Flint Faience & Tile Company was born in 1921.

Tile production started off with a range of standard field tiles in colorful hues, but the company soon added increasingly elaborate designs to the mix—geometrics, stylized florals, animals, even faces. The tiles' popularity quickly grew far and wide—including an installation in the Presidential Palace of Peru. Flint Faience tiles were prominently featured in the homes GM's early executives built in Flint, such as the E.T. Strong House.

Despite their popularity, Flint Faience tile production ceased in 1933, when GM reverted the kilns to spark-plug production full-time, owing to increased demand for automobiles. The tiles remain valuable and extremely collectible. Learn more about them in the book *Flint Faience Tiles A to Z* by Margaret Carney and Ken Galvaz (Schiffer, 2004).

<https://www.oldhouseonline.com/interiors-and-decor/history-of-the-flint-faience-tile-company>



Thank you for the photos! A special thank you to Georgia McDermott and her daughter, Valerie Kay McDermott, for chronicling the variety of tiles that were on display at the CEC building. Valerie took pictures of **every single tile** featured in this booklet. Note that some appear to be duplicates as a few tiles had more than one copy - sometimes in different colors.





















