

# Anning-Johnson Company

by John Sytsma, Vice President, District Manager



## How long has Anning-Johnson Company been in business?

Anning-Johnson has been in business for 76 years.

## How and when was the business started?

Anning-Johnson Company originated from a partnership called The H.E. Anning Company, which was formed September 1, 1940 in Chicago. The company installed acoustical ceilings and poured gypsum roof decks in the Chicago area. The partnership shortly became the Anning-Johnson Company. It was controlled by Harold E. Anning, who had been general superintendent for the United States Gypsum Company and Ernest B. Johnson, U.S. Gypsum's industrial division sales manager.

In 1942, the company opened its first branch office in Washington, D.C., known as the E.B. Johnson Company. In 1943, the company promoted the use of a poured gypsum roof on the Gaseous Diffusion Atomic Energy Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This 2.5 million-square-foot project still remains the largest roof deck job on the company's books, and in effect launched the Anning-Johnson Company.

## How many employees does Anning-Johnson have?

Anning-Johnson has approximately 1,500 employees and labor force nationally. Eight offices exist across the country: Atlanta, Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. The Northern California branch first opened in Burlingame in 1961 and later moved to its current location in Hayward in 1989. Locally, we have about 450 field and staff employees.

## What geographic areas are covered?

Our branch typically operates in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. However, we have completed work throughout all of Northern California and Nevada, and on a national level in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Portland and Seattle.

## What is Anning-Johnson's specialty?

We specialize in metal studs, drywall, structural framing, EIFS, lath and plaster, fireproofing, structural metal decking and rain screens.

## What sets the company apart from the competition?

In 1949, Anning-Johnson Company took a significant step by offering company stock to a select group of 10 employees. This action was significant for the business, as it set the stage

for total employee ownership which has proven vital to the company's growth and success. To this end, every employee has an opportunity to be an owner and feel invested in the organization. When you own a part of something you take care of it — we refer to it as "having skin in the game." This business strategy is what has made Anning-Johnson a very unique and successful organization.

## Can you speak to the importance of being a WACA member/contractor?

Having served on the board for the last four years, I have gained a newfound respect for what WACA provides to its members. Negotiating fair labor agreements, identifying and sharing industry trends and best practices, providing technical support with its technical division — the Wall and Ceiling Bureau —



and promoting union contracting throughout Northern California are just a few benefits members receive from the association.

### What special projects is Anning-Johnson working on?

We are currently working on three major projects in San Francisco: the Salesforce Tower at 62 stories, 181 Fremont at 55 stories and the Mission Bay Block 1 (One Mission Bay) project located across from AT&T Park.

### Are there any particular achievements the company has been recognized for?

Our Construction Excellence Awards (CEA) from WACA go back all the way to 2011, the first year WACA began the awards. That first year, Anning-Johnson won a CEA for Retail Exterior and also for Residential Exterior. Since then, we've received CEAs in 2012, 2014 and 2015. Most recently, Anning-Johnson earned the 2016 CEA for Institutional Interior for the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive project. We also received AWC's Excellence in Construction Quality Award 2008 for the Jewish Contemporary Museum.

## Interior of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive



### Is there anything else we should know about Anning-Johnson?

Yes — our philosophy, and how it's helped contribute to our long-term success. We've found that employees like autonomy. If you set the direction, provide them with the resources, then give them the responsibility

and authority to make good decisions, the results generally end up being favorable to the company. Anning-Johnson is proud of how hard our employees worked to make it the company it is today.



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Architects, designers, building officials, contractors, general contractors, suppliers and dealers, manufacturers,

industry professionals, and architectural and construction management students — or anyone interested in the wall and ceiling industry!

#### Why Should You Attend?

This event provides an opportunity to connect with peers and get the most up-to-date information in the wall and ceiling community.

#### Want to Exhibit?

Get your company noticed! Booth space is available. Booth fee: \$500. Download the exhibitor registration form at [www.wallandceilingalliance.org](http://www.wallandceilingalliance.org), or email Ben Duterte, [ben@wcbureau.org](mailto:ben@wcbureau.org)/Mike Nonn, [mike@wcbureau.org](mailto:mike@wcbureau.org).

For more information on the Expo, contact Ben Duterte at (408) 500-2309 or Mike Nonn at (408) 337-9706.