

Finalist:
Excellence in Civic/Institutional



David T. Howard Middle School

Opened in 1924, on land donated by a former slave, David T. Howard Middle School campus is immersed in the rich history of Atlanta and the Martin Luther King Jr. Historic District. Abandoned for four decades, the 7.5-acre urban block was transformed and reactivated through the restoration of the 85,000 sq ft historic building, gymnasium, auditorium and a 122,000 sq ft addition.

Honoring the rich history and legacy of the neighborhood, the renovation compliments the historic building by designing additions that complement the original structures. Restoring and preserving the existing brick walls, the terrazzo floors, the wood gym bleachers along with dedicating one classroom to represent the historic finishes and configuration of the school. The design philosophy was to respect the historic building, heritage landscape elements and the intimate relationship to the neighborhood. Located within the Old Fourth Ward, half a mile east of downtown Atlanta, the site design features outdoor learning, outdoor recreation, a shade garden, pedestrian spaces, and green infrastructure.

With notable alumni such as Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and Maynard Jackson, the first black mayor of Atlanta, Vernon Jones, Mildred McDaniel Singleton and Walt Frazier, this middle school campus will continue to serve as an anchor for the Civil Rights Movement and foster a culture of equality for generations.

PROJECT TEAM

Atlanta Public Schools
SSOE|Stevens & Wilkinson
Lord Aeck Sargent
Eberly and Associates
Sykes Consulting
Camacho
Acustica
Parrish Construction Group