ABSTRACT

Title of Document: DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS:

CREATING IDENTITY THROUGH ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSION OF CULTURE IN A

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Linda J. Clark, Master of Architecture, 2012

Directed By: Assistant Professor Isaac Williams

School of Architecture, Planning, and

Preservation

This thesis proposes to redefine an existing building type: a public arts high school in an urban city context, as a building that becomes more than an important place for its students, and the community, but as a home for the arts, academics, and learning through social interactivity.

The case study for these explorations will redefine Duke Ellington School of the Arts as a prototype for this architectural theory. It is sited in the historic Georgetown neighborhood in the northwest quadrant of Washington D.C. The thesis of this project attempts to create a contemporary building in a historic presence that reflects the school's identity and increases its visibility and presence within its Georgetown community, and rethinks how art schools adapt to change, by exploring themes of

flexibility, growth and adaptability in various learning environments to changing pedagogy and technology.

#### DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS: CREATING IDENTITY THROUGH ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSION OF CULTURE IN A HISTORICAL CONTEXT

By

Linda J. Clark

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture 2012

Advisory Committee: Assistant Professor Isaac Williams, Chair Professor Emeritus Ralph Bennett Associate Professor Ronit Eisenbach © Copyright by Linda J. Clark 2012

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## Dedication

In loving memory of a good friend, Ricky Battle. He displayed so much charisma and was the embodiment of the spirit that Duke Ellington School of the Arts students represented.

Ricky Battle

January 7, 1986 – September 2012

## Acknowledgements

I would like to give credit to the outstanding support and guidance of my committee throughout the entire process: Isaac Williams, Ralph Bennett, and Ronit Eisenbach. I would like to extend a special thanks to my committee chair Isaac Williams for being a great inspiration and mentor during this process. In addition, I would like to thank Rory Pullens, Principal of Duke Ellington School of the Arts for welcoming me back into the school allowing me access to the teachers, students and facility, as well as the rest of my Ellington family that provided assistance along the way.

Special thanks to Patricia Chen, Meredith Friedman, Marques King, and Fisayo Alade for their assistance before my public defense. My family and friends for the support.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

Historic buildings in dense urban cities like Washington DC that remain after its original purpose becomes obsolete are repurposed and retrofitted to accommodate a new program for its use. In some cases, a building that changes it program use is more efficient when the intended program is similar to its initial use. However, a traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century school remodeled for the program of a 20<sup>th</sup> century public arts high school is not as efficient a fit as one would think. The pedagogy of various learning models in the 19<sup>th</sup> century has evolved drastically in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a continuous evolving paradigm shift in teaching and learning styles in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In an age of multiuse building type, it is important to understand the importance of flexible spaces.

Art Schools require more community participation and a larger variety of spatial types. The symbiotic relationship of the arts and its audience has been an important relationship necessary for the arts to survive. Community participation in an arts school reflects its artist/audience relationship. Visual expression and connectivity becomes an important strategy in fostering these relationships. The architecture of many schools, still represent the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century curriculum, and require a major overhaul of its facilities to accommodate the needs of an evolving pedagogy shift in education, and within the arts curriculum a greater requirement of complex, unique, and flexible spaces exists.

The Evolution of Secondary Education in the District of Columbia and the Emergence of Arts in the Curriculum

Washington High School, the first high school for white students was authorized as early as 1858 but not immediately implemented. A one-year course of study for girls who had completed the eighth grade was begun at Franklin in 1876. In 1877 a similar course of study for boys was begun. In 1880 these schools were named "high schools' for the first time, and in 1881 Congress provided for a high school building. Occupied by ninth grade students, the curriculum was divided into business, English, and classical studies. The latter, a college preparatory course, was extended to three years. Public demand for high school education was so great that the Washington (Old Central) High School building was quickly overcrowded and in 1890 three additional high schools were organized to serve different parts of the city. Western in the Curtis School in Georgetown, (now the site of the Anthony Hyde School playground).<sup>1</sup>

The Curtis School, Wisconsin & 0 Streets, N. W. (1875), was one of the original group of innovative urban public schools designed by Adolf Cluss. It housed the Peabody Library and the Linthicum Institute, with space for "philosophical lectures and evening classes in various practical studies." The first class of fifty-six students occupied two classrooms and an assembly room on the top floor. Two full-time teachers taught Latin, English, algebra, German, history and natural science. Part- time teachers taught drawing, music, and physical culture. From the beginning there was a strong emphasis on the arts. A Dickens Carnival was held to raise money for a piano. A Glee Club, Boys' Singing Club, and a Ladies' Chorus were organized. At closing exercises these groups were accompanied by the Georgetown Amateur Orchestra. By June 1895, the enrollment had increased to two hundred and twenty-five and occupied the entire building. During the 1895-96 Congressional session, funds were appropriated for the purchase of a site and

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 $<sup>^{\</sup>mathrm{1}}$  Western High School. National Register Of Historic Places Registration Form. United States

the erection of a building. Architect Harry B. Davis completed the design for the building in December 1896.<sup>2</sup>

The focus on arts in the curriculum continued in Western, until in 1974 when the curriculum shifted to accommodate more of focus on the arts later changing its name to Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Today Duke Ellington School of the Arts has a special relationship with the DC Public School System. Unlike other DCPS schools, Ellington has more autonomy than most due to its community partners that help fund and maintain the school. Ellington has a partnership with DCPS, the Kennedy Center, George Washington University, and the Ellington Fund. Unlike traditional high schools under DCPS, Ellington has more variety of spaces, and uses a higher variety of learning and teaching methods.

#### Arts Education in the 21st Century Curriculum

The "No Child Left Behind," state that the arts is a "core" subject.

It shows the value of arts education in combination with academic instruction for building a civilized and powerful society of intelligent, rational, creative, successful citizens. Students enrolled in both arts and academic education systematically perform better on standardized tests and are more likely to stay out of trouble, graduate higher in their class, go to college, accept other cultures, and are better adjusted, according to the Arts Education Partnership 2006 report, Critical Evidence.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Mary L. Radnofsky, Ph.D, A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ARTS EDUCATION For Preventing Arts Education In America From Being A Burden To Schools Or Country, And For Making It Beneficial To Humanity

The last explosive change in art education came nearly a century ago, when the German Bauhaus was formed. Today, dramatic changes in the art world—its increasing professionalization, the pervasive power of the art market, and fundamental shifts in art-making itself in our post-Duchampian era—combined with a revolution in information technology, raise fundamental questions about the education of today's artists.<sup>4</sup>

Today art education pedagogy is infused with interdisciplinary collaboration. The various learning models including project based methods, and individual research methods represent the trend in arts education, replacing the traditional instruction based methods. These trends are influenced by technology's revolution over the past 20 years. The skills required for postsecondary education and jobs are those of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Students are required to know more coming out of high school today than they were 10 years ago, and as technology progresses this prerequisite will continue to increase. The revolution in 21<sup>st</sup> century Arts education aims to prepare students for an evolving career in the arts, and its integration into traditional academic schools help promote and prepare students in creative thinking strategies.

In design education, "we learn how to think critically and go beyond the status quo to form meaningful new ideas. This training gives [us] the ability to see the big picture, reframe questions to see different perspectives, create innovative solutions to problems, attend to detail, manage and reconcile diverse and complex interests and relationships." – Andrew Pressman

Art is an important discipline and is not separate from the your ability to understand concepts and academic discipline. It helps to reinforce the mind's ability to problem solve, design, and communicate. Using brains synergistically rather than working in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Steven Henry Madoff. Art school:propositions for the 21st century. MIT Press. Massachusetts, 2009.

silos- fosters collaboration and teamwork transform the design practice. In today's world, almost everyone needs to be creative with the means of presenting ideas in various media, creating a new demand for art in every field. As the demand for right-brained (creative) thinking continues to grow, the artist or designer becomes more valued in society.



#### **Chapter 2: Site**

#### Site History

The site for Western High School was an estate commonly known as "The Cedars," built by the Beall family and once occupied by a girls' boarding school. Mature cedars and other trees covered the site. The location appealed to the school's promoters because of its remoteness from Georgetown's business thoroughfares and because of its size. At its completion, the Western High School building specifically addressed the evolving high school curriculum, including a library, laboratories, a drill hall, a bicycle room, a gymnasium and the first lunchroom in the city. It was praised for its color-coordinated auditorium, the landscaped setting, and the accessibility of the auditorium and library in the front of the building to the general public. When the building was first occupied in September, 1898, there were three hundred and eighty-five students and seventeen teachers.<sup>5</sup>

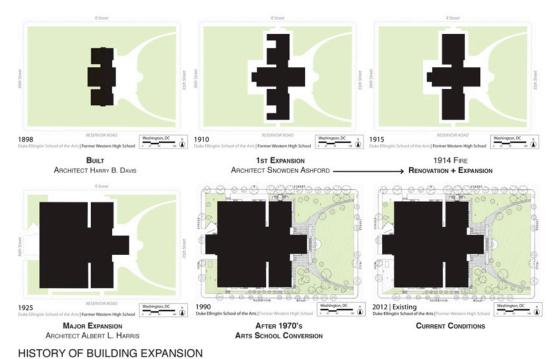
#### **Building History**

It was designed by Washington architect Harry B. Davis in 1896 in the Classical Revival style popularized by the "white city' of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Completed in 1898, it is constructed of brick painted a light buff color with limestone exterior trim. The original building was composed of a monumental two-story portico over a rusticated base. In 1910 Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford enlarged the building to accommodate a greatly expanded student enrollment. In this and later alterations great care was taken to preserve the integrity of the original design and landscaped setting. The portico was widened and extended to balance the addition of twelve rooms to the wings and to provide for a larger assembly hall and stage. In 1914 a fire destroyed most of the third floor, roof, and portions of the basement. When the damage was repaired, a pressed metal cornice replaced the balustrade that encircled the building at the parapet. At

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Western High School. National Register Of Historic Places Registration Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2003

the rear of the building a two-story addition was made at each end of the building, adding four classrooms and the two existing stairs. Ashford was again the architect of these alterations. In 1925, an addition including twenty-eight classrooms, two gymnasiums, and an auditorium was constructed at the rear of the original building. This addition was designed by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris. Although it more than doubled the original building its aesthetic impact was minimized by compatible design including setbacks at the rear of the building. In recent years, the firm of Arthur Cotton Moore/Associates renovated the main floor vestibule and auditorium for the Ellington School of the Arts.<sup>6</sup>



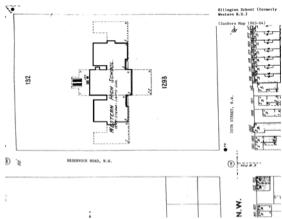
The original portion of the building is rectangular in shape, 174' x 69.' It is 3 stories high, 5 bays wide and 3 bays deep. The facade is composed of a central classical portico, with Ionic columns supporting a pediment, rising two stories above a rusticated base. Recessed sections are located to either side of the portico. Wings with broad ranges of windows are located on either end of the building. A variety of windows are used throughout the main facade,

7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid.

including circular arched windows at the second floor of the central pavilion, flat arched windows on the third floor of the central pavilion, and in the wings, all generally 6/6 sashes. Five main entrance doors are located on the first floor of the central pavilion with a fanlight above ach. The main doors lead directly to the vestibule and auditorium. The auditorium is placed at the far end of the main vestibule on the first floor. The library is located above the main vestibule. The original building had long corridors running north-south on each floor with classrooms and study halls on either side. In Granite stairs lead from the front lawn up to the level of the first floor. Elaborate brick railings on either side of the stairway support large concrete vases.<sup>7</sup>





Western High School 1900

Sanford Map 1903-04





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

#### Program History

The emphasis on the arts begun at Curtis was continued, as was the interaction with the community. The assembly hall accommodated a rich succession of lectures, plays, minstrel shows, musical recitals, and concerts open to all. In spite of the many additions, Western became overcrowded during the booming post- World War I years as the Burleith, Foxhall Village, Glover Park, Wesley Heights, Colony Hill, Spring Valley, and other small residential communities to the west and northwest of Western were developed. The building was enlarged again in 1925, accommodating 1200 students. By 1930 1,840 were attending Western and split sessions were again instituted. The school population peaked in 1934-35 with 2,079 students and 74 teachers. Until enactment of a comprehensive compulsory attendance regulation in 1925, Western High School operated as a fine public college preparatory school. Beginning in 1925 the student body was extended to include those who did not plan to attend college and who would otherwise have attended Business High School or McKinley Manual Training School. A business practice curriculum was added with courses in shorthand, typewriting, commercial arithmetic, bookkeeping, and commercial law. At the same time, the academic curriculum was revised to include 'enrichment' courses such as journalism, speech, choral speaking, and drama, which would prepare students for college-level professional courses. Mechanical drawing, fine arts, design, interior decorating, costume design, and art appreciation, chorus, orchestra, band, and private instrumental and voice training were added. Courses in the social sciences, modern science, American history, and Spanish edged out the earlier classical curriculum. The long awaited field was completed in 1931. In 1974, the Ellington School of the Arts was opened in the building. For a while, the arts school and the regular high school occupied the building until the latter function was phased out.

Historic Value and Background

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals / Classical Revival

Materials: foundation brick, roof stone; slate, walls brick, other stone; limestone, wood

Statement of Significance: National Register Criteria

- 1. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 2. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Areas of Significance: architecture, education, and social history

Period of Significance: 1898-1978 Significant Dates 1898, 1910, 1915, 1925, 1974-8

Date of Major Alteration: 1910, 1915, and 1925

Architect/Builder: Harry B. Davis (1896) Snowden Ashford (1910, 1915) / Albert L. Harris (1925) / builders unknown.

Acreage of Property less than one acre (28,985 sg. Ft.)

More than a century has passed since the construction of the main block of the building and more than 75 years have elapsed since the erection of the additions, permitting sufficient time to evaluate the building in its historical context as a functioning District of Columbia public school and as a grand landmark of upper Georgetown / lower Burleith.



#### Existing Conditions

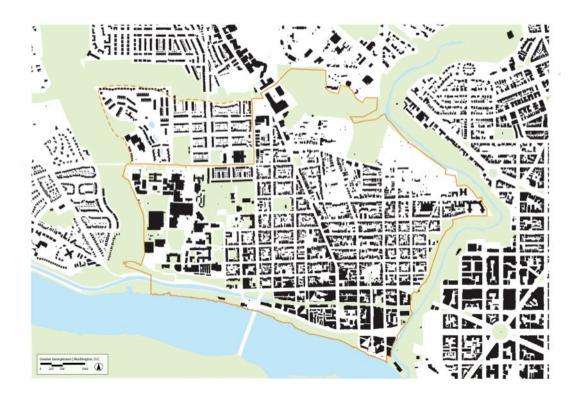
In 1990, Bowie Gridley Architects of Washington D.C. released a master plan illustrating how the school could further expand its current facility. The site has two accessible entrances. The school used most of the site, but maintains the historic front lawn facing 35<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### Site Description

The Western High School/Ellington School of the Arts is located at 35<sup>th</sup> & R Streets, N.W., facing east toward the 35th Street boundary of the Georgetown Historic District and, with its landscaped setting, occupies all of Square 1293 (Old Square 132), lot 803. The site is 135,278 sq. ft. in size. The original value of the site was \$37,000 and the original cost of construction was \$101,084.36 or a total cost of \$138,084.36. A large grassy area extends to the east of the building and is planted

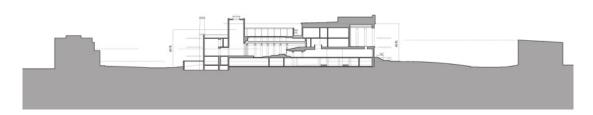
with mature trees. The original wrought iron fence laid in granite blocks encloses the lawn.





## Site Analysis



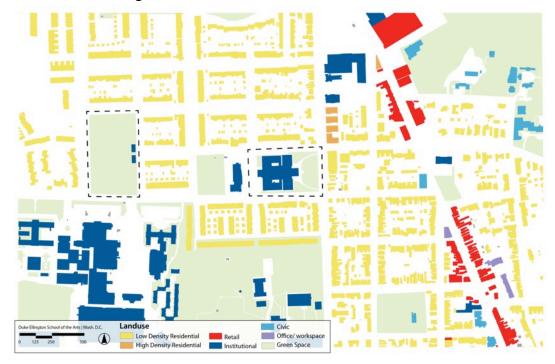


Site Section East-West

Figure Ground



#### Land Use and Zoning



Duke Ellington's School of the Arts neighborhood is predominately surrounded by a low residential density of single-family homes on three sides of its block. It's neighbor, another high school, the International School shares 36<sup>th</sup> Street to the west. The school's athletic field is located further up R Street on 38<sup>th</sup> Street, also serving the greater Georgetown community. Within the larger context of its Georgetown site, DESA shares Reservoir Road with Georgetown University, and further educational facilities like the Georgetown Day School and Corcoran School of Design make up the urban fabric of this site. The school's property has a zoning of R3. Permits matter-of-right development of single-family residential uses (including detached, semi-detached, and row dwellings), churches and public schools with a minimum lot width of 20 feet and a minimum lot area of 2,000 square feet for row dwellings, 30 feet and 3,000 square feet for single-family semi-detached dwellings, 40 feet and 4,000 square feet for all other structures and 120 feet and 9,000 square feet for schools, a

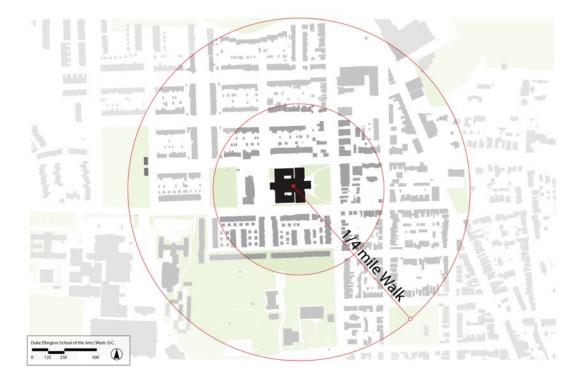
maximum lot occupancy of 60% for row dwellings, churches and schools, 20% for public recreation and community centers, and 40% for all other structures, and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet (60 feet for churches and schools and 45 feet for public recreation and community centers). Rear yard requirement is twenty (20) feet.<sup>8</sup>

#### Infrastructure

Site Access

This school does not have a designated boundary and draws students from across the city.

#### Walkability



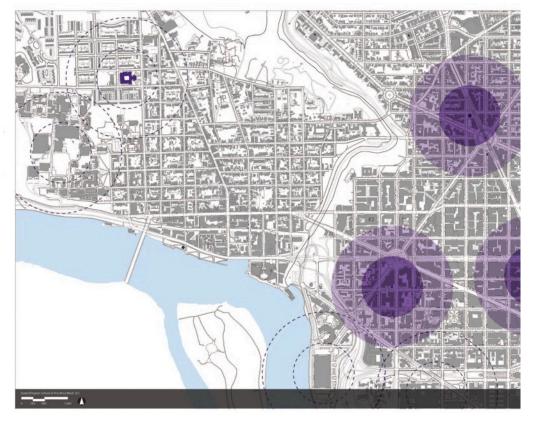
Public Transportation

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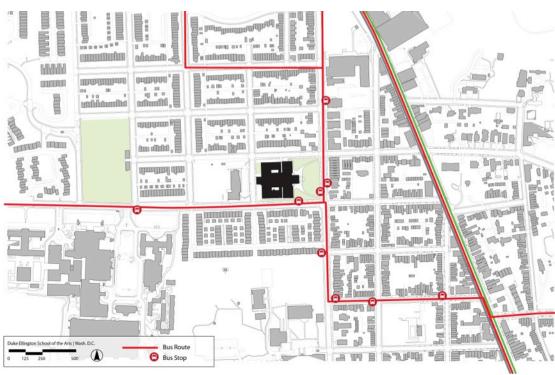
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://planning.dc.gov/DC/Planning/Across+the+City/Zoning

The site is currently accessible by Metro rail but mainly bus. The closest metro station, (not even within a half mile walking radius), is on the red line at DuPont Circle, with entrances located at Connecticut Ave. & 19th St. NW, and Connecticut Ave. & Q St. NW. For students that take public transportation to school, they arrive at their final destination within a 5 min walk from several bus stops, dropping students as close as the corner of 35th Street and Reservoir Road. The main buses that service Ellington's students include:

- 31 (Wisconsin Avenue Line)
- 32, 36 (Pennsylvania Avenue Line)
- D1, D3, D6 (Sibley Hospital-Stadium/Armory Line)
- D2 (Glover Park-DuPont Circle Line)
- D51 (Duke Ellington School of Arts Line)



**Dupont Circle** 



#### Parking



A miniscule percentage of students drive, in part to age restrictions associated with most high school students, access to individual transportation, but the most pressing issue on the site is parking. Georgetown has had a tremendous problem with access to parking, and the faculty continues to have limited access to parking. Reservoir Road becomes a major commuter street during peak rush hour times eliminating parking on that street, and like most Georgetown neighborhoods, residential streets are narrow and have zoned/permit parking or two hour parking limits. The school has a small narrow parking lot on the edge of the southwest corner of the block, which enters onto 36th street. Some cars are parked on the northeast portion of the lawn directly adjacent to the north side of the portico.



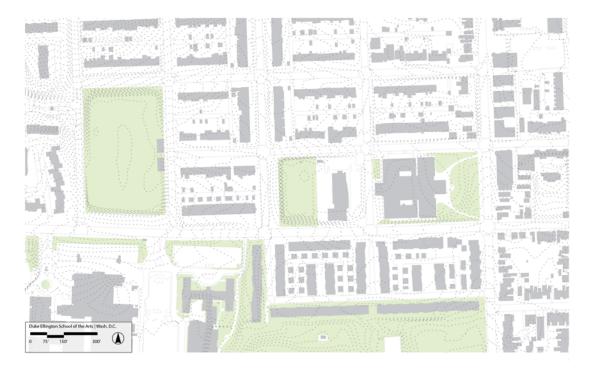
Some students may bike to school, but typically requires a combination of public transportation. Most students are traveling from the South East quadrant of the city.

## Site Landscape

Ellington's front lawn is just as historically significant as the building itself. The lawn is sometimes used for public events and school functions.



## Topography



The building rests on a hill, which has a considerable downward slope on the south, east, and west portion of its block. The surrounding area generally slopes west.

#### Site Assessment

The challenge of modernizing a large historic school on a compact site in a dense, low-rise urban environment requires careful attention to the vertical organization of the building. The site presents various other challenges including the dramatic change in ground elevations from the east side of the building to the west side, dramatically affecting access on the North and South sides of the block. Onsite parking still remains an issue. One possible solution would be to construct and underground parking garage under the front lawn. Underground parking would be an asset to the school and the community. However, an underground parking garage would be very costly, and disruptive to its Georgetown neighbors.

Community Involvement A History of Georgetown's Role

Western was closely connected to the Georgetown community. Students worked together to make school entertainments successful neighborhood social events. The Home and School Association, organized in 1906, was the first such organization in the District of Columbia. They were instrumental in saving the front lawn and classical facade of the building, advocating construction of the additions at the rear and sides of the building. They secured the athletic field and stadium, supported student publications and public events, provided books for the school library and records for the music classes, and equipped the assembly hall with sound apparatus. They assisted needy Western families financially during the Depression.

Over the years, Ellington relationship with its Georgetown neighbors has declined and has become a state of tension.

Knowing the history of the town/gown relationship with Duke Ellington School of the Arts and its Georgetown Community, the design will attempt to mitigate the existing tension between the two. What is the school's urban role to its community?

Site Consistency with Community Principles | Respecting Character and its Civic Role

The design intervention must fit in to the context and be respectful of its neighbors.

Scale must be considered as well as the community's involvement in this new facility.

## Chapter 3: Functional Considerations and Program

#### Functional Considerations

Duke Ellington School of the Arts is the only high school in the District of Columbia that combines a full college-preparatory curriculum with intensive pre-professional arts training. With the support of its partners, Ellington serves diverse and talented students from all wards of the city. Students are admitted through an audition and interview process into one of eight majors: Dance, Instrumental Music, Literary Media & Communications, Museum Studies, Technical Design & Production,

Theater, Visual Arts and Vocal Music. Students perform and exhibit their work at the Kennedy Center, the White House and national and international events. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts needs a major update to all of its facilities. I am proposing a radical intervention to the historical context of the site and building to best accommodate the diversity of its complex modern program and its evolution into a 21<sup>st</sup> century arts education facility.

#### Cultural Identity

Duke Ellington School of the Arts has a dynamic student body and culture. The school's identity is multifaceted. The mission reflects the beliefs and culture of the students, faculty and alumni. DESA is the only public arts high school in the nation to have such a comprehensive arts curriculum. It is the only school to have Museum Studies as a major. It has eight arts concentrations including: Dance, Visual Art,

Museum Studies and Communications, Literary Media, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Theater, and Technical Theater and Production. DESA stands as a model for developing and evolving arts high school programs in the nation, and has developed a reputation internationally as well. The school's identity as an incubator of the arts creates and fosters young ambassadors of the arts. This thesis attempts to create a building that reflects the dynamic culture of the school, one befitting of a school that holds such an impressive reputation.

DESA has a strong history in its city, Washington DC and serves as one of its pride and joys. The namesake Duke Ellington is an icon to his city, its arts community, an nation which reflects the creativity the Ellington represented. Ellington's art transcended racial boundaries and transformed a nation with his music. His contributions to Jazz continue to shape today's artists. DESA, being predominantly African American, is a staple in the African American community as well as a generator of pride and identity to a subculture. Ellington's perspective on life in American during his time was reflected in his music, and described in terms of music theory, stating, "Dissonance is our way of life in America. We are something apart, yet an integral part." Ellington's music celebrated dissonance, yet this statement reflects the tension that was present in every day life of African Americans, but for the many subculture that make up America as well. In this sense, dissonance is not a state of tension that has to be resolved, but a moment of dynamism, expression, and a challenging to the status quo." In all of the arts, there is some form of dissonant relationships present in literal and cultural theory in the principles of the arts.







#### student culture...

development unique challenges "the status quo" innovative community diversity of culture improvization creativity progressive passion esearch society urban culture attest experimentation Self dentity social networks and influences

### D.C. culture...

go go music
urban african american
harmony society culture
education reform
rythin a blues urban
politics duke ellington
nation's capitol
world cultures
melting pot resolution
other cultural inflcuences

#### identity

## incubator for the arts...

21st century skills
society
politics urban culture
ethnic technology
talent passion
impromptu duke ellington
performance
creates
young ambassadors of the arts

The building that DESA resides, is in a state of dissonance itself for many reasons:

- 1.) 21<sup>st</sup> century program was retrofitted into a19th century comprehensive High School.
- 2.) There was a shift from an internal focus to a community oriented school.
- 3.) The school has a strong identity that is not aligned with the identity of the building.

# dissonance...



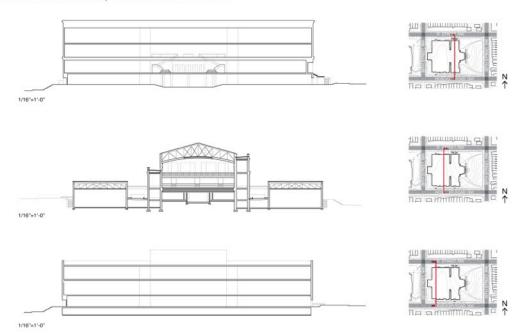
## Building Character



### **EXISTING ELEVATIONS**



### EXISTING CONDITIONS | TRANSVERSE SECTIONS



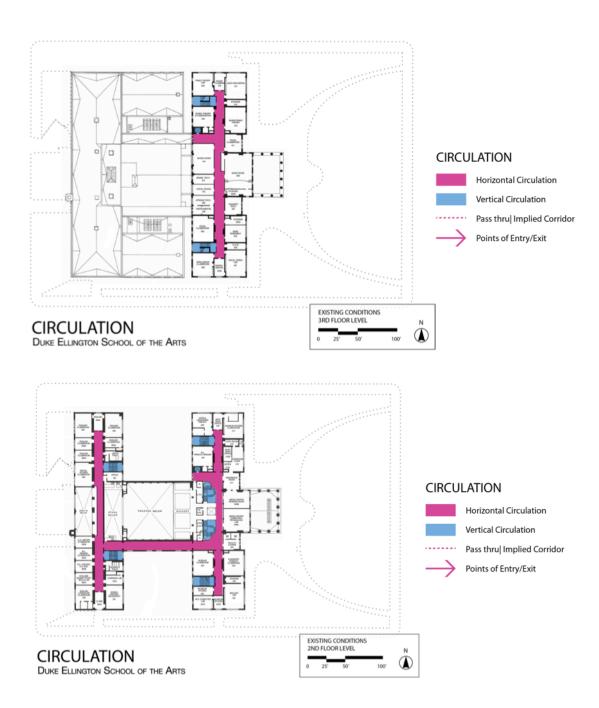
### **Building Analysis**

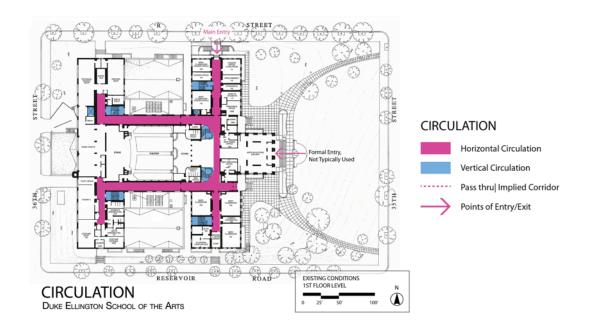


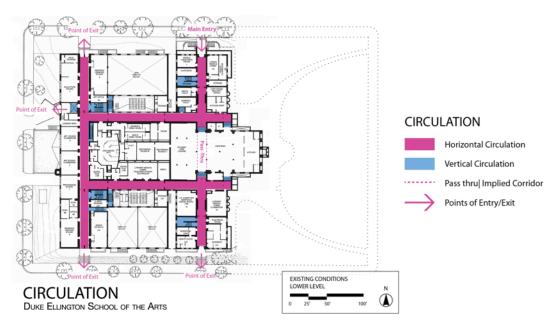
CIRCULATION ALSO FUNCTION AS PRACTICE SPACE, STUDIO SPACE, EXHIBIT SPACE, AND SOCIAL HUBS.

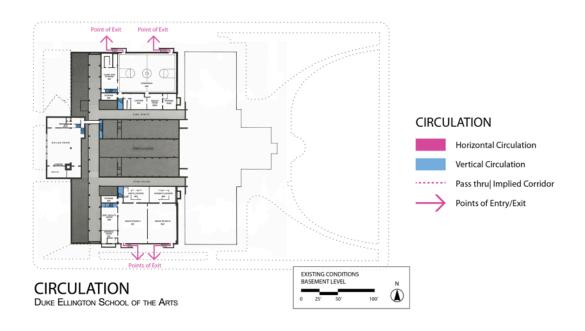
The biggest challenge to the school's curriculum revolves around the school's lack of practice and rehearsal space. The students need a place that is accessible both physically and visually and provides the individual or group space required to focus on their arts craft. Currently the students use the corridors and stairwells as practice space. On the lower level of the building, the class workspace for the visual arts department has extended to the hallways. On this level, the corridors not only functions as circulation, but as workspace, and exhibition space. On the third floor, the music department has several piano labs that are only accessible with the lab tech's supervision. The school used to have practice modules for the music students, but they were outdated and only one remains as an example. The instrumental music department needs state-of-the-art practice modules for its students to provide the acoustic privacy needed for rehearsal. The music students use unoccupied classroom when accessible to practice. There are one to two pianos on the first floor that are

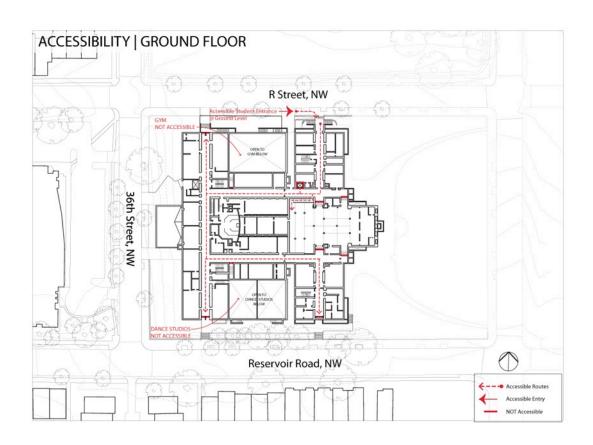
available to students to practice, which shift between the foyer and the Ellington gallery.

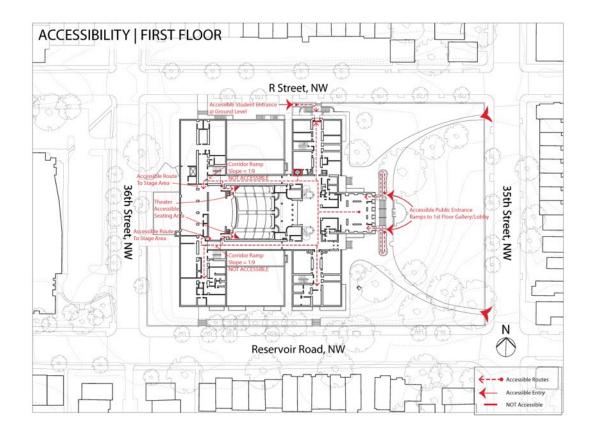








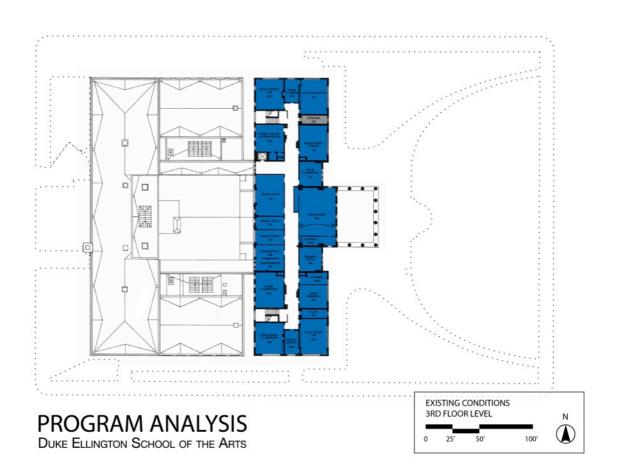




### Program Analysis

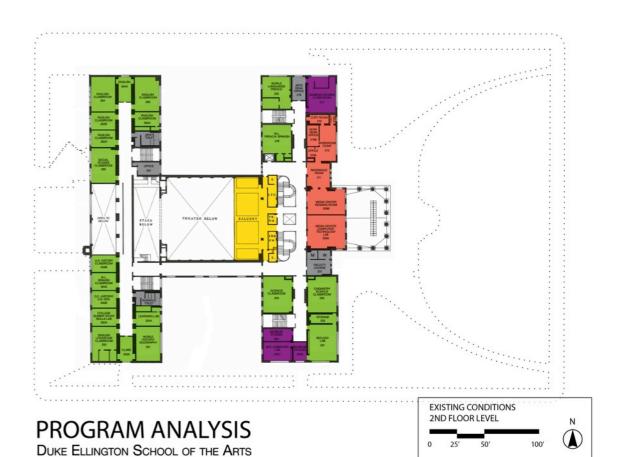
The existing program is described by many currently at the school, as "bursting out of its seams." The school's programmatic needs are not currently being met by the existing facility and programmatic arrangement. Within the past twenty-two years, the school has consolidated all of its academic and arts departments into the building and in their relative wings of the building. Some of the departments have important adjacencies that have been addressed, but they do not enthusiastically share common spaces.

# Third Floor



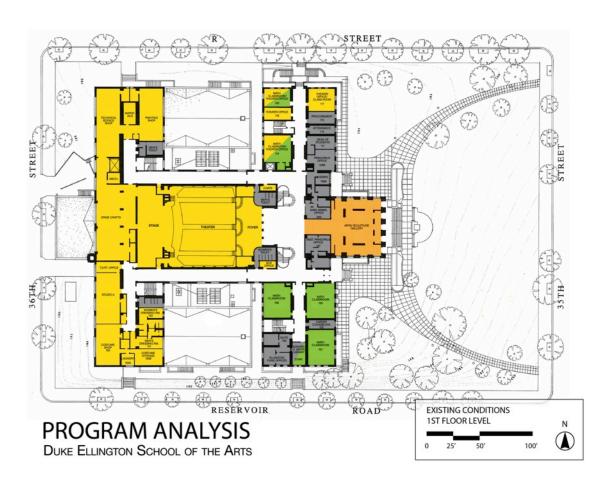


# Second Floor





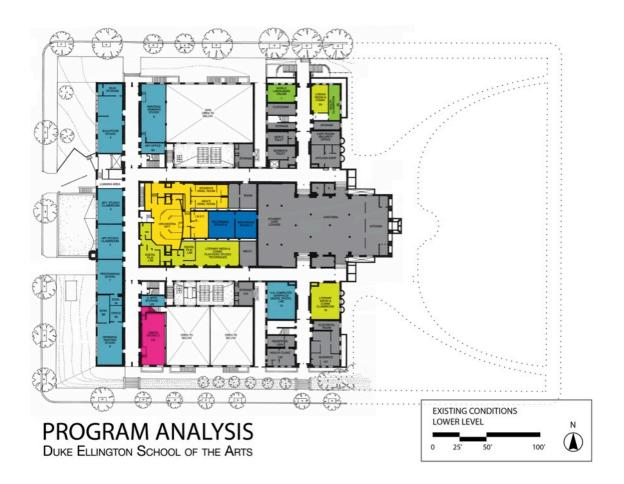
# First Floor



### **PROGRAM**

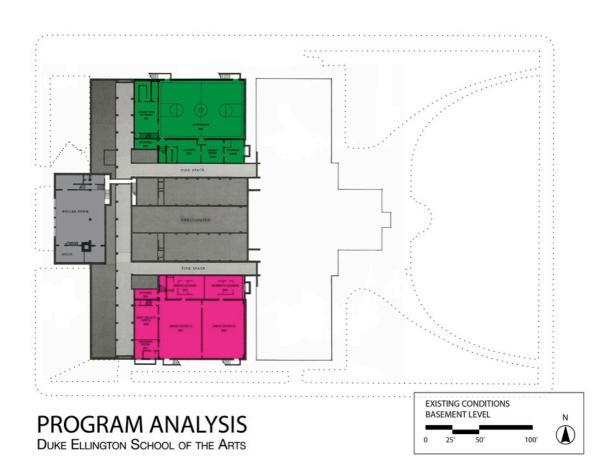
- Music | Instrumental & Vocal
- Visual Art
- Theater & Theater Production
- Dance
- Literary Media
- Museum Studies
- Administration | Service
- Academics
- Athletics
- Exhibition
- Media Center | Library

# Lower Level



# PROGRAM Music | Instrumental & Vocal Visual Art Theater & Theater Production Dance Literary Media Museum Studies Administration | Service Academics Athletics Exhibition Media Center | Library

# **Basement Level**





# Program Summary

Room No.	Room Name	Exist. S.F.	Change S.F.	Typ. Range S.F.	Pro- posed S.F.	LVL	Adequacy/ Performan ce
Main Adn	ninistration						
109A	Waiting Area/Reception	64	236	300-400	300	1	Inadequate
109B	Principal's Office	436		300-400	436	1	adequate
109	Administrative Assistant's Office/Main Office	1,000			1,000	1	adequate
111	Dean of Students	373	-73	200-400	300	1	Adequate
213B	Dean of Academics	230	70	200-400	300	1	Adequate
219	Dean of Arts	297	3	200-400	300	1	Inadequate
100	Ellington Fund Office Suite	810			810	1	Adequate
113	Attendance Office	373		250	373	1	Adequate
	Edward White Library  Conference	282	18	300	300	1	inadequate
	Room /Literary Media Class Space						
115	Procurement	243			243	1	Fair
107	Assistant Principal Suite	729			729	1	Fair
207	Teacher Workroom/Lounge	495	1,005		1,500	1	inadequate
5 LL	Storage	192		100-400	192	1	Fair
B61	Archival storage/Records	322	78	300-800	400	1	Fair
B55	Storage	322		100-400	322	1	Fair
	Subtotal	6,168	1,580		7,748		
Guidance	/Health						
B02A	Registrar	278	0	250	278	1	Fair
B01	Guidance Suite	796	54	850	850	1	Inadequate
265A	Counselor	293			293	1	Fair
200	DC CAP Office/	293			293	1	Fair
103	School to Career Coordinator Office	243		150	243	1	Fair
B02B	Health Clinic	402	336	525	738	1	Inadequate
B09	Security Center/ Faculty Copy Room	364			364	1	Fair, but
	, , ,						inadequate
							location
251A	Learning Lab   Special Education Classroom/Support Suite	290	360	650-850	650	1	inadequate
	Subtotal	2,959	750		3,709		

### **Facility**

Proposed parking garage for 100 cars (possibly consider a shared parking garage with the International School) and/or maybe underground parking.) Restrooms are needed on the third floor; there are currently no restrooms on this level.

Due to the age of the building and the various construction additions before the 21st century, abatement procedures will be necessary for the removal of asbestos containing material still present in the building. Although asbestos has been removed

from all of the public areas of the building, its presence remains in some of the building's concealed areas and could cause disruption during the construction process. A reception area needs to be more visible to Main Entrance and the Main Administrative office.

Room No.	Room Name	Exist. S.F.	Chan ge S.F.	Typ. Range S.F.	Pro- posed S.F.	LVL	Adequacy/ Performance
Performa	ince/Assembly						
*	Roof terrace	0				Unlim.	New program
	Art/Sculpture Exhibition Gallery	2,452	48		3,500	2	Inadequate
*	Legacy Museum	0	1,200		1,200	1-2	New program
*	Storage for permanent collection	0	600	500-800	600	1	New program
	Subtotal	2,452	2,848		5,300		
Maintena	ance & Custodial Requirements						
B08	Custodial Office/Closets	324	476		800	1	Inadequate
	Lower Level Floor Restrooms	770			770	1	Inadequate
	1st Floor Restrooms	500	220		770	1	Inadequate
	2nd Floor Restrooms	580	20		600	1	Inadequate
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Restrooms	0	600		600	1	Inadequate,
							New program
	Subtotal	2,174	1,366		3,540		

### Ellington Gallery

The Gallery still retains the main issues of security and public access discussed in the 1990 master plan. The Gallery is open to major circulation at all times in the building and serves as a gathering space for students before and after school, as well as overflow space from the foyer for events in the theater. The Gallery also serves as the main entrance to the building and fails to serve its full "potential to be a celebration of the Visual Arts" and the work of the School's students and faculty. The is currently no way to close off the gallery from the school's major circulation while maintaining the flexibility the gallery possesses. Permanent partitions and fixed lighting would detract from this flexibility.

Room	<b>Room Name</b>	Exist.	Chan	Typ.	Pro-	LVL	Adequacy/
No.		S.F.	ge	Range	posed		Performance
			S.F.	S.F.	S.F.		

Student D	ining / Food Services						
	Cafeteria-Dining Area	4,590	726	6,000	5,316	1-2	Inadequate, no daylight, location
	Kitchen and Serving Area	1,155	802	2,000	1,957	1	Inadequate
	Food Storage			400		1	Inadequate
	Utensils Storage			250		1	Inadequate
	Ware Washing			200		1	Inadequate
	Freezer and Cooler			300		1	Inadequate
	Toilet/Shower/Lockers			100		1	Inadequate
	Cleaning Storage			100		1	Inadequate
	Kitchen Staff	429	121		550	1	Inadequate
	Room/Office						
	Student Union/ Ellington Lounge	1,745			1,745	1-2	Inadequate
*	Outdoor Terrace	0	2,000		2,000	Unlim.	New program
	Subtotal	7,919	3,649	•	11,568	•	_

# **ACADEMICS**

All new and updated academic classrooms should include state of the art equipment and technology including Smart boards. Each Academic department should have adequate storage and a departmental office.

English (.	Second Floor)						
250	English Classroom (Remove Existing	720	0	650-850	720	1	Inadequate
	Radio Booth Partitions-space is						
	under utilized)						
252B	English Classroom	366	284	650-850	650	1	Inadequate
262	English Classroom (2 Teachers w/	731	0	650-850	731	1	Inadequate
	partition)						
264	English Classroom	720	0	650-850	720	1	Fair
264A	Remedial English Support Classroom	276	174	450-650	450	1	Inadequate
265	English Classroom	720	0	650-850	720	1	Fair
*	English Departmental Office		150	100-300	150	1	New program
*	Storage		300	300-800	300	1	New program
	Subtotal	3,533	908		4,441		_
Math (Fir	rst Floor)						
101	Math Classroom (Algebra, Physics)	900	-50	650-850	850	1	Fair
105A	Math Classroom (Pre Calculus, AP	454	196	650-850	650	1	inadequate
	Calculus)						
108	Math Classroom (Algebra II,	907	-57	650-850	850	1	fair
	Geometry)						
116	Math Classroom (algebra I) Theater	810	0	650-850	810	1	Fair
	Faculty Office						
120	Math Classroom (Calculus)/ Theater	454	196	650-850	650	1	inadequate
	Faculty Office						-
*	Math Departmental Office		150	100-300	150	1	New program
	Storage		300	300-800	300	1	New program

	Subto	otal	3,525	735		4,260		
Room No.	Room Name		Exist. S.F.	Chang S.F.		Pro- posed S.F.	LVL	Adequacy/ Performance
Social Stu	ıdies (Second Floor)							
251	Social Studies		720	0	650-850	720	1	Fair
252A	Social Studies		365	85	400-500	450	1	Inadequate
254B	Social Studies		366	84	650-850	450	1	Inadequate
260	Social Studies		731	0	650-850	731	1	Fair
	Departmental Office		0	150	100-300	150	1	New program
	Storage		0	300	300-800	300	1	New program
	Subte	otal	2,182	619		2,801		
	(2)							
	nguages (Second Floor)							
1	World Languages- Italian		432	0	400-650	432	1	Fair
216	World Languages-French/Spanish	1	810	0	650-850	810	1	Fair
220	World Languages-French		774	0	650-850	774	1	Fair
254A	World Languages- Spanish		365	35	450-650	400	1	Inadequate
	Departmental Office		0	150	100-300	150	1	New program
	Storage		0	200	200-500	200	1	New program
	Subto	otal	2,381	385		2,766		
Science								
201	Biology Classroom/lab	900	)	600	1,200-1,500	1,500	1	Inadequate
201B	Storage Room	234		0	200-400	234	1	Fair
203	Storage Room	243		0		243	1	Fair
205	Chemistry Classroom/Lab	907		593	1,200-1,500	1,500	1	Inadequate
208	Sciences (Anatomy, Physiology,	907		593	1,200-1,500	1,500	1	Inadequate
	Biology) Classroom/Lab				, ,	,		1
217	Science Classroom/Lab	896	ó	604	1,200-1,500	1,500	1	Inadequate
	Science prep per Lab	0			200-400	(included	1	New program
	1 11					in lab)		1 0
	Storage Rooms per science	0			200-400	(included	1	New program
	subject					in lab)		
*	Greenhouse (Rooftop)	0		450	300-500	450	1	New program
*	Resource Rooms			650	300-650	650		New program
	Subtotal	4,0	87	3,490		7,577		

# Science

Science labs and classrooms will require state-of-the-art equipment, running water, gas, chemical cabinets, and plumbing for greenhouse.

Room No.	Room Name	Exist. S.F.	Change S.F.	Typ. Range S.F.	Pro- posed S.F.	LVL	Adequacy/ Performance
Media Ce	nter/Empowerment Center						
209B	Reading Room/Stacks/Reference	965	0		965	1	fair
	Room/Computers						
209A	Empowerment Center & Training	960	40		1,000	1-2	fair
	Computer & Technology Lab						
211	Reference Room / Research Kiosk	504	0		504	1	Fair
213A	Office A   IT	100	0		100	1	Fair
213B	Library Office   Dean of Academics	230	30		250	1	Inadequate
213	Workroom/Conference Room	550	0		550	1	Fair

215	Copy Room		235	0	235	1	
215A	Unisex Bathroom		80	0	80	1	Inadequate
*	Class Room			500	500	1	New program
		Subtotal	3,624	560	4,184		

The Media center was recently updated and renovated in 2009. It was transformed to a media center from a book-dominated library. The media center contains a few book stacks but mostly computer workstations. Unfortunately, the computers and media center are already out of date and in bad condition. Funded by Magic Johnson, its main new purpose was to also function as an empowerment center after regular school hours, but there wasn't enough funding to hire support for the center to stay open past regular school hours.

Athletics							
2B LL	Health/Physical Education	250	200		450	1	Inadequate
	Classroom						
B50	Gymnasium	4,240	3,360	7,600	7,600	2-3	Inadequate
*	Spectator Seating for Court	0	1,880	1,880	1,880		New
							program
B62	Weight room	624	126	750	750	1	Inadequate
*	Fitness center/Pilates studio	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	1-2	New
							program
B51	Locker Rooms/Showers	1,080	520	1,600	1,600	1	Inadequate
B53	Lockers	960	0		960	1	Inadequate
B52	Storage	215	285	300-500	500	1	inadequate
Field	Ellington Field   Outdoor Track	223,035				unlim.	Good
							Condition
	Subtotal for Existing Building Site	7,369	-6,919		450		_
	Subtotal for Ellington Field	0	14,790		14,790		
	Subtotal w/o Field	7,369	7,871		15,240		

The gymnasium is inadequate for many reasons. According to the 1990 Master Plan "It is a concern at the Ellington School that the students are not receiving adequate opportunity for physical exercise and a level of 'fitness awareness' beyond minimum school requirements." This concern is still a valid concern, and the athletic facilities at the school have deteriorated to the point were all of the gym's support spaces are closed and underutilized due to

obsolete facilities and equipment and hazardous conditions. None of the locker rooms are used as locker rooms, and the showers no longer work. The weight rooms/changing rooms have broken doors, equipment, falling infrastructure, and non-functioning plumbing. The Gym needs adequate run-out area and spectator seating.

The School would better benefit from a fitness/Pilates center rather than a gym in the building, which would promote a healthy, active lifestyle rather than focusing on playing traditional sports. Since one of the best ways to improve student education is to focus on the total student experience, paying close attention to these wellness factors is essential. The school does hot have any sports teams, but sometimes partners with School Without Walls to form athletic teams, since both schools have very small and specialized enrollments. However, an updated athletic department would be beneficial to the school and the community. The old Western High School field on 38th Street is underutilized and serves as a track field. The Ellington Field provides a great opportunity to consolidate the current athletic program from the school's interior as well as proposed athletic and fitness related programs.

# ARTS DEPARTMENT

Room No.	Room Name	Exist. S.F.	Change S.F.	Typ. Range S.F.	Pro- posed S.F.	LVL	Adequacy/ Performance
Literary I	Media & Communications						
2Å	LMC Writing Classroom	425	0		425	1	Fair
18	Writing Classroom   Literary	949	-49		900	1	Fair
	Arts & Computer Lab						
Film Lab	Digital Film Lab   Film & Video Techniques	1,160	0		1,160	1	Fair
White Library	Conference Room/ Classroom	282	0		282	1	Fair
*	Information Retrieval Lab		500		500	1	New Program
*	Literary Arts Office		250		250	1	New Program
	Subtotal	2,816	701		3,517		
		•			,		
Museum	Studies						
201B	Museum Studies Classroom	234	0		234	1	Fair
201C	MS Computer Lab	507	0		507	1	Fair
217	Museum Studies Lab	896	0		896	1	Fair
200	Museum Studies Classroom	293	0		293	1	fair
	Subtotal	1,930	0		1,930		
Music (Re	equires Major Expansion)						
*	Music teaching studios	0	850	700-	850	1	New Program
	(additional)			900			
300	Percussion Classroom	810	40	700-	850	1	Inadequate
				900			
310	Vocal Studio	360	340	700-	700	1	Inadequate
				900			_
314	Show Choir   Vocal	907	93	700-	1000	1	Inadequate
				900			_
308	Vocal Classroom	360	340	700- 900	700	1	Inadequate
313	Music Theory/ Piano	906	-6	700-	900	1	fair
	Lab/Vocal			900			
311	Vocal Classroom		700	700-	700	1	fair
				900			
309	Band Room	1,610	0	1,400 - 1,800	1,610	1	Fair, needs better
2004		244	100	F00	<b>500</b>	1	acoustics
300A	Instrumental	311	189	500	500	1	Inadequate
319	Music Classroom	297	203	500	500	1	Inadequate
312	Brass Technique	360	140	500	500	1	Inadequate
305	Wind Ensemble	613	87	700- 900	700	1	Inadequate
307	Trumpet Technique	504	-4	500	500	1	Fair
306	Bass Cello Technique	324	176	500	500	1	Inadequate
317	Jazz Orchestra	891	709	1,400 - 1,800	1,600	1-2	Inadequate
318	Music Theory & Composition	704	0	700- 900	704	1	Fair
134- 135	Music recording MIDI studio   broadcast studio	1,124	0		1,124	1	Fair
LL *	Music Practice Ensemble Rehearsal Room	0	0	300	300	1	New Program
*	Music Practice Rooms for	0	0	900	900	1	New Program

	modules						
305A	Storage	294	6	300-	300	1	Inadequate
50511	o corago		Ü	800		-	maacqaatc
*	Band Uniform/Equipment		600		600	1	New Program
045	Storage	0.40	455	200	400		
315	Storage	243	157	300- 800	400	1	Inadequate
301	Piano Lab/Vocal Classroom	900	0	000	900	1	Fair
320	Piano/keyboard Theory Lab	774	26		800	1	fair
	Subtotal	12,292	5,846		18,138		
Room	Room Name	Exist.	Change	Typ.	Pro-	LVL	Adequacy/
No.		S.F.	S.F.	Range S.F.	posed S.F.		Performance
Dance De	partment			э.г.	э.г.		
B01	Dance Studio A (update as	2,160	-160		2,000	2	Inadequate
	state-of-the-art studio)						•
B02	Dance Studio B (update as	2,160	-160		2,000	2	Inadequate
11 61	state-of-the-art studio)	007	1.012		2.000	2	Inadamata
LL 51	Dance Studio C (update as state-of-the-art studio)	987	1,013		2,000	2	Inadequate
B03	Men's Lockers/Showers	817	-17		800	1	Inadequate
B04	Women's Lockers/Showers	818	-18		800	1	Inadequate
B05	Costume/Equipment Storage	215	0		215	1	Inadequate
B07	Dressing Room	298	2		300	1	Inadequate
B06	Faculty Office	704	96		800	1	inadequate
	Subtotal	8,159	756		8,915		
The atom I	Dan autus aut						
Studio	<b>Department</b> Studio A	1,104	0		1,104	1	Fair
A	Studio 11	1,104	O		1,104	1	1 an
116	Theater Faculty Office   Math	810	0		810	1	Fair
	Classroom						
117	Theater Faculty Office/	891	0		891	1	Fair
110	Classroom	220	0		220	4	п.
118	Theater Faculty Office	320	0		320	1 1	Fair
120	Theater Faculty Office   Math Classroom	454	0		454	1	Fair
*	Drama Teaching Classroom	0	800		800	1	New Program
*	Ensemble Rehearsal Rooms	0	1000		1000	1	New Program
	Subtotal	3,579	1,346		4,925		New Hogram
	Sustatu	0,075	2,010		1,720		
	Technical Design &						
Production							
Theater	800 Seat Theater	5,713	0		5,713	2-3	Fair
	Theater Balcony seating	1,600	0		1,600	_	Fair
	Theater Stage	2,215	0		2,215	3	Fair
	Theater Foyer	1,970	0		1,970	2	Inadequate
	Sound and Light Control	1,750	0		1,750	1	Fair
	Room Ticket Booth/Box Office	234	0		234	1	Fair
*	Full stage with fly tower?	234	U		234	3	ran
*	Black box theatre		4240		4,240	2-3	New Program
*	Black Box Sound and Light		80		80	1	New Program
	Control Room						
*	Black Box Office/ Workroom		400		400	1	New Program
*	Black Box Theater Toilet		500		500	1	New Program
150	Room Scone Shop	1 520	0		1 520	2	Fair
158 159	Scene Shop Scene Painting Shop	1,520 849	0 0		1,520 849	2 2	Fair Fair
160	Materials Storage	240	0		240	2	Fair Fair
150	Costume Shop	886	0		886	1	Fair
130	Gostuine Shop	000	U		000	1	ıan

1504	I I I		100	0		100	1	P!
150A	Laundry F		180 424	0 0		180 424	1 1	Fair
150B	Costume S							Fair
153		Dressing Rooms	368	0		368	1	Fair
151		essing Rooms	495	0		495	1	Fair
Rehear	Stagecraft	t Lab	3,020	0		3,020	2-3	Fair
sal Hall								
*		dio/design lab		250		250	1	New Program
B59 Pit	Orchestra		3,450	0		3,450	1-2	Adequate
154	Technical	- C	253	0		253	1	fair
		n Theater						
	Operation	is Office						
Room	R	Room Name	Exist.	Change	Тур.	Pro-	# of	Adequacy/
No.			S.F.	S.F.	Range	posed	Sto	Performance
					S.F.	S.F.	ries	
Theater	Technical	<b>Design &amp; Production</b>	,					
Continue								
B58	Loading D	ock   Stage Door	736			800		
		Subtotal	26,203	5,234		31,437		
Visual Ar								
	6 LL	Painting/Drawing	759	841	1,200-	1,600	1-2	Inadequate,
		Studio			1,600			daylighting
		Studio Art Office	220	0		220	1	
	4 LL	Sculpture Studio	1,472	328	1,600-	1,800	1-2	Inadequate,
		with Kiln			2,000			daylighting
	7 LL	Printmaking	856	0	800-	856	1-2	inadequate
		Studio			1,200			
	9 LL	Drawing/Painting	1,359	241	1,200-	1,600	1-2	Inadequate,
		Studio with			1,600			daylighting
		Storage and Office						
	5 LL	Art Studio/ Art	759	91	650-	850	1-2	inadequate
		History Classroom			850			
	3 LL	Art lab	1,242	-42		1,200	1	adequate
		Visual Arts Head's		200		200	1	New Program
		Office						_
	10 LL	Computer	884	116	800-	1,000	1	inadequate
		Graphics/ Digital			1,200			-
		Photography Lab			-			
	L53	Art Storage	220	-20		200	1	inadequate
	*	Resident Artist	0	850		850	1	New Program
		Studio						. 0
	*	Individual Student		1,200		1,200	1	New Program
		Workspace Lab		-,		_,_ 5 0	_	
		Subtotal	7,771	3,605		11,376		
		Subtotui	.,	5,555		12,070		
	0ve	erall Program Total	111,123	35,330		146,45		
		o Athletic Program	, -	•		3		

The Dance department needs updated working plumbing for the locker rooms and showers. The dance studios require separation between the studios, lockers and classroom spaces, yet needs to maintain the flexibility of combining both main dance studios. The third dance studio on the lower level is too small and needs more floor space headroom. All of the dance studios need varying bar heights.

Painting Studio is too small and has poor daylighting. All visual arts studios require adequate daylighting. The Instrumental music department requires more space and would like more separation from the Vocal music department.

### **Housing Component**

- \* Off Site Housing, In-residence/ visiting professionals and teachers
- \* Intermediary Temporary Student Housing

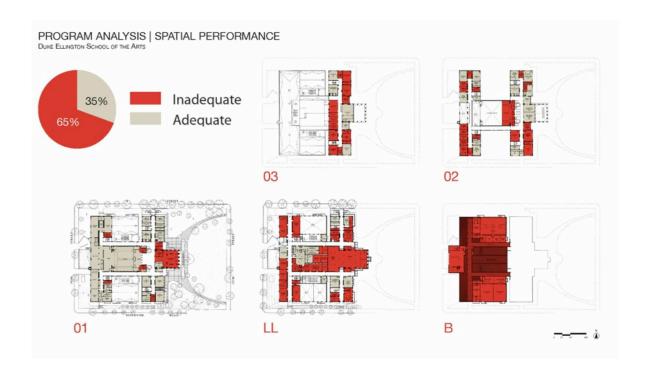
Subtotal 0

0

# **Program Efficiency**

# **Building Utilization**

	Basement SF	Ground Floor SF	First Floor SF	Second Floor SF	Third Floor SF	Total Bldg SF
Existing	18,969	47,563	47,241	35,535	18,325	
Unexcavated	12,868					
Pipe Space	6,382					
Circulation	ı	-9,200	-8,911	-8,268	-2,916	-29,295
	18,969	47,563	47,241	35,535	18,325	167,633
	38,219					138,338



PROGRAM TO REMAIN IN		PROGRAM FOR NEW ADDITION	
EXISTING BUILDING			
Main Administration	7,748	Café/Student Dining	11,568
Guidance/Health	3,709	Music	18,138
English	4,441	Dance Department	8,915
Math	4,260	Theater   Technical Design & Production	32,541
Social Studies	2,801	Visual Arts	11,376
World Languages	2,766	Exhibition Collection	5,300
Science	7,577		
Media/Empowerment Center	4,184	Overall Total in Addition	87,838
Literary Media & Communications	3,517		
Museum Studies	1,930	*Overall Total in Addition w/o Historic Theater)	73,252
Theater Department	3,925		
Overall Total in Existing	46,858		
*Overall Total in Existing (w/	61,444		
Historic Theater 14,586 SF)			

<sup>\*</sup> Denotes Strategic Design that retains existing Ellington Theater.

## **Capacity Analysis**

Funding is for number of students that attend. You should try and get a per student square footage. Goal is to get to NET SF that you are adding. Then add this to existing building NET. Then divide by student. How many square feet do we need to educate each student? Ties to budget. Most cost \$150 or so per student.

### **Community Use of Facilities**

Community involvement in education and educational involvement in the community can take a variety of forms before, during, and after the school day. The following is a partial list of potential community uses:

Touring Groups Speech/Debate Clubs Adult Education Recreation Programs Health Screening Senior Citizens Programs Community Meetings Emergency Shelter
Mentoring Programs Intramural Sports Programs
Parent Involvement Church-Related Activities

School/Business Partnerships Child Care (staff, students, community)

Alternative Education Programs

Teen Parenting Programs

Community Athletics

Special Seminars

Community College Classes

Outdoor Festivals

Dance Studios Voting

After School Youth Enrichment Satellite Campuses for Higher Education

Most of the community uses will need to focus on shared space -- space that is used primarily for school programs during the school day and community uses during non-school hours.

### **Current Rentable Spaces Available for Facility Requests**

Theatre (800 seats) Rehearsal Hall Front Lawn

Dance Studio A Banquet Hall Gymnasium

Dance Studio B Meeting/Classroom Space Gallery

Dance Studio C Recording Studio Rehearsal Studio A

Costume Shop Scene Shop

### Structural and Mechanical Implications

The building is structured with heavy masonry walls, a variety of floor systems, and generous floor-to floor heights. The school requires a major overhaul of its HVAC systems. Many areas of the building have poor ventilation, unreliable AC and heating, and reoccurring problems with plumbing. Individual lighting control is important for all classrooms and studios. Radiators still align the exterior walls in classrooms taking up valuable wall and accessible space.

Sustainable Goals

The design will incorporate sustainable practices that reflect the standards of 21<sup>st</sup>

century schools. Strategies will include passive shading strategies using natural and

man made techniques, green energy production with solar PV arrays, and rain water

collection. A building performance dash board will be on display so that students can

visitors can actively learn about the buildings sustainable strategies and performance.

**Building Codes** 

**IBC** 

Assembly

Occupancy Classification

Building Use + Occupancy

Educational -E

Auditoriums part of group E Educational Facilities

52

### **Chapter 4: Precedent Analysis**

In order to understand many of the complex issues expressed in this thesis, an analysis of precedents that use various strategies were studied. These strategies explored relationship of site to building, program, and context. Under a more specific rubric, these categories included, educational buildings set in an urban context, building and performing arts high schools, visual and performing arts college spaces, arts/ events spaces, and precedents that fit into the category of radical interventions in historic buildings.

Educational Buildings in an Urban Context

School Without Walls Washington, DC EE&K 450 Students | 59,400 SF | 2009

School Without Walls is on of the latest modernized schools in the D.C. Public Schools Modernization Program. Completed in 2009, it is an innovative urban high school located in the heart of the George Washington University's academic district in downtown Washington, DC, in the historic Foggy Bottom district. The school takes advantage of its urban location partnering with GW University and the many other local resources; "the school sees the city as its classroom." Similar to Ellington, this 19th century example of urban public school architecture represents the

inadequacies presented by these buildings for the needs of a 21st century modern high school curriculum.

Visual and Performing Arts High Schools

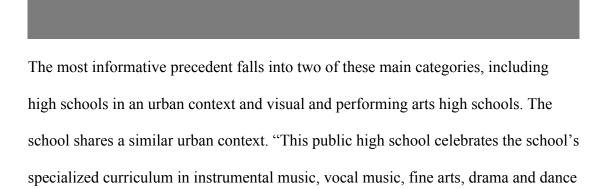
Regional Center for the Arts JCJ Architecture Trumbull, Connecticut 250 Students | 47,700 SF | 2007

The Regional Center for the Arts operates as a part time arts education facility. The Regional Center for the Arts is a performing arts magnet high school with instructional and performance spaces for dance, theater, drama, and music. The spaces are arranged to reflect the character of life on stage, with public aspects open and inviting and private areas secluded and personal.

Erich Kunzel Center for Arts and Education School for the Creative and Performing Arts Moody•Nolan, Inc. Cincinnati, OH	



Frank Sinatra School of the Arts ENNEAD Architects Astoria, Queens, NY 1,000 Students | 147,000 SF | 2009



in its overall design. The state-of-the-art facility creates a unique and powerful

identity in the community, forging connections to the adjacent Kaufman Astoria Studios and Museum of the Moving Image."



Program and Visual Connectivity

Exposing the process of art education as a form of exhibition.

"The transparency of the principal façade reveals rehearsal and studio spaces within, enlivening the street and conveying openness and accessibility. The school's centerpiece is a five-story skylit atrium which cuts through the building to illuminate interior spaces and highlight the oval form of the Tony Bennett Concert Hall."



"This central zone of the building is framed by a perimeter of classrooms. The fivestory structure culminates in a rooftop landscape courtyard for gatherings and outdoor performances."

Flexibility and versatility of space is important, and the ability to create more instances of social interaction and performance in unexpected spaces enhances the mission and character of a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century arts curriculum.

Visual and Performing Arts College Spaces

Copper Union Design School Morphosis New York, NY

The physical expression of a modern arts school expresses the mission of the design school. A building that reflects its values and aspirations as a center for advanced and innovative education in Art, Architecture and Engineering. The building's design addresses the urban context with stark contrast.



The grand stair becomes a social hub, serving as a prominent circulation sequence, impromptu gathering places, and individual or group meeting/work area.

The grand stair ascends four stories to terminate in a glazed double-high student lounge overlooking the city, visually connecting the student to the city.

Arts/Events Spaces

Sidney Harmon Hall Shakespeare Theatre Company | Washington, DC Diamond Schmitt Architects 72,340 SF | 2007



Radical Interventions in Historic Buildings

Court of Appeals (Old City Hall) Beyer Blinder Belle Washington D.C.

This modern interpretation of a historic building takes cues from the existing architectural and structural bay units and has transformed this 19<sup>th</sup> century building into a courthouse of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The construction and expression of the building represents its modern technological intervention infused with state-of-the-art operational programmatic technology.

Bloor Gladstone Branch Library RDH Architects Inc. Toronto, Ontario



The architectural expression of this library represents a radical yet sensitive approach to designing this modern intervention in a historic context. The Bloor Gladstone Branch Library, a modernization and addition design, straddles the line between contrast and blending.

This design blends modern technology and aesthetics with structure and materiality of a more historically classic building, to fit the needs of an evolving programmatic shift.

Smithsonian Institutes National Portrait Gallery Courtyard Roof Norman Foster + Partners Washington, D.C.

Norman Foster's courtyard roof design links the adjoining wings of the building, transforming a limited accessible exposed space into a fully serviced all year round use event space. The courtyard can transform for various occasions. The landscape and architectural features enhance the experience of the space, protecting patrons form the weather and direct sun providing a controlled temperature environment.



Brooklyn Museum of Art
ENNEAD Architects
Astoria, Queens, NY
1,000 Students | 147,000 SF | 2009



### **Chapter 5: Architectural Theory**

Architecture is Cultural Communication

The architecture of the school will express and exhibit the program of the school as a means of creating identity. I will use materials and transparency to correspond to preserving and showcasing the existing historical components, links between the old and the new, providing ample daylighting, and as a means of exhibition of the school's identity.

Place Making | Every Place is a Learning Space

Transforming the school's spaces to make every space a learning environment. This includes transforming the cafeteria to a more modern open café, areas of study and practice through circulation, and a variety of learning spaces to fit various sizes of groups, as well as making major assembly areas flexible for various needs of the school. The design will provide a new heart to the school which creates opportunists for collaboration, exhibition, learning, teaching, impromptu performances, cultural sharing and social interactions.

Theory of Architectural Expansion | Addition to an Existing Building

The urban site is compact.

Planning strategies will explore ideas of the Main Street Corridor, as "The Great Learning Street." It will compare the Double Loaded Corridor vs Single Loaded Corridor. Conclusion: The Main Street Corridor is not as an effective solution for this program, due to the constraints of space on its site. The urban context requires a different approach. BUILD UP NOT OUT.

# Chapter 6: Concepts of Design Strategy

Learning By Design Goals

Abundant day lighting

Sustainable construction strategies

Adaptable learning spaces that encourage student interaction

Making educational facilities part of the greater community

Performance facility design

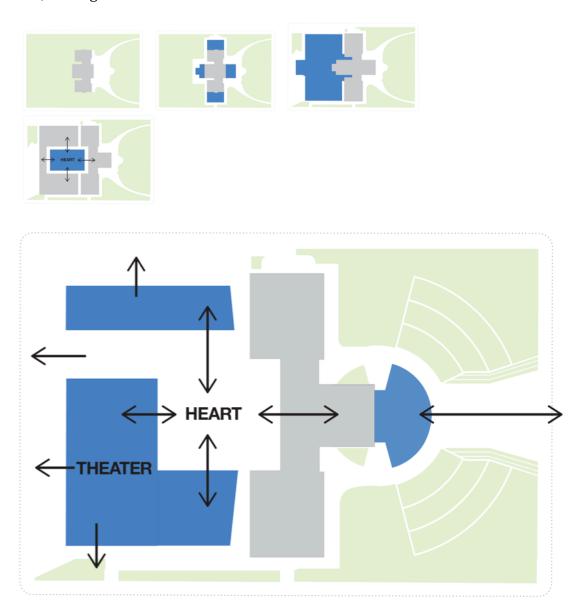
Historic renovation component

Sustainable strategies that help make the building itself a valuable learning tool

# Site Strategy

Radical transformation for community access and involvement will showcase the program and bring the 35th Street main entrance to the street and sidewalk. The school will have outreaching site interventions that connect the community with the school, including the new accessible student plaza that slightly ramps up to the new main ground level entrance as "Ellington's New Front Lawn", and the new west public theater entrance allows for separation of the program for security. The west façade will have a new "front entry" that addresses Reservoir Road and 36th Street, eliminating the "back portion of the building."

The athletic facilities, primarily the gym, will be relocated to the athletic field site, leaving the  $35^{th}$  Street lot as a soul focus on the arts and academics.



Flexibility and Adaptive Spaces

The Internal Courtyard, as the new heart of the school will provide the most flexibility of spaces, as well as connecting public to semi public areas to private areas.

### Visual Connectivity

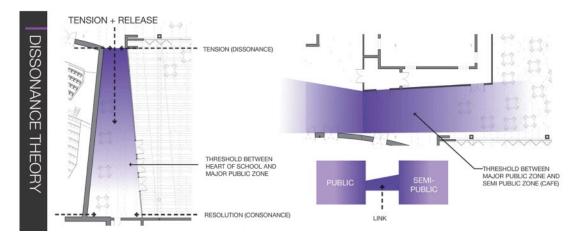
Visual connectivity is important not just from the viewpoint of exhibition to the public, but also the visual connectivity internally.

#### Circulation and Collaboration

The circulation spaces of the school are where the students live. It is the home base for their lockers, casual study areas, practice space, warm up areas, and exhibition space. It is where impromptu gatherings and performances can occur, as well as a safe places for exchanging of ideas and cultures. The courtyard is at the heart of all circulation and social interactions in the school.

#### Dissonance Theory

The tension and resolution celebrated in music like Jazz and the blues, will create the vocabulary for resolving major thresholds in the program. These moments of "dissonance" in the plan and section of the building serve as links between active and passive space, public to semi-public space, and semi-public to private.



Learning Environments

Learning Space Principles

- Small group arrangements increases flexibility of desk arrangement
- Flexible configurations capable of using a variety of learning models
- Personalized learning centers promote student / teacher interaction
- Participatory learning spaces
- Instructional and rehearsal space
- Physical | participatory learning promotes
  - Teamwork
  - Fitness
  - Individual and group focus

#### Art/Studio Space Principles

- Dance Studio Spaces
  - o Open plan creates flexibility of space
  - Supports instructional and practice space
  - o Reflective wall surface (mirror) to gauge craft and aid in supervision
  - o Mirrors allow students to see themselves while learning their moves
  - Instructors can easily monitor students
  - Studio bars should vary in height to accommodate various height dancers
  - High ceilings are required. Accommodates dancers being lifted and tossed upward.
  - Appropriate acoustics to allow for audibility of instructors and practice
     music
- Art Studio Spaces

- Circular arrangements direct a central focus
- o Open plan creates flexibility of space
- Ample light promotes clarity in sight and focus
- Daylighting
- Flexibility in light controls

#### Performance Space Principles

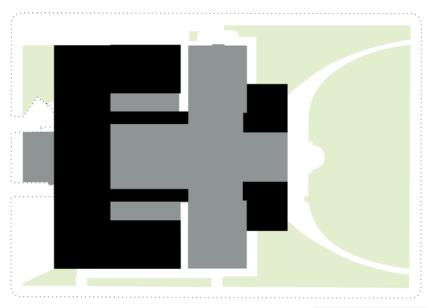
- Circular arrangements direct central focus
- Open plan creates flexibility of space
- Ample light for clarity in sight and focus
- Daylighting
- Emphasis on engineered acoustical properties
- Acoustic absorbing materials and surfaces

#### Social Interactive Space Principles

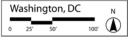
- Larger avenues of circulation can also serve as places for impromptu gathering and additional event or meeting space
- Grand stair can become a social hub, serving as a prominent circulation sequence, promote impromptu gathering places, accommodates individual or group meeting/work area
- Small group arrangements encourage social interaction
- Radial arrangement provides increases visibility aiding in communication

# Chapter 7: Design Solutions

## Parti A:

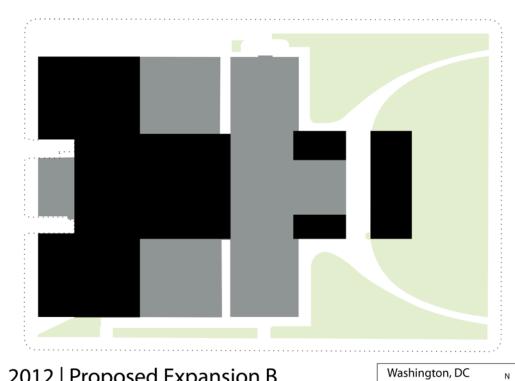


2012 | Proposed Expansion A
Duke Ellingtin School of the Arts | Former Western High School





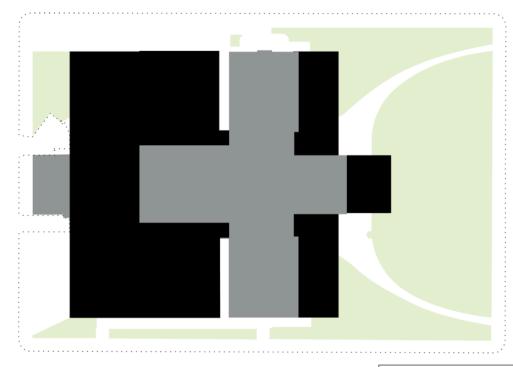
Parti B:



2012 | Proposed Expansion B
Duke Ellingtin School of the Arts | Former Western High School

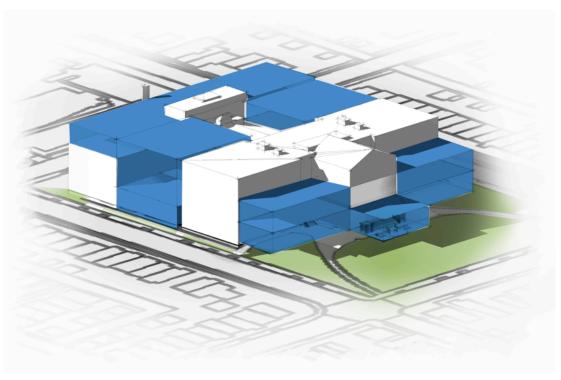


Parti C:



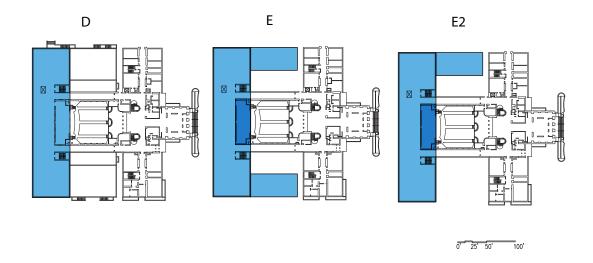
2012 | Proposed Expansion C
Duke Ellingtin School of the Arts | Former Western High School





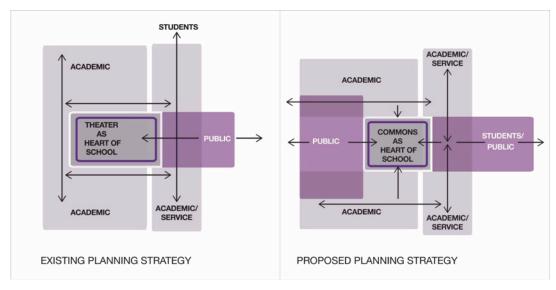
## Parti D, E, E2:

These partis explore retaining the existing historical theater and demolishing portions of the west area of the building.

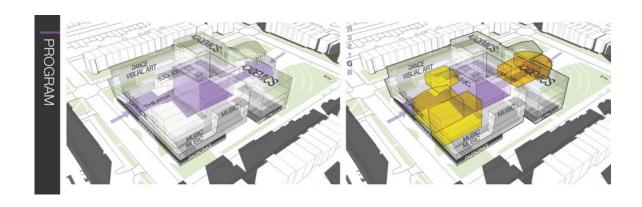


### Final Design Intervention

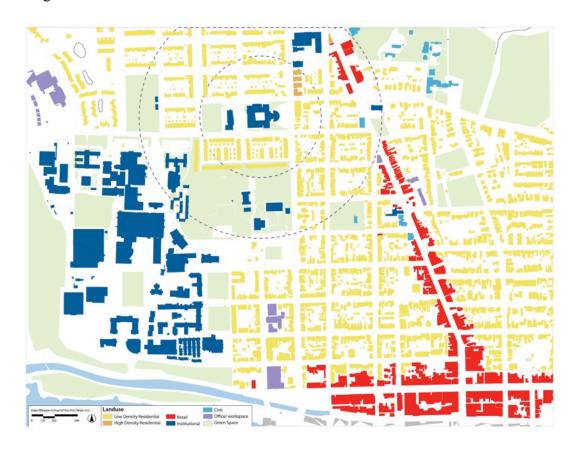
Approach | A new heart of the school as a major commons, with the theater along the west face of the building. The theater is in line with the major public areas of the building that align to the central axis. The historic component to remain is the original existing bar of the building.

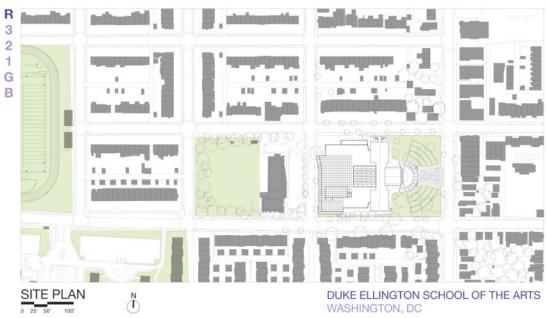


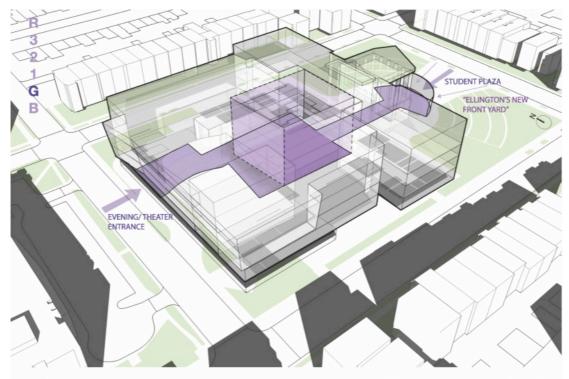




## Design







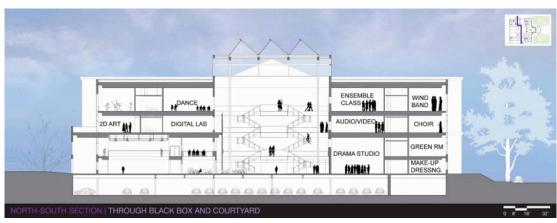
ACCESS/ENTRY

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WASHINGTON, DC



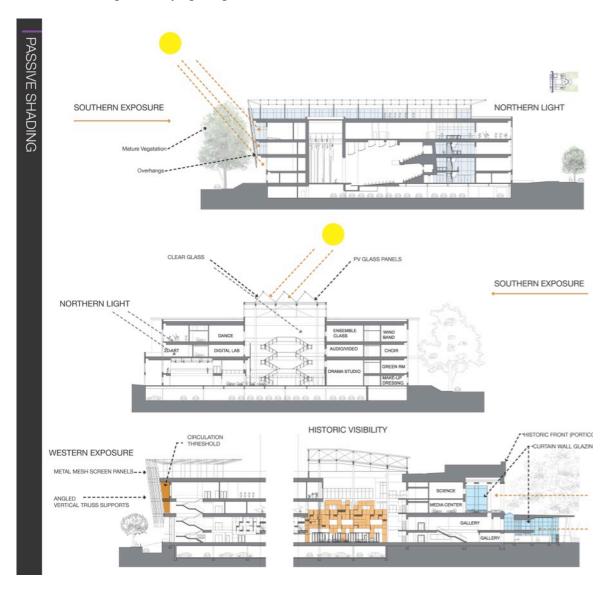








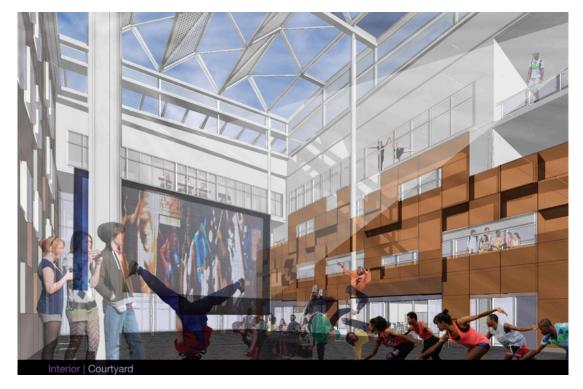
## Passive Shading and Daylighting



## Experience











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