

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of General Services

Office of Communications



PRESS RELEASE

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Department of General Services Wins LEED Gold for Wilson High School Modernization

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – The Department of General Services (DGS) has earned Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) for transforming the old Woodrow Wilson High School into a 21st century, hi-tech campus.

“The Department of General Services is honored to have received LEED Gold certification for Wilson High School’s modernization,” said Brian J. Hanlon, DGS Director. “The goal of this project was to maintain the landmark aspects of the high school with new, modern construction to transform this facility into a state-of-the-art campus that can serve teachers, staff, students, and their communities.”

LEED certification is the rigorous national benchmark for design, construction and operations of high performance green buildings.

Built in 1935, the Wilson campus is comprised of four connected buildings – the auditorium, academic core, media center, and gymnasium, plus the adjoining recently constructed new Department of Recreation Aquatic Center. The connections between the building components – all at different levels - presented numerous accessibility issues. The building was largely noncompliant with ADA regulations.

With an extraordinary design, the high school’s new academic, visual and performing arts and athletic facilities has turned the historic building into a first-class, 21st century campus.

Design features in the new Wilson High School include:

- Installed a 15,000-gallon rainwater cistern to be used for capturing rainwater to be used as grey water for flushing toilets in the Academic Building.
- Installed a “green roof” above the auxiliary gymnasium to reduce storm water runoff.
- Installed underground storage tank to slow the flow of rain water going into the storm water system.
- The transformation of the court yard space of the Academic Building into a dynamic new central Crossroads Courtyard atrium space below a dramatic skylight roof supported by tree columns for inspiration.

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- Reorganization of disconnected program elements spread around the campus into three major venues – the Academic, Athletic, and Visual and Performing Arts Centers, all independently operational and beautifully symmetrical.
- A new cafeteria with a full cooking kitchen that opens to an outdoor eating terrace in the restored Rose Garden, with dining out in the Crossroads Courtyard for clean eating.
- Two new gymnasium facilities are strategically placed next to the recently completed Aquatic Center, with access to the stadium and full locker room suites and fitness room.
- New Visual and Performing Arts Center including a Black Box Theater, expanded Band and Music Rooms wing, and 850 seat state-of-the-art auditorium to help keep the Arts alive and well in public schools.

The Department of General Services was created by the Mayor in October of 2011 through a merger of the former Department of Real Estate Services (DRES), the Office of Public Education Facility Modernization (OPEFM) and various divisions of other select agencies, such as the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Charged with constructing, maintaining and managing the District’s real-estate portfolio of over 30 million square feet – including schools, parks, office buildings and other municipal facilities – DGS is dedicated to good stewardship of the spaces where residents and visitors work, live and play.

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