

PROJECT PROFILE

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARY AT THE GREGORY SCHOOL

Houston Public Library

Houston, Texas

LEED® for New Construction

89.9% Construction waste
diverted from landfill

32.9% Water Use Reduction

11% Materials Reuse

18.5% Regional Materials

13% Recycled Content

LEED® FACTS

The African American Library
at the Gregory School
Houston, Texas

LEED® for New Construction v.2.2

Certification awarded October 19, 2010

Gold **40***

Sustainable Sites 8 / 14

Water Efficiency 3 / 5

Energy & Atmosphere 8 / 17

Materials & Resources 6 / 13

Indoor Environmental Quality 10 / 15

Innovation & Design 5 / 5

*Out of a possible 69 points



PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The African American Library at the Gregory School is the City of Houston's first Gold Certified building. The Project, located in Houston, Texas, lies a short distance from downtown within the Fourth Ward and the historic Freedman's Town. The two-story, 26,000 sq. ft. facility features temporary and permanent historical exhibits, a restored classroom, a digitizing photo lab as well as an oral history recording room and visiting scholars' offices.

Ample glazing provides daylighting and views which contribute to the library's organizational goal of providing safe, welcoming, and exciting facilities to customers. Use of durable, sustainable materials decreases facility maintenance costs and improves public perception.

SUSTAINABLE SITE (8/14)

- Public transportation access is less than 1/4 miles away with two bus lines servicing the area and within 1/2 miles away from at least ten community services
- The site does not include sensitive elements (such as flood plain elevation) or restrictive land types (such as wetlands, farmland or undeveloped land)
- The footprint of the original building has remained the same to minimize site disruption
- Non-roof surfaces are paved with highly reflective material to reflect heat
- The site was a Brownfield redevelopment and has remediated all contamination from the site
- A reflective, cool roof minimizes solar heat gain and increases energy efficiency



WATER EFFICIENCY (3/5)

- Native landscaping was planted for its drought resistant, low maintenance characteristics
- Use of native plants reduced quantity of water required for irrigation by more than 63%
- The use of water efficient plumbing fixtures reduces water consumption by 32% inside the facility



ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE (8/17)

- A commissioning agent was retained to ensure the fundamental building system design was as efficient as possible
- Energy efficiency measures include improved roof construction, reduced interior lighting power density, occupancy sensors and high-efficiency cooling equipment
- The facility exceeds the minimum energy standards to achieve an energy savings of 14.7% a year
- The City of Houston has agreed to a minimum two-year contract for 70% wind renewable energy for this facility



MATERIALS & RESOURCES (6/13)

- The facility used almost 11% of salvaged, refurbished or reused materials
- Over 13% of all building materials contain recycled content
- Over 18% of the building materials were manufactured within a 500-mile radius
- Over 89% of construction waste was diverted from landfills



INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (10/15)

- Ample glazing provides views to the outside from 91% of the regularly occupied spaces and views for 94% of regularly occupied spaces
- Low-E window glazing improves the thermal efficiency of the building, decreases transmittance of harmful UV-rays, and allows increased transmittance of visible light
- Low VOC paints, sealants, coatings, adhesives and wood products were used throughout the project to protect staff and visitors from airborne contaminants
- Rubber flooring was installed for its low maintenance needs as well as low off-gassing properties
- The floor does not need to be waxed, thereby reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals and contaminants

INNOVATION & DESIGN (5/5)

- The facility has a Green Housekeeping Program in place to reduce exposure of the building occupants to potentially hazardous chemical contaminants that impact air quality, occupant well being, and the environment
- Exemplary levels were achieved on Green Power and Non-Roof Heat Island Effect, surpassing the minimum requirements of LEED in an effort to reduce environmental impacts
- A public education program is in place that includes an educational kiosk presentation, a brochure and tours

Owner: City of Houston
Architect: Smith & Assoc. Architects
Structural: Ingenium Inc.
MEP: Marshall Engineering Corp.
Civil: Kennedy & Associates
Landscape: Clark Condon Assoc.
Historic Restoration/LEED
Consultants: Gensler
Historic Window Consultants: Leeds Clark
Environmental Consultants: Environmental Resource Consultants
Contractor: Prime Contractors, Inc.
Project Size: 26,000 sq. ft.
Total Project Cost: \$11,478,000
Completion: November 2009
Photos: Aker/Zvonkovic Photography

ABOUT LEED

The LEED Green Building Rating System is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's Web site at www.usgbc.org to learn more about how you can make LEED work for you.