

2012 CEFPI North East Region
Exhibition of School Planning and
Architecture

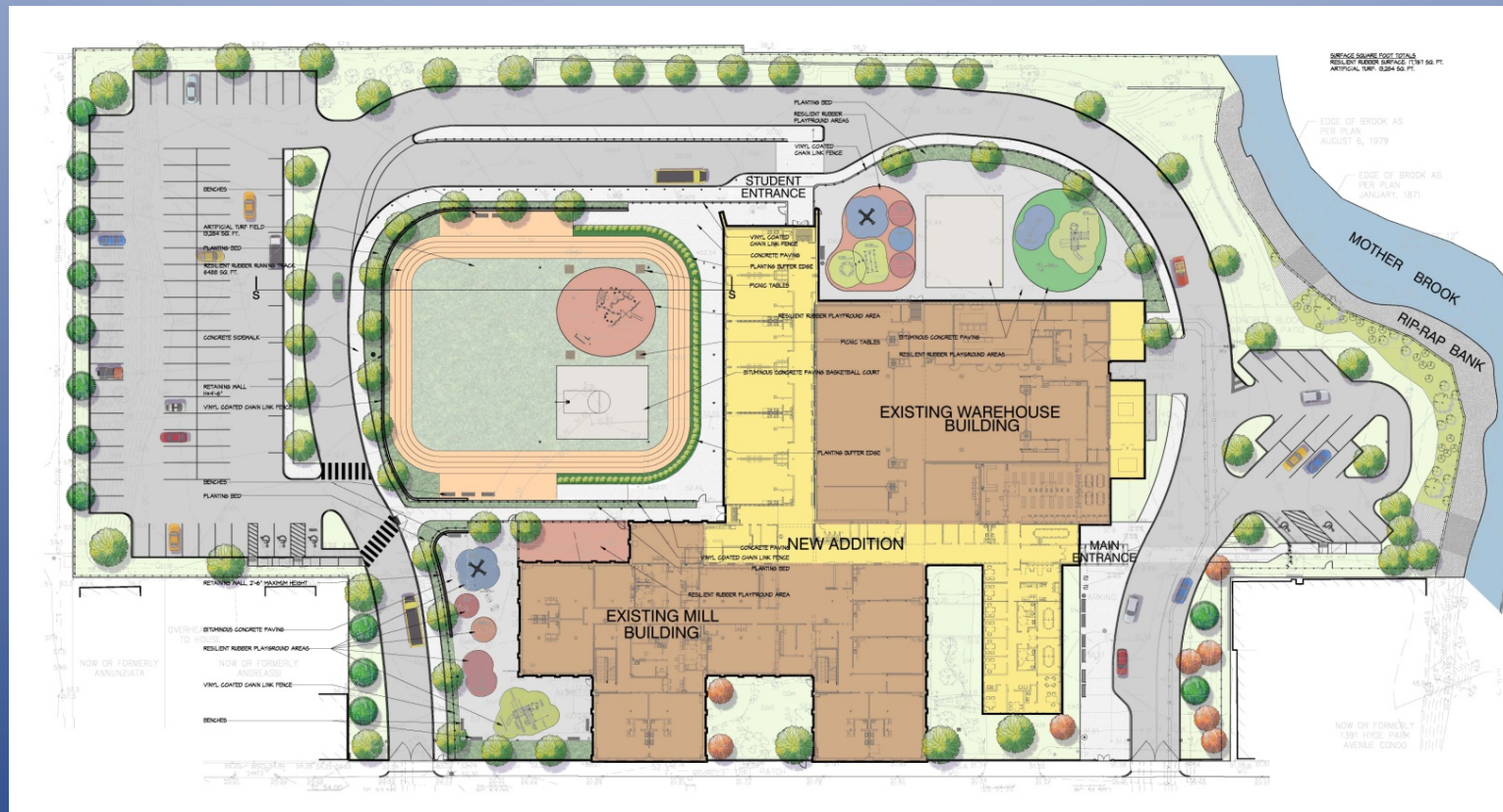
Boston Renaissance Charter
Public School

Hyde Park, MA
Elementary School
Renovation
HMFH Architects, Inc.

Boston Renaissance Charter Public School



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School



The new school revitalizes a former industrial site in the Readville Industrial Area of Hyde Park, which contained a 19th century historic heavy timber and masonry mill building and a mid-20th century metal-siding and concrete block warehouse building. The new school building links the two structures, utilizing each building's best features while adapting them for educational purposes.

Neighborhood Beacon

Community Environment

The neighboring community advocated for a school that would revitalize and enhance the Readville Industrial Area of Hyde Park. In keeping with these goals, the new school, highly visible from both Hyde Park Avenue and from the adjacent Amtrak and commuter rail line, uses its handsomely restored exterior and bright, prominent signage to galvanize the site and create a new community anchor.

The main entry to the school is an inviting and safe drop-off area for students arriving by bus, or accompanied by parents. The colorful entrance invigorates its urban context and welcomes the school community with a canopy that incorporates reclaimed wood from the renovation of the mill building.

Existing site



Outdoor Play Facilities

Community Environment

The school's former home in a multi-story high-rise in Boston's business district lacked outdoor play space, with students utilizing a small sidewalk for recreation. To better meet the needs of students and help fulfill the school's mission, the new school incorporates ample outdoor play and circulation space in a safe zone, removed from busy Hyde Park Avenue.

The play spaces are age-specific, with one playground for the school's youngest K1 students and a second for older students, a running track, and outdoor space with synthetic turf that accommodates heavy use. The outdoor spaces engage students in their environment, promote social interactions, and invigorate the surrounding community.



Small School Communities

Learning Environment

Classrooms are organized on multiple floors of the mill building to create three grade-specific learning communities. Kinder classrooms are organized on the first floor of the mill building and in the child-scaled addition, with its playful schoolhouse motif and abundant natural daylight. The side windows extend down to an appropriate height for the school's youngest, while light from the windows at the top flood the interior spaces of the classrooms.

The Primary School, housing first through third grade is on the second floor of the mill building and is overseen by a principal, whose office acts as a focal point for both students and faculty. The Elementary School on the third floor provides classrooms and a separate principal for the upper-grade students. The division of the school into smaller communities enables students to collaborate with peers and have the support of administration, fully immersing them in their education.



Whole Child

Learning Environment

As the largest public elementary school in Boston, educating 885 of the city's most underserved students, the school has a philosophy of a "whole child" approach to learning which engages young learners in art, music, dance, and physical education in addition to rigorous academics.

In keeping with the whole child philosophy, the school now possesses ample outdoor play and circulation space, and houses comprehensive student services including on-site dental and vision care, classrooms for art, music, dance, and physical education, and spaces for physical, occupational, and speech therapy.



Preservation

Physical Environment

Classrooms, located in the renovated mill building, provide all the technologies and amenities of a 21st century learning environment while featuring the structure's industrial legacy. Due to careful space planning, the majority of the school's classrooms have no column obstruction, instead combining light-reflecting and sound-absorbing panels within displays of refinished wood columns and masonry as part of the classroom walls. High performance windows recall the iconic look of the mill's wood frames while delivering modern energy-efficiency and savings. The ceiling, which stops 18" from the exterior walls to allow for the full height of the windows, also exposes the original structure of the building, a careful approach to preservation that advances learning in the classroom and beyond.



Flexibility

Physical Environment

The warehouse building, with its large open volumes, was repurposed to house a unique, flexible space that can convert from a two-bay gymnasium to a cafeteria to an all-school assembly area. Movable acoustic partitions between shared-use spaces transform the space for multiple-uses, lowering the size, cost, and environmental impact of the building while appropriately housing a wide range of program needs.

In the cafetorium, a music classroom doubles as a stage when its partition is opened, accommodating all-school assemblies and community-wide performances for over 1,000 students, staff, and parents. The acoustic separations allow music, dance and gym classes to happen in adjacent spaces without disturbing the other surrounding program activities.



Carefully placed skylights make daylight the predominant light source throughout the interior spaces, with colorful light diffusers to soften the effect of the high ceilings.

The Greenest Building is the One Already Built

Planning Process

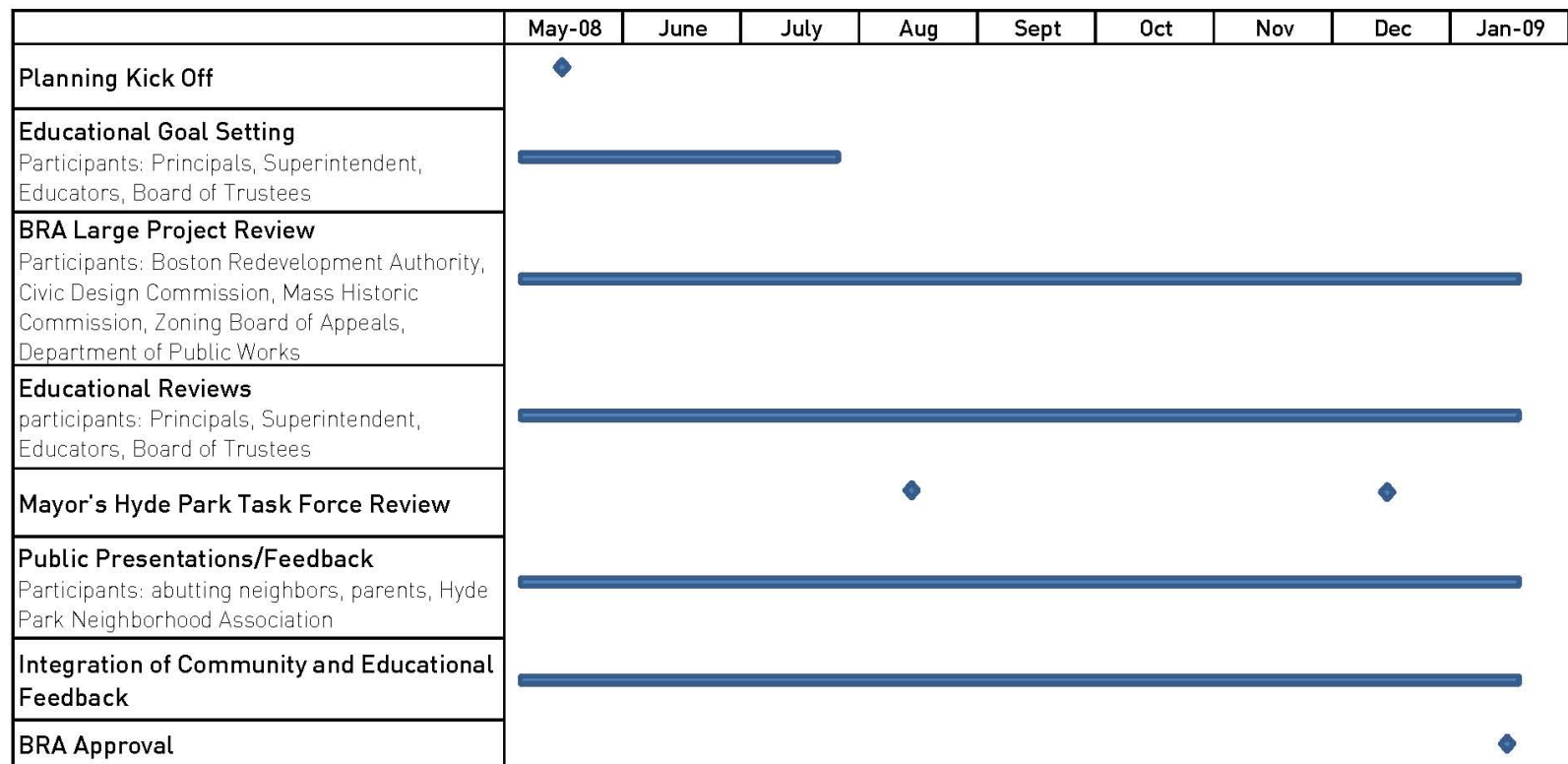
Historic preservation and sustainability were driving forces in the design from the beginning of the planning process. Transforming buildings from three different centuries into one cohesive learning environment included:

- A displacement ventilation system for quiet, healthy spaces
- Floor system made of a sleeper and isolator pad, providing acoustic insulation and leveling uneven floor boards
- Meeting LEED silver standards
- High performance windows
- Daylight dimming system to reduce artificial lighting
- Playground retaining walls built from concrete blocks found on the site
- Reclaimed timber from the mill building renovation used to construct the entrance canopy



Planning

Planning Process



First Floor Plan



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Hyde Park, MA
First Floor Plan



0' 25' 50' 75' 100' 150'



HMFH Architects, Inc.

Second Floor Plan



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Hyde Park, MA
Second Floor Plan

0' 25' 50' 75' 100' 150'



Third Floor Plan



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Hyde Park, MA
Third Floor Plan

0' 25' 50' 75' 100' 150'



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

2012 Project Data

Submitting Firm :	HMFH Architects, Inc.
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	George Metzger
Title	Principal
Address	130 Bishop Allen Drive
City, State or Province, Country	Cambridge, MA
Phone	617 -844-2114

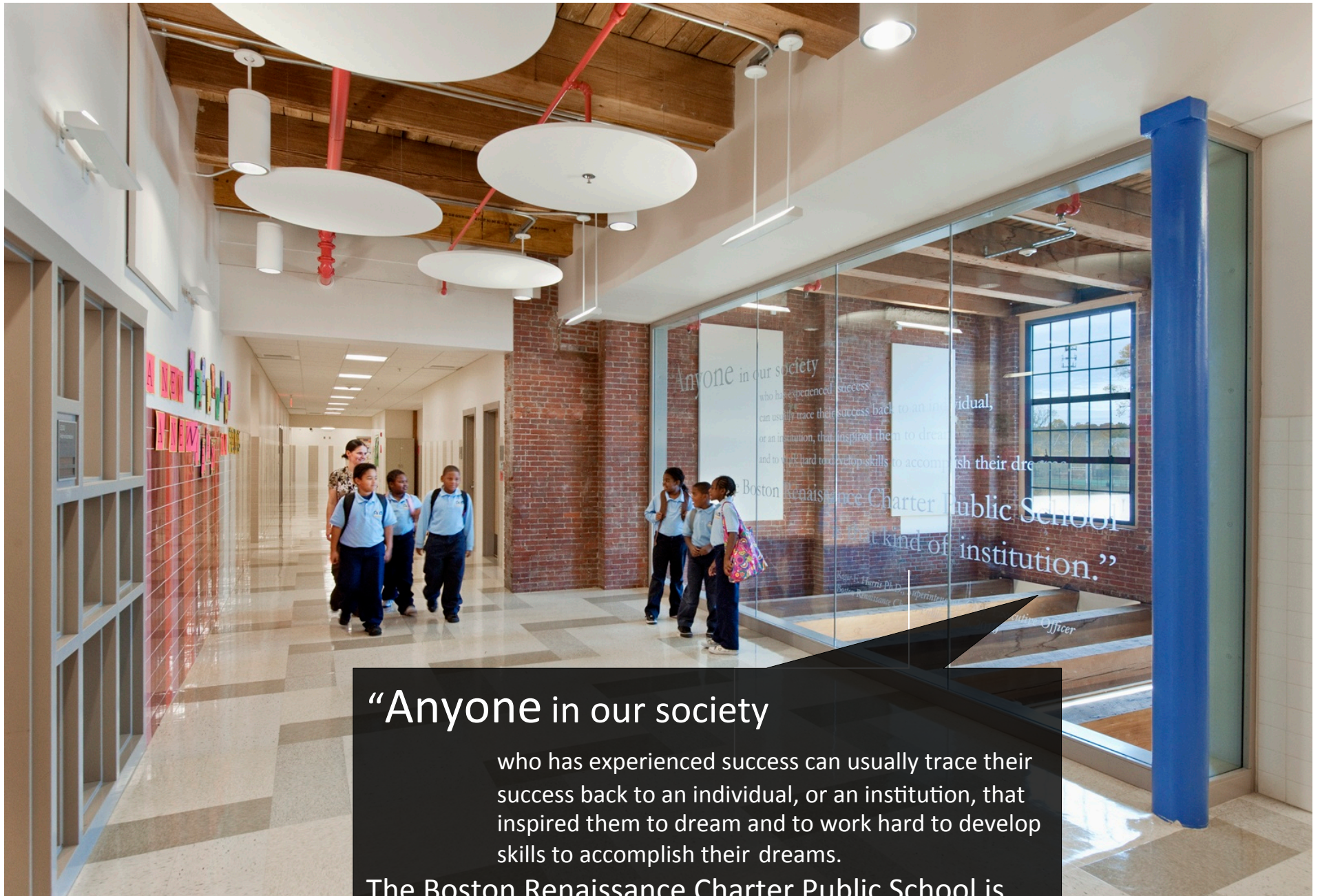
Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

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2012 Project Details

Project Name	Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
City	Hyde Park
State	Massachusetts
District Name	Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Supt/President	Dr. Roger Harris, Superintendent
Occupancy Date	9/1/2010
Grades Housed	K-6
Capacity(Students)	885
Site Size (acres)	6
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	105,000
Per Occupant(pupil)	118
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	Yes
If yes, Total Cost:	24,010,245
Includes:	construction cost
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	



“Anyone in our society

who has experienced success can usually trace their success back to an individual, or an institution, that inspired them to dream and to work hard to develop skills to accomplish their dreams.

The Boston Renaissance Charter Public School is
that kind of institution.”

—Roger F. Harris

