GROWING PAINS

Community Engagement and the Impact of Unique Pedagogy During Planning and Design Development
SARAH GOULD  
Principal-In-Charge  
KKT Architects

LIZ ROHRBACKER  
Principal  
KKT Architects

EMILY HUTTON  
Director of Community Engagement  
Tulsa Public Schools
PAST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
LIBRARY
BEFORE INPUT

Existing Library
LIBRARY
AFTER INPUT
CURRENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
VISION FOR DOWNTOWN SCHOOL
Emerson Montessori boundaries extend west to the I-10, south to 11th St, east to Peoria, and North to Pine.
DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18-19 Enrollment (PK-6)

- African American: 55%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 0%
- Hispanic: 7%
- Multiracial: 9%
- Native American: 4%
- White: 25%

EMERSON ELEMENTARY 2018-2019
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & FOCUS GROUPS DRIVE NEW DIRECTION
- Keep as a neighborhood school
- Project based learning
- Connect to the Outdoors
- Hands-on learning
- Flexible teaching spaces
- Community based programs incorporated
- School demographics should reflect neighborhood demographics
MONTESSORI
METHOD
CONSIDERED
GETTING TEACHERS ON BOARD
- Steering Committee
- Discussion with Local Business Association, Business Owners, Development Authority
- Coffee Meetings with Parents
- Spontaneous Meetings at Parent Drop-Off
- Forums / Bingo Nights
- Church Pastor / Congregation Presentations
- Block Parties
Over 100 Meetings during 2 Year Design Process
HOW DOES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFECT DESIGN?
SITE PLAN
The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.

-Maria Montessori
THANK YOU!

To learn more about the Emerson Elementary Montessori program visit: https://emerson.tulsaschools.org/