



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Joe Lee Johnson STEAM Academy Austin, TX



### New Construction/Addition

#### School prototype plan

#### BLGY Architecture

2204 Forbes Dr., Ste. 101  
Austin, TX 78754  
blgy.com  
Sita Lakshminarayan  
512/977-0390

#### DESIGN TEAM

Sita Lakshminarayan, AIA, ALEP, LEED AP (BD+C),  
Managing Principal  
Mark Brown, RA, LEED GA, Project Manager/  
Architect  
MEP Engineering, MEP Engineer  
Datum Engineers, Structural Engineer  
Cunningham I Allen, Civil Engineer

#### OWNER/CLIENT

Round Rock Independent School District  
Austin, TX  
Bob Cervi, Chief Operating Officer  
512/464-5087

#### KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-5  
Capacity: 900 students  
Size of Site: 14.2 acres  
Building Area: 122,409 gsf  
Space per Student: 136 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$28,310  
Square Foot Cost: \$184  
Project Cost: \$25,479,420  
Completion Date: August 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA CALO



Joe Lee Johnson STEAM Academy embodies the District's strategic plan to promote agile, collaborative learning in a future-ready environment. Open, flexible spaces encourage creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication—all essential skills for future-ready learners. Technology is present everywhere so learning can happen anywhere, and students choose tech devices based on their learning needs.

Classrooms have movable, clear walls that open to Commons environments with touch screen displays, 1:1 tech devices, and 3-D printers to support Project-Based Learning. Flexible furniture allows varied learning styles: alone, paired, small and large group.

The building is close to the main neighborhood intersection to promote community use. Parking, walking and bike trails, fields and playgrounds are resources year-round. The transparent glass corner of the entry serves as a beacon, distinguishing the school as an important landmark. Transparency and scale are paramount in establishing relationships between the school and its suburban context.

Inspired by art deco architecture, a red brick slab acts as a "sign," framing the glass entrance, moving into the building as an organizational element, then dissolving into pilasters that frame interior display walls. Creative use of colors in flooring and paint finishes aid with identity and wayfinding.