LEARNING BY DESIGN Outstanding Project 2016

Summit Public School: Sierra
Seattle, WA

Summit Public School's teaching philosophy revolves around small schools featuring student-led, inquiry-based learning where students are enabled to drive their own learning. Their new Summit Sierra school is designed to support this learning model. Large, open learning areas adjoin the STEM and seminar rooms to foster collaborative teaching and learning. These spaces are connected with glass interior garage doors, providing transparency and openness for a variety of educational activities. Working within the very tight budget, the design provides an exciting environment for 21st-century learning.

This project is an adaptive reuse and addition to an existing pre-engineered metal building, previously used as a community center. To increase usable area and create the learning spaces needed for the school, a new two-story wood-framed structure was built inside the existing metal building, separated on all sides by an air space to allow differential seismic movement. The building is planned for a two-story addition to be constructed next year, providing additional indoor and outdoor learning spaces to accommodate the full 450-student capacity in grades 9–12.

Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

Entire school/campus building

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KEY STATS
Grades Served: 9–11 in Phase 1; 9–12 after Phase 2
Capacity: 350 in Phase 1; 450 after Phase 2
Size of Site: 0.83 acres
Building Area: 19,990 sq. ft. in Phase 1; 9,160 sq. ft. in Phase 2
Space per Student: 57 sq. ft. in Phase 1; 64.7 sq. ft. after Phase 2
Cost per Student: $11,560 (Phase 1)
Square Foot Cost: $202 (Phase 1)
Construction Cost: $4,046,000
Project Cost: $9,484,568 including purchase of land & building
Completion Date: August 2015 (Phase 1)

PHOTOGRAPHY: BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER PHOTOGRAPHY