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D.C. picks team for Cardozo renovation

Washington Business Journal

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The District's Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization Monday selected Hartman-Cox Architects and Grimm+Parker Architects as the winning bidder for the job to renovate D.C.'s historic Cardozo Senior High School.

D.C. Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization Press Release

Washington, DC—Today, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Allen Y. Lew, Executive Director of the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM) announced that the architectural design team of Hartman-Cox Architects and Grimm+Parker Architects was selected for the long awaited modernization of Cardozo Senior High School.

"I am very proud of the phenomenal pace and achievements of the District's school facility modernization effort. It gives me great pleasure to know that Director Lew and his team at OPEFM have selected a well respected DC-based architect that has teamed with another superior firm that has played an important role in the transformation of Sousa Middle School—a school that has made off the chart progress since its modernization a few years ago" said Fenty.

Cardozo Senior High School will undergo a complete historic restoration of its classical building and will receive new technology and other amenities. The final design will be completed in approximately one year after extensive engagement with current students, alumni, faculty, staff and the broader community.

"I'm happy to say that the selection of this team was perhaps one of the more difficult in my time at OPEFM," said Lew. "We received 20 strong proposals from great architects from all over the country. While the scores were close, our experience with Grimm+Parker at Sousa, where they exhibited tremendous creativity in solving difficult design challenges and the depth of Hartman-Cox's federal and academic restoration work made the difference."

Hartman-Cox Architects, a small, DC-based firm with a national design practice, has exclusively paired with Grimm+Parker Architects to provide secondary school consulting services. Combining Hartman-Cox's experience in Collegiate Gothic architecture, higher education and historic preservation with Grimm + Parker's extensive portfolio of K-12 schools in the Washington region provides OPEFM the best of both worlds. Cardozo Architect Announcement

Hartman-Cox's portfolio includes the design and restoration of significant federal projects including the restoration of the National Archives Building and the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. The firm has received over 120 design awards, including six American Institute of Architects Honor Awards, the Louis Sullivan Award for Architecture, the 2006 Arthur Ross Award for Architecture and the American Institute of Architects Architectural Firm Award, the highest award the AIA bestows on a firm for design.

Gimm+Parker has an extensive roster of K-12 projects to its credit, including Sousa Middle School. Their creative use of materials helped to transform the historic structure into a light-filled show-case. Sousa previously had been an under-performing school.

With the newly modernized facility and the addition of a new principal, the school has made remarkable progress. Other regional Grimm+Parker school projects include Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, VA, Oakdale High School in Frederick County and the George Washington Carver Center for the Arts & Technology in Baltimore. The firm is the recipient of over 100 design and educational awards.

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