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December 13, 2010

Cardozo High School Modernization Team Selected

Mayor Fenty, OPEFM Director Lew Announce Architect at Press Conference

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Washington—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.

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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About OPEFM

The **Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM)** was created by the historic DC Education Reform Act of 2007 to undertake the construction and modernization of DC Public School (DCPS) facilities and other large scale capital projects. The office also manages all non-custodial maintenance for the school system.

In just three years the OPEFM has achieved an unprecedented \$1 billion in new school construction, long overdue system and safety improvements, playgrounds, athletic fields and other amenities.

The projects are cutting edge and have established standards that meet and in some cases exceed those of private educational institutions. The District of Columbia is among the most progressive US municipalities with regard to "green" buildings. By law, every modernized school must meet a minimum of Silver LEED (Leadership in

Energy and Environmental Design) certification as defined by the US Green Building Council.

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