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55 YEARS

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UTEC facility oldest LEED Platinum certified building

October 17, 2013 - Spotlights

CBT Architects transformed this former church building and historic property in the downtown area into an updated facility for the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) and its intensive programs for proven-risk youth. The design includes renovation to the existing building as well as a 7,500 s/f addition resulting in 20,000 s/f space to include a large multi-use performance space, fitness center, classroom space, computer room, video production suite, media lab, dance studio with sprung wood flooring, lounge area, mediation room, caf  , kitchen and staff office space. Part of the new addition is a three story stair/courtyard that unifies the building and functions.

The design team worked closely with the youth throughout the design process for input and information sharing, and with the local historic board for site planning and review of exterior design and details. The project benefited from a MASS Historic grant, a DOER energy grant, ARRA restrictions, and a utility energy rebate. A key feature is the use of natural ventilation and no mechanical cooling of occupied spaces by utilizing the former belfry as a building thermal chimney.

UTEC's new home doubles the nonprofit's capacity to serve the proven-risk youth of Lowell and Lawrence. Remarkably, since the historic church building was constructed in 1839, UTEC is now the oldest LEED Platinum certified building in the world!

UTEC: client

CBT Architects: architect/interior design

Shawmut Design and Construction: contractor

The Green Roundtable: sustainability consultant

Tanssolar Inc: sustainability consultant

Watermark Environmental Inc.: civil engineer

Sebesta Bloomberg: commissioning authority

Wozny/Barbar & Associates: MEP/electrical engineer

Schweppe Lighting Design Inc.: lighting design

Souza True and Partners: structural engineer

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