



Lent Elementary School Fire Restoration



Multi-Purpose Classroom

Company profile

Portland Public Schools, founded in 1851, is an urban school district in Portland, Oregon. With approximately 46,000 students in more than 85 schools, it is the largest school district in the Pacific Northwest. Lent Elementary School serves approximately 470 students in grades Kindergarten through 8th.

Business situation

Lent Elementary School was extensively damaged due to a fire that migrated to the center of the main structure. Besides major smoke damage throughout the school, the auditorium was destroyed and classrooms on both sides of the auditorium were extensively damaged.

Technical situation

Repairs to the heavily damaged school needed to be started as soon as possible not only to minimize additional damage, but also to secure the facility and prepare the balance of the school for use. During initial meetings and site reviews, the City of Portland Building Department identified various required code upgrades to the facility. These included items such as adding attic draft stops and strategically located fire rated doors, as well as improved smoke detection and fire alarm systems that needed to be incorporated into the design of the rebuilt areas.

As part of the discussions about rebuilding, the District decided to allow Lents School to explore alternatives to rebuilding a dedicated auditorium. A process was started to engage the school community.

Solution

The entire school community, including parents, faculty and District representatives, participated in an expedited programming process. The group explored the specific needs of the school, including elements that were previously missing or desired. The ideas were pulled together into a conceptual and schematic design. The entire school community was given an opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

While engaging the school community, it was determined that rebuilding the destroyed portion of the school into a multipurpose space better fit the current needs of the school and community. This multipurpose space could still be arranged as a large gathering area with a platform for presentations and performances, but could also be arranged as several functional separate classrooms that were needed to support the school's curriculum and programs.



Lent Elementary- Multi-Purpose Room Platform

Benefits

The programming and design processes were expedited to minimize disruption to the students and faculty and to allow work to begin as quickly as possible. This was achieved with a high level of communication with the school community. The process was also accelerated by selecting the contractor very early in the process so that work could start before the final construction documents were completed. The result was a building that better served the needs of the school community while integrating various Life Safety and Building Code upgrades to the school.

Services Provided

- Planning Services
- Programming Services
- Coordination with District Project Managers and Insurance Company Representatives
- Full Range of Architectural Design Services
- Coordination of Engineering Consultants and Restoration Contractors
- Building Permit Submittal and Approval Process
- Participated in Selection of General Contractor
- Construction Administration Services

Project Summary

Architect/Role: David Commeree, Partner-in-Charge
Client: Portland Public Schools- Pam Brown, Director of Facilities
Address: 5105 SE 97th Ave, Portland Oregon
Project Type: K-8 Educational
Construction Cost: Not Disclosed
Project Area: 23,240 sf Restoration Area/ 5,150 sf Multi-Purpose Room
General Contractor: LCG Pence Construction

Project undertaken while with ARCHITECTS Barrentine.Bates.Lee AIA
Bridging design, Construction and Management
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