

FRA Awards 2018

OCPS Academic Center for Excellence
Making Quality Education the
Cornerstone of Community Revitalization
Management Programs/Creative Partnerships
City of Orlando, Community Redevelopment Agency



Innovation

- “Quality Education as the Cornerstone of Community Revitalization” emerged through the Orlando Community Redevelopment Agency’s (CRA) Project Downtown Orlando (DTO) and the Parramore Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning processes when residents identified the need for a neighborhood school.
- Developed with multi-year community input addressing siting, land-use changes and design, the 12.8 acre school property was secured through collaborative City of Orlando-Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) negotiation, a land swap and generous community partners, providing the foundation for a new K-8 school, Academic Center for Excellence (ACE).
- *An Architectural Project of Distinction-2017 Education Design Showcase* (Baker-Barrios), the 251,812 sq. ft. multi-story structure is a first-of-its-kind downtown school, welcoming up to 1,211 students from pre-school to eight grade.
- Broad-based services from on-site pediatric medical care to family job readiness skill training as well as free college or vocational tuition for graduates along with staff support by Valencia College and the University of Central Florida makes ACE a visionary, but replicable, Community Partnership School model.

ACE Interior and Exterior Images



Community Impact

- Neighborhood students are afforded a high-quality academic experience as well as tutoring and mentoring programs, before and after school services, athletic and arts programs, (teaching kitchen, school garden), counseling on nutrition, exercise and healthy lifestyle choices as well as various on-site services....” (Kat Gordon, OCPS, District 5)
- “The project has brought the community together in ways we have never seen before... from the voters who have approved the half-cent sales tax to build the school, to the community philanthropists who provide [support] and valuable campus experiences...” (Dr. Barbara Jenkins, OCPS Superintendent)
- School has met community planning goals and supports area-wide infrastructure upgrades, including \$5 million of infrastructure improvements from sidewalk ramps to the popular \$2.4 million Westmoreland Bike Trail.
- Unlike many other urban neighborhoods, most of the ACE students walk or bike to school, and the facility has positively influenced neighborhood pride, area appearance and property values, which is leading to housing infill for residents.



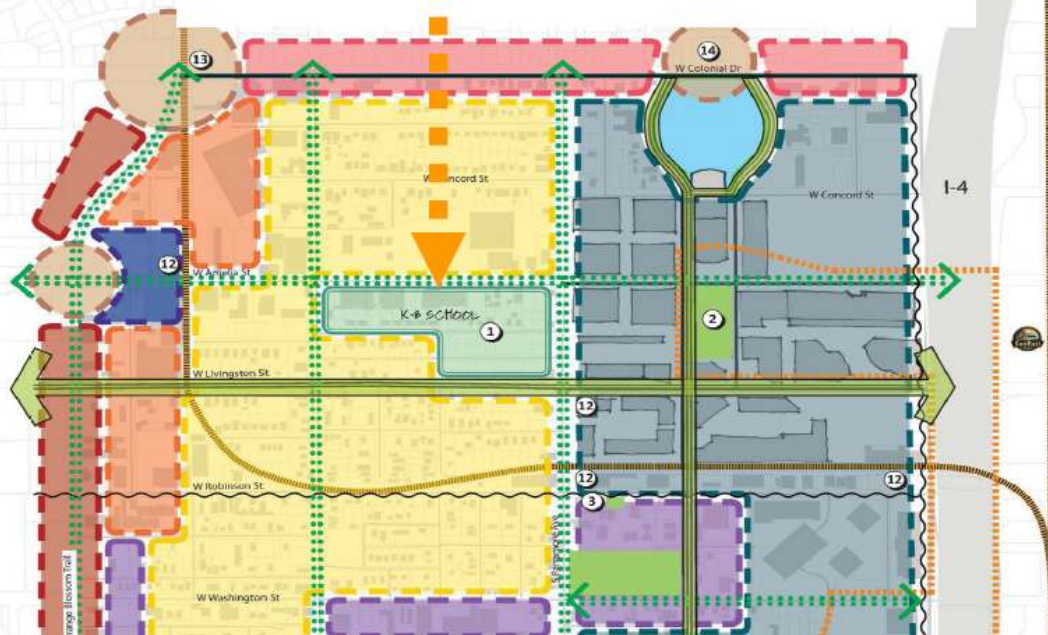
K-8 SCHOOL

- NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL
- FAMILY HEALTH CENTER
- COMMUNITY CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD
- CENTRAL LOCATION
- SIDEWALKS & BIKE LANES PROVIDE ACCESS
- SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL INFILL

PARRAMORE COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

CHARACTER DISTRICTS LEGEND

- RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**
 - PRESERVATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
 - NEW SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ON VACANT PROPERTIES
 - HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT PROGRAM
 - NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS & SIDEWALKS
 - PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS
 - COMMUNITY GARDENS
 - ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT
 - CLEAN-UP PROGRAMS
 - LIGHTING PROGRAM
- REGIONAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT**
 - REGIONAL SERVICE CORRIDOR
 - FOCUS ON INFILL AND REDEVELOPMENT
- NEIGHBORHOOD SERVING RETAIL**
 - NEIGHBORHOOD RETAIL
 - FOCUS ON INFILL & REDEVELOPMENT
 - STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
- JOBS & INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT**
 - EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL & GOVERNMENTAL USES
 - POTENTIAL INFILL AREA W/ USES TO SUPPORT JOBS & INSTITUTIONAL USES
 - PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS TO ADJACENT DISTRICTS
- CREATIVE VILLAGE & EDUCATION DISTRICT**
 - MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT
 - EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP W/ REGIONAL DRAW
 - JOB CENTER
 - PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY STREETS
 - RESIDENTIAL
- SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**
 - PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY STREETS
 - STREET CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
 - OFFICE & MIXED USE SUPPORTING





Problem Solving

- Parramore is a historic African American neighborhood, which has faced deep seated discrimination, blight and inherent suffering, but with enormous resilience; and was served in its early days by local professionals, including notable African American educators, working at the two neighborhood schools.
- Closing Parramore schools due to desegregation had adverse consequences with students bused to eight outside schools resulting in many families moving to the suburbs so that by the turn of the 21st century, Parramore was deemed one of the most blighted communities in Central Florida.
- Resident input through the various planning efforts identified the need for a school that was connected to the neighborhood and truly served the residents.
- The CRA and the City of Orlando as part of an exchange swapped an undeveloped 3.63 acre area which had failed to move forward as a housing project, to Orange County Public Schools in an exchange of land for equal value, thereby allowing the ideal siting of the school and a good use of city land resources.

Funding

- The CRA and City of Orlando worked with Orange County Public Schools to execute an agreement memorializing the land exchange and the proposed school project.
- The value of the exchange is \$1.58 million dollars.

Applicability to Other Communities

- ACE is based on a UCF Orange County Community Partnership School model, which can be replicated in other communities and supports broad-based community redevelopment.
- The Community Partnership Schools model is now recognized as a national community school model by the Coalition for Community Schools in Washington, DC.
- The Florida Legislature appropriated more than \$4 million dollars during the past four years for the development of Community Partnership Schools across the State.
- With adequate financing, partnerships, training and strategic implementation other communities can successfully replicate the ACE community school model to stabilize neighborhoods, build social fabric and support needed infrastructure investments.