



Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Tower Pinkster Titus Associates, Inc.

**School, Community Center/
Joint Use Facilities**
New Construction

Tower Pinkster Titus Associates, Inc.
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DESIGN TEAM

Thomas Mathison, FAIA, REFP, Principal
Steve Hoekzema, AIA, Project Manager
Mark Levine, AIA, LEED AP, Senior Designer
Kevin Hoezee, Associate AIA, Project Coordinator
Ron Masek, ASLA, LEED AP, Landscape Architect

OWNER/CLIENT

Grand Rapids Public Schools
Grand Rapids, MI
David Smith,
Executive Director Facilities
Management & Planning
(616) 819-3010
Type of School and Grades
Served: Elementary/Middle
School, Pre-K-8
Capacity: 515 students
Size of Site: 3.2 acres
Area of Building:
67,607 square feet
Volume of Building:
1.2 million cubic feet
Space per Student:
131 square feet
Cost per Student: \$17,864
Square Foot Cost: \$136
Construction Cost: \$9.2 million
Total Project Cost: \$10.6 million
Contract Date: February 2005
Completion Date: July 2006
Percent of Completion: 100%

The Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy transcends the role of a traditional school. This three-story, 68,000-square-foot, pre-K through eighth-grade educational facility is a triumph for the entire surrounding community. Constructed in a working-class Grand Rapids, Mich. neighborhood, the academy is an epicenter for education, fitness, and fun. In addition to boasting a variety of state-of-the-art instruction spaces, the building has been designed to permit after-school access for community activities, while securing core instructional spaces.

Innovative features include versatile classrooms, an outdoor amphitheater area, a fitness facility, a music room, a dance studio, and an adaptable cafeteria space that transforms into a performance venue.

The academy contains a



MAIN ENTRANCE

range of sustainable features, including a rooftop patio garden with a rainwater collection system. Historically significant features, such as a diversity-inspired tile mural, incorporate the school's rich past into its promise for the future.

Energy efficient features include daylight harvesting, foamed wall insulation, and

computerized controls. Synthetic stone, brick, and metal panels, tinted glass curtain walls, and translucent glazing are featured on the exterior. A project Web site and a jobsite webcam were provided, allowing interested citizens an opportunity to watch the development of the academy in real time. ■



ATRIUM LOBBY



OUTDOOR COMMUNITY AMPHITHEATER

Photos: Michael Morin Photography