



Entire School/  
Campus Building  
New Construction

**DLR GROUP**

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**DESIGN TEAM**

DLR Group  
Adolfson & Peterson  
Construction

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Phoenix Union  
High School District  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Arthur Lebowitz,  
Superintendent  
602/764-4100

Type of School and  
Grades Served:  
High School, 9-12

Capacity: 2,000 students

Size of Site: 51 acres

Area of Building:  
298,000 square feet

Space per Student:  
149 square feet

Cost per Student: \$33,200

Square Foot Cost: \$222.81

Cost of Construction:  
\$56.3 million

Total Project Cost:  
\$66.4 million

Contract Date: Aug. 2004

Completion Date: Sept. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

# Betty H. Fairfax High School

*Phoenix, Arizona*

**DLR Group**



CAMPUS CIRCULATION

The campus design respects the district's mission of providing all students with an equal opportunity to succeed.

With 2,000 students expected at full capacity, the large student population is divided into four smaller populations, each with its own distinct identity. These small learning communities (SLCs) promote a genuine sense of community and belonging. Each can accommodate approximately 625 students and has the same number of core curriculum classrooms and a similar number of science labs. This allows a smaller student group to focus the majority of their academic time with a smaller group of students, resulting in familiarity with other students and staff, ownership in their education and surroundings, and pride and inclusiveness within their "school."



PEDESTRIAN SKYBRIDGE



LIBRARY

PHOTOS: MARK BOISCLAIR



BRIDGE CONNECTOR



TRANSPARENT PASSAGEWAY

Each SLC has a unique “plug-in” curriculum, which encourages involvement of students from other areas of campus. These plug-in curriculum pieces are dance, studio arts, aerobics/weights, and computer technology. Having elective curriculum subjects focused at different schools lends an identity to each SLC and encourages socialization among students. To further reinforce the identity of each school, administra-

tion, food service, cafeteria, and library are located at each school location.

All students use the library, performing arts, physical education, and food service facilities, which also enhances interaction among students. These locations provide large spaces for presentations and lectures; small spaces dedicated to group learning; and contemplative spaces to support individual learning and reflection.



COMMONS

Each school plan is focused around a central, multiuse gathering area that can accommodate a variety of activities including food service, cafeteria, library/computer access, and large group projects.

Like a neighborhood street, each school has its own address and storefront-style presence. A meandering path connects the entire campus and serves as the primary circulation route.

Desert flowers in springtime, spread beneath the backdrop of rugged mountains, provided inspiration for the bold forms, materials, and color palette.

Fresh air, daylight, and expansive views are available throughout the school. Daylight in all core classroom areas is

enhanced through the building’s orientation and shape, while minimizing thermal heat gain.

Other energy-efficient features include a highly performing building envelope and an efficient central plant chiller system. Fairfax’s high indoor environmental quality is realized through low maintenance materials and native landscaping materials.

The school’s namesake is educator and philanthropist Betty Fairfax. If the school’s mission and design aren’t inspiration enough for learning, Betty Fairfax’s foundation promises each student \$1,000 for each year of college they complete successfully. ■