

THEARC West

1801 Mississippi Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20020

PROJECT TEAM

Building Bridges Across the River - Owner
Sanchez-Palmer Architects - Architect
Potomac Energy Group - MEP
Pandagy, LLC - Energy Modeler
WC Smith - Developer
Doo Consulting - Sustainability Consultant
WCS, LLC - Contractor

PROJECT SIZE 418,223 GSF
CERTIFICATION LEED V3 BD+C Gold
FTE 150
DAILY VISITORS 331

DESCRIPTION

The Town Hall Education, Arts & Recreation Campus (THEARC) was constructed to serve the underserved. Comprised of three buildings, a farm, and playground that sits on 16.5 acres, this humanitarian mall provides world-class services to the east of the Anacostia River community in Washington, DC. Through a collaboration of partner organizations, THEARC provides access to high quality educational, health, cultural, recreation, and social service programs.

THEARC West facilitates measurable positive social impact for one of the most historically underserved areas of Washington, DC. The nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River (BBAR) runs THEARC and many of its programs. BBAR's approach to community building through collaboration in an area that is vulnerable to gentrification and displacement is truly innovative as the path to urban revitalization. Building resilient, equitable, and prosperous communities is the key to achieving a truly sustainable world both socially and environmentally.

The community organizations that occupy THEARC West include:

- THEARC Farm & Brige Park Plots - a community garden that provides urban agricultural education and fresh produce
- The Mediation Center - provides holistic wellness services
- The Phillips Collection - art gallery that offers arts-infused services promoting wellness
- Skyland Workforce Center - provides high-quality skills development programs and job placement
- Children's National Health System: Children's Health Project of DC - a full service medical clinic
- The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys
- AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School
- The Black Box Theater

These various programs, in addition to the ones already offered, will continue to engage in community and personal development.

Some of our favorite sustainable features include:

- Stormwater management via a vegetated roof, bioretention planters and basins, and permeable pavers
- A rooftop PV array that generates 63,416 kWh annually, contributing to an energy cost savings of 29.64%
- 93% open space with 94% of that being vegetated
- Green building educational features throughout the site
- Extensive use of natural lighting, exterior sunshades and LED lighting
- Centrally located in the community it serves, the site fosters connections to nature and stewardship of the adjacent woodland area
- Attention to material selection to create a high quality, optimal indoor learning environment

