

**Dayton Public Schools and City of Dayton
Boys Academy and Recreation Center
Dayton, Ohio**

Together the Dayton Public Schools Boys Academy and City of Dayton Recreation Center have created a new identity for an inner city neighborhood. A willingness to collaborate for the betterment of the community set the stage for this unique education and recreation complex.

Initial discussions between the two users were focused on which organization should occupy the front of the site on one of the city's most heavily traveled thoroughfares, and which believed it had a captive audience and a greater need for visibility.

One of the goals for this project was to build identity for each entity. This was achieved by locating the main entrances at the opposite corners of the block, and using curves to help turn the building mass to create two front doors.

The design unifies the site as the school and recreation center appear as one mass. The architectural language begins to represent how the inside functions are being utilized to allow each entity to have its own distinct identity.

At the same time, the complex strengthens the neighborhood as a whole. The recreation center houses a family pool, running track, basketball courts, exercise equipment and community rooms. The Boys Academy is a Pre K-8 and includes a gym, cafeteria, media center, music room and Extended Learning Areas.

The new facility builds an urban scale compatible to the existing fabric by building up instead of out. This concept allows the facility to preserve environmental resources and precious green space.

The school is connected to the recreation center through one of the sweeping curves and encourages a partnership to share resources. The interiors of both facilities are influenced by the curves of the massing.

The campus is on a major public transportation route and the bus stop plays off of the building mass. Parking is available on the side of the each entrance for convenient access to either the school or recreation center, strengthening the urban character of the complex to the street.