



Palumbo School Building Needs and Conditions Assessment Study

Philadelphia, PA

CLIENT:

School District of Philadelphia

Through a grant from the William Penn Foundation, KSK conducted a full architectural and engineering Building Needs and Conditions Assessment of the Palumbo School, the former location of Philadelphia's High School for the Creative and Performing Arts. The purpose of the study was to determine the financial feasibility of renovating the building to respond to new programmatic requirements and to meet code and legislative mandates.

KSK conducted a space plan study that redefined existing spaces to better accommodate the school's academic program; prepared a preliminary cost estimate with regard to improvements; analyzed building-code physical and cost implications; and evaluated engineering improvements for science laboratories.

Originally constructed as Bartlett Junior High School in 1931, the building is a unique example of Spanish Revival Art Moderne architecture. It is the only such building developed by the School District of Philadelphia during a period when typical school designs were being replicated throughout the city. The school is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Palumbo School has a full, deep basement, five floors and two penthouses at the sixth level. Typical of urban schools of the period, the flat roof areas double as play spaces, and are enclosed with chain-link fencing. The building program includes two gymnasiums of moderate size, a kitchen and cafeteria, and an assembly hall (auditorium) with seating for 640 people.

