Innovative Ideas for Repurposing
Kansas City Design Alliance
Schools are a uniting factor within a community.
When a school shutters, it leaves a hole in the neighborhood.
What fills the hole—literally and figuratively?
Here, we present positive options for new uses.
rebirth
Promising potential

Repurposing schools, by using or converting these buildings for another use, can have a **positive ripple effect** on our city and communities.
One building, many possibilities

What are the unique assets of the property?
What provides value to the community?
What else can a school building be?
Artists Collective Studios and Gallery

Living

Studios

Galleries
Residence and Community Outreach Center

Diagram of a building with sections labeled as Living, Community, and Garden.
Advantages to Repurposing a School

- Solid construction
- Expansive corridors
- High ceilings
- Large windows
- Features like gymnasiums and theaters
- Land assets
Take a Look!

Shuttered schools
Uniquely repurposed buildings
Great outcomes
Senior Housing
DA Holmes Apartments
Kansas City, MO

1904 School >> 46 new apartments
Outcomes

Senior housing and service jobs

Auditorium and stage for residents

Outdoor communal spaces

New building added to site
Schultz Senior Apartments
Cape Girardeau, MO

White elephant >> 45 senior apartments
Outcomes

Vibrant community

Seniors linked to neighborhood through auditorium and garden

Fitness and crafting rooms provide recreation

Murals celebrate community history
Living Spaces
Field School Lofts
St. Louis, MO

1901 school >> 33 residential apartments
Outcomes

Revitalized Street

Stabilized St Louis’ Central West End

Community center

Safer streets

Historic tax credits
Multipurpose
Webster House
Kansas City, MO

Oldest KC school >> Retail and restaurant
Outcomes

Spurred new development

Destination venue

Great commercial success

Private developer

Federal and state historic tax credits
Dewitt Mall
Ithaca, NY

Downtown school >> Multipurpose building
Outcomes

40 years of success

Vibrant downtown

47 apartments, 15 offices, 17 shops

Penthouse suite

Private developer was local architect
Youngstown Cultural Arts Center
Seattle, WA

Eyesore >> Arts venues and living spaces
Outcomes

2,000 participants yearly

Free arts program for disadvantaged teens

Multicultural population

Community built through center activities

Historic tax credits
Economic Engine
Bates Art Center/Art Block
Boston, MA

Repurposed art center >> 3-building arts complex
Outcomes

Economic engine for Boston’s South End

Catalyst for development

Bates Art Center managed by Boston Redevelopment Authority

25-year track record
Neighborhood Assessment
What are the needs of the community?
Community garden?
Arts and performance spaces?
Athletic fields?
Grocery store and shops?
Business incubator?
Senior housing?
Counseling and youth recreation center?
Get Involved!
Be active in your neighborhood association.
Form coalitions with other neighborhood groups.
Promote your desired outcomes for repurposing.
Review the proposals for schools in which you are interested.
Communicate with your elected representatives and appointed officials.
Participate in public meetings and city approval processes.
repurpose
reconnect
reimagine
rethink
renew
rebirth
About this project

*Innovative Ideas for Repurposing* is brought to you by the Kansas City Design Alliance, whose programs and advocacy focus on the positive power of design innovation.
Kansas City Design Alliance

American Institute of Architects Kansas City
AIGA Kansas City
American Planning Association
American Society of Interior Designers
American Society of Landscape Architects
Prairie Gateway Chapter
Design Build Institute of America
Industrial Designers Society of America
KC Modern
Kansas City Design Center
Kansas City Art Institute
Municipal Art Commission
University of Missouri-Kansas City
School of Architecture, Urban Planning, and Design
Urban Land Institute
Featured Projects

(in presentation order)

DA Holmes Apartments
Kansas City, MO
http://www.swdarchitects.com/portfolio_daholmes.html

Schultz Senior Apartments
Cape Girardeau, MO
http://www.swdarchitects.com/portfolio_schultz.html

Fields School Lofts
St. Louis, MO
www.builtstlouis.net/schools/itsiner19.html

Webster House
Kansas City, MO
http://www.websterhousekc.com/
http://www.helixkc.com/
Dewitt Mall
Ithaca, NY
www.visitithaca.com/attractions/DeWitt-Mall-262

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center
Seattle, WA
www.youngstownarts.org

Bates Art Center/Art Block
www.batesartcenter.com/
www.newatlantic.net/artblock
http://www.swdarchitects.com/portfolio_schultz.html
Thanks for contributing
(in presentation order)
William Wright Photography
Seattle, WA
site.williamwrightphoto.com
Youngstown Cultural Arts Center

Lucy Chen
Lucy Chen Photography
Boston, MA
www.lucychen.com
Bates Art Center/Art Block

ICON architecture, inc.
Boston, MA
www.iconarch.com
Bates Art Center/Art Block

SWD Architects Inc
Kansas City, MO
www.swdarchitects.com
DA Holmes Apartments
Schultz Senior Apartments
Rosemann & Associates
Kansas City, MO
www.rosemann.com
Fields School

Helix
Kansas City, MO
http://www.helixkc.com/
Webster House

Maggie Stanley, Inklings & Imprints
Ithaca, NY
www.flickr.com/photos/incandescence
Dewitt Mall

In Shik Lee
Ithaca, NY
Dewitt Mall

William Downing Associates
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