

Client: Neighborhood House Charter School, Dorchester

Designer: Rita Christensen
 Monica Fairbairn
 Nancy E. Phillips
 Anne Smith

Design Completed: August 2007



The Neighborhood House Charter School enrolls 380 students, from kindergarten through 8th grade, from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds. The school has a panoramic view of Boston Harbor through the mature tree canopy surrounding the school. The inner courtyard, about 2400 square feet and surrounded by 5-story-high brick walls, was unused but had the possibility to become a multi-purpose green space.



The COG design team met with the staff and students of this dynamic and innovative school to transform the courtyard into an inviting, flexible space for special projects and events. Since it can be viewed from classrooms and hallways throughout the building, the courtyard has the potential to be developed as an important feature and to function as a school common.

The courtyard design concept is intended to create a special place for art projects and gatherings to enrich the entire school community.

