



LIVE WIRED

a community arts center for dudley square

2008 rotch traveling fellowship: final competition program

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PROJECT

The final competition project for the 2008 Rotch Traveling Fellowship will explore opportunities for reinforcing the ongoing revitalization of an historic Boston neighborhood, Dudley Square. The project's site, bordered by Harrison Avenue, Warren Street, and Dudley Street, adjacent to the Palladio building, is part of the commercial core of Dudley Square. Dudley Station was once a vibrant commercial center connected with Downtown Boston by elevated transit, replaced in 1987 by a system of bus routes. Over the years Dudley Square has evolved to become the centerpiece of the Roxbury neighborhood. The area has established its own distinct character and identity, building on a rich history and legacy of landmark buildings. Nonetheless, Dudley Square has struggled to recapture its economic vitality. The City of Boston, with the planned construction of a new police station, will make available an important parcel for mixed-use development on Dudley Street. Occupied by the current police station, this site is now the subject of an AIA-sponsored design charrette. In concert with the City's efforts, the Rotch exercise seeks to explore the possibilities for creating a vibrant and exciting new identity for Dudley Square, capturing the spirit of today's community by adding to its contemporary legacy of buildings.

PROGRAM

The City of Boston has a long-standing tradition of supporting its neighborhoods, and particularly the City's younger residents, by operating community recreational centers. The Boston Public Library and the City Schools also offer a number of programs and services to the public for learning support and educational and cultural enrichment. LIVE WIRED at Dudley Station envisions a new model for the community center, providing not only a place for recreation but a place for discovery and exploration through immersion in the arts, including emerging forms of media clearly popular with youth. LIVE WIRED would compliment the success of Roxbury Center for the Arts at Hibernian Hall, supporting its mission to encourage economic development in the Roxbury community through the arts.

LIVE WIRED would provide a number of smaller workshops, labs and studios, informal in nature, that would encourage exploration in the arts, through music, dance, drama, video and the visual arts. By providing access to and support for the latest in digital, video and recording technologies, LIVE WIRED will become an engaging new center for learning and education support.



Intersection of Warren and Dudley Streets, 1895



Dudley Station, northbound platform, historic photo

The goal of LIVE WIRED is to support the youth of the Roxbury community, and to create a social center enriched by multi-generational interaction, providing valuable role models for teens, adolescents and kids at risk. LIVE WIRED might provide programs and classes for young professionals as well as seniors, serving as a center for adult education and lifelong learning.

It is imagined that the center would have sponsorship from and linkage with a number of community and educational institutions, including the Boston Public Schools, the BPL, the Roxbury Center for the Arts, Roxbury Community College, Northeastern University and Artists for Humanity.

In order to ensure both the economic sustainability of its operation and to increase its appeal for the youth community, LIVE WIRED will be integrated with commercial retail space. The center will reinforce existing retail business and attract new enterprise. The income from the center's tenant will support its programs and operations.

At the heart of the center are two flexible exhibit/performance spaces, called the White Box and the Black Box, both wired and equipped to support presentations in all media to be aired to small audiences of up to 50 people in an informal setting. They are conceived of as 'studio theaters' and might host installation art, 2-D or 3-D art exhibits, video and film presentations, drama and dance, musical performances, or any combination of the above. The technology provided will encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration in the arts. The Black Box is especially intended to support theatrical effects through lighting, sets, projection and film, while the White Box provides gallery quality natural lighting intended to enhance visual art presentations as well as theater and dance.

LIVE WIRED is intended to serve both as a social center and a learning resource center supporting exploration in the arts. The center will have an Internet Café/Reading Room with a small collection of magazines, periodicals and popular reading material, as well as an A/V collection focused on the arts.

Included in the program is a Digital Media Lab with software and equipment for creating graphic art and publications, a 'Sandbox' equipped with the latest technology and software for digital experimentation, and a Recording Studio with sound linked to both the Black Box and White Box and the ability to record performances. A MIDI Lab will be provided for instruction in electronic music.



Palladio Building, historic photo

LIVE WIRED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Black Box 1,200 SF

Equipped with flexible seating, a removable stage platform, theatrical lighting, sound system and video/film projection. Minimum ceiling height of 14'-0."

White Box 1,200 SF

Equipped with flexible seating, moveable walls, adjustable natural lighting system with ability to go dark, and additional gallery lighting. Minimum ceiling height of 14'-0."

Storage for Black and White Boxes 800 SF

Must accommodate chairs, tables, and equipment, as well as a workshop area for sets and installations. Located adjacent to loading area and 'Boxes.'

Internet Café/Reading Room 1,800 SF

Serving area for coffee, sodas, and light snacks provided by local vendors. Incorporates coffee bar seating, lounge seating and reading table seating. Storage/display space for reading materials, including 100 magazine and newspaper titles, 8,000 items of popular fiction and A/V materials.

Digital Media Lab 800 SF

Offer digital workstations at large tables for 15, perimeter counters for production, lockable storage, and a small support office.

Sandbox 400 SF

Located adjacent to Digital Media Lab. Offer digital workstations for 15, with ability to serve as a classroom. One wall devoted to multiple large flat screen monitors for instruction.

Recording Studio 400 SF

Control room and equipment for sound/video recording, located adjacent to the Boxes. Includes space for lockable storage.

MIDI Lab 400 SF

Small classroom/studio for experimentation with electronic music. Includes 10 digital workstations and instructor area.

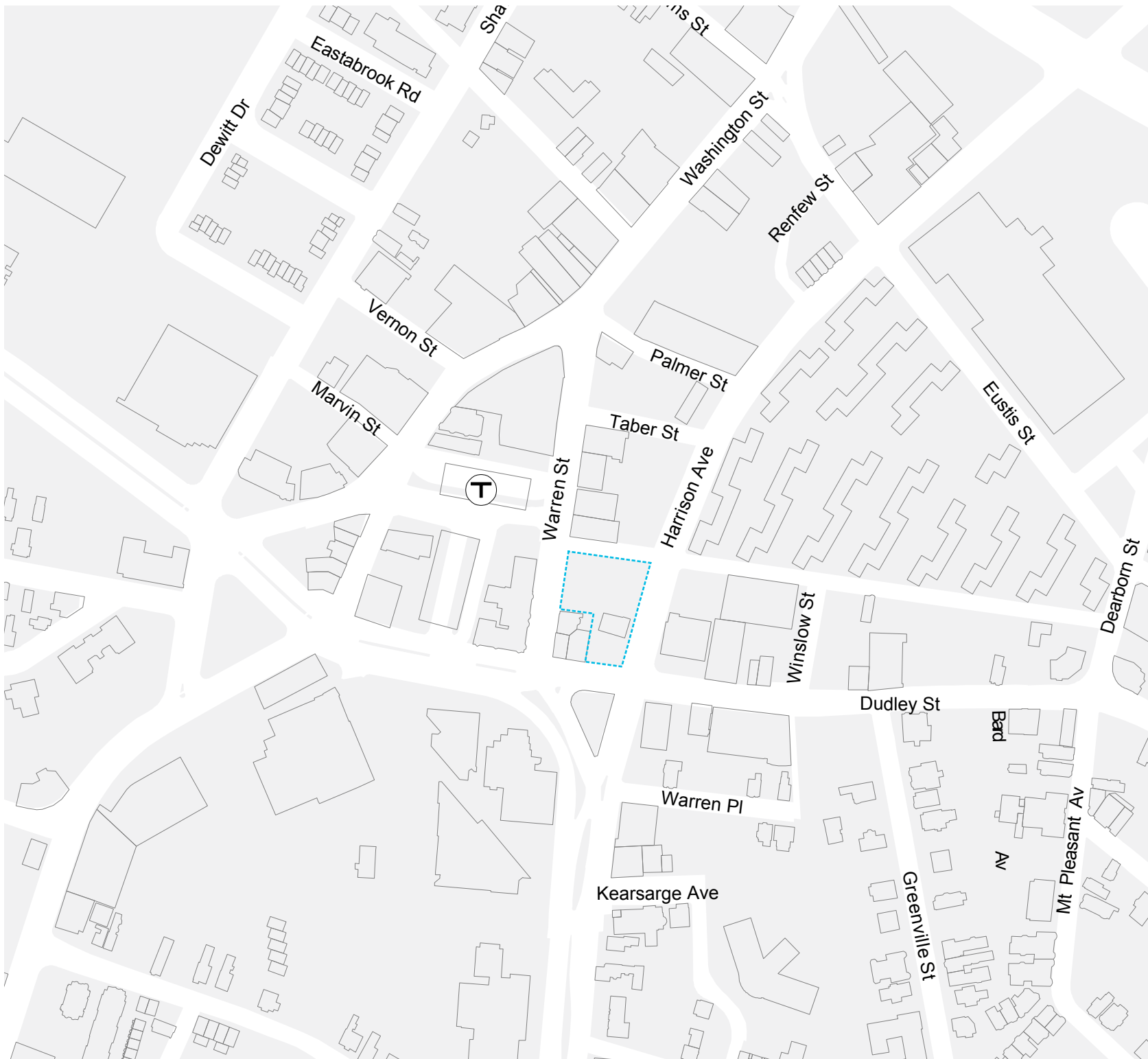
Directors Office and Reception 300 SF

Office and reception area located near entry, classroom spaces, and Internet Café.



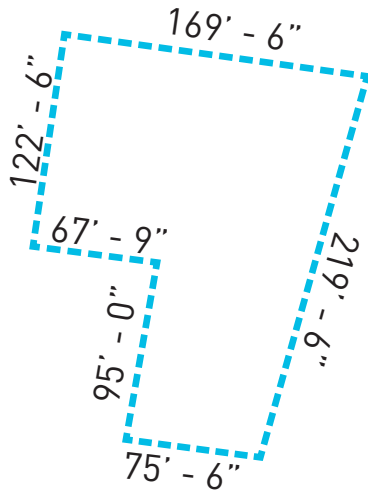
Dartmouth Hotel, historic photo

Homework Help/Counseling Center	300 SF
Accommodates large tables with computers and carrels for study to accommodate 8.	
Volunteer Tutorial Rooms (4)	150 SF ea.
Located adjacent to Help Center.	
Artist-in-Residence Studios (2)	1,000 SF/800 SF
Flexible and completely wired for all media. Located to be visible to all users of center.	
Interior Basketball Half Court	3,000 SF
50' x 42' with 6' zone at perimeter. Minimum clear ceiling height of 14'-0."	
Flexible space with storage and wood floor, can be used for dance performance and rehearsal. At least one glass wall for visibility.	
Rest Rooms/Locker Rooms	300 SF ea.
Men's and Women's, to serve as greenrooms for performances as well as support for recreational spaces.	
Subtotal	13,600 SF
Net to Gross SF multiplier	x1.4
inc. stairs/elevators/mechanical etc.	
Total for Center	19,400 SF
Commercial/Retail Space	10,000 SF
Located at ground floor with street front visibility. Intended for a restaurant of 100-125 seats that features live entertainment in a cabaret style format, similar to the 'Beehive' model.	
Parking/Loading	10-15 cars
loading dock/dumpster/service area	
Outdoor Space	TBD
May include entry court/light well/work yard or other outdoor program as desired. Offers space for annual summer arts sale, impromptu performance, reception etc.	
PROJECT TOTAL	30,000 SF +/-



LIVE WIRED
site map





Approximate site dimensions, footprint shown at 1" = 100'

LIVE WIRED DESIGN GOALS

To create a sense of identity and coherence for Dudley Square as an urban place.

To entice and encourage all members of the Roxbury community to casually and frequently drop-in to find out what's going on.

To create a new contemporary landmark that captures the energy, excitement and creative activity of the center and its focus on new forms of media.

To offer an Imaginative interpretation, organization and presentation of the program elements

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The presentation is limited to four 30" x 40" boards displayed side-by-side vertically. No models or projections from the boards are permitted. Model photographs or drawings may however be mounted on boards. There exists no bias or preference for media or technique of presentation. You may employ any combination of techniques to create a compelling proposal. Your drawings should be clearly labeled and a descriptive text provided outlining the conceptual framework, goals and a basic description of the proposed design not to exceed 150 words. The following drawings are the minimum documentation required:

- 1" = 40' site plan showing project within Dudley Square
- 1/16" scale plans of all levels
- 1/16" scale elevations on primary streets
- 1/8" scale section representing sectional organization
- (2) three-dimensional perspective views of center in context
- (2) three-dimensional perspective views of interior spaces
- (1) 3-dimensional model or axonometric view describing overall composition

Your submission must be delivered to the BSA, Attention: Sarah Nastasia, 52 Broad Street, Boston, MA 02109 no later than **10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008**. Out of state submissions must be postmarked no later than 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 17, 2008, and the boards must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.



Dudley Square

Planned and
Recently Completed
Projects

Key

- Recently Completed Projects
- Future Development Sites

Draft for design exercise only.

0 500
Feet

Map prepared by Boston Redevelopment Authority,
Office of Digital Cartography & GIS, 2008.
Source: BRA Article 80 Database.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Boston Redevelopment Authority - City Maps

[<http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra/maps/maps.asp>]

Boston Redevelopment Authority - Roxbury Links

[<http://www.cityofboston.gov/Bra/neighborhoods/Neighborhoods.asp?action=ViewHood&HoodID=16>]

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan

[<http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra/Planning/PlanningInitsIndividual.asp?action=ViewInit&nitID=5>]

ACT Roxbury

[<http://act.xbuild.com/>]

Roxbury Center for Arts

[<http://www.rcaah.org/>]

Dudley Square Community Charrette and Design Competition

[<http://www.architects.org/2008/charrette.html>]

NOTES

The jury has no preference for electronic renderings or hand drawings.

Finalists should be prepared to provide high resolution pdf files of submitted drawings.

The Rotch Committee reserves the right to use the drawings for publication.

Problem solutions submitted in the final competition become the property of the Rotch Traveling Scholarship and can only be used with its express written consent.

Please follow these procedures carefully:

1. Sign the Statement of Sole Authorship and print or type your name below your signature.
2. Put the Statement in an envelope and tape it securely to the back of one board. Print your name on the back of each board in the top right corner.
3. The submittal shall be no more than four 30" x 40" boards vertically oriented.

The submittals will be judged on March 27, 2008 at The Architects Building, 52 Broad Street, Boston MA 02109. On that day you will come to the fourth floor of the building fifteen minutes prior to your presentation.

STATEMENT OF SOLE AUTHORSHIP

I hereby assure the Rotch Committee that I am the sole author of my submission for the 2008 Rotch Competition. I have not received criticism, suggestions or help of any sort other than through the use of books and other published literature.

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Symbol _____

NOTE TO ALL COMPETITORS

The above statement of sole authorship shall be placed in the sealed envelope pasted on the back of the board. Your symbol must appear on the envelope as well as on the face of your submission boards.