
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District:	Duke Ellington School for the Arts (former Western High School)	
Address:	3500 R Street, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
Meeting Date:	February 25, 2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Calendar
H.P.A. Number:	14-133	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alteration
Staff Reviewer:	Andrew Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> Addition
		<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition

On January 22, 2015, the Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed and approved a conceptual application for a number of refinements to the Duke Ellington School for the Arts modernization plans. All remaining design review was delegated to HPO, but the Board specifically requested a future opportunity for consent calendar review of materials and finishes. Those items have since been selected and are now being forwarded to the Board for review.

Duke Ellington School for the Arts

Duke Ellington School for the Arts, originally known as Western High School, was designed by Harry B. Davis and constructed in 1897-1899. Snowden Ashford and Albert Harris subsequently modified and expanded the school in 1910 and 1925, respectively. The school was designated a D.C. landmark in 2002 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places the following year.

Proposal and Evaluation

As can be seen from the elevations in the project submittal, the most recently proposed materials and finishes have changed little since the January, 2015 hearing. The most notable exception is the complete elimination of the orange-colored composite aluminum panels originally proposed for the rooftop terrace. Otherwise, the most commonly proposed material remains painted brick of which most of the building is composed. The remaining exterior elevations will consist of silver-colored metal screen walls and composite metal panels in silver and dark grey tones. Aluminum curtain walls will feature either clear insulated glazing or a silicone glazing with a 40-percent dot frit. The replacement windows will be the aluminum Graham units that have been approved for many historic school projects.

The columns and balustrades on the primary elevation's reconstructed porches will consist of a Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) while the balustrade at the roof level is to be made of Closed Cell Polyurethane Foam (CCPF), also known as "Fypon." Since the rooftop balustrade will only be viewable from the ground, Fypon will be appropriate for this location.

Recommendation

HPO recommends that the Board find the proposed materials and finishes compatible with the historic building.