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SUSTAINABLE GUIDELINES: AIA/COTE Measures of Sustainability

The national American Institute of Architects (AIA) established the Committee on the Environment (COTE) in 1994 with a focus on establishing a definition for sustainable architecture. Many of the founders of this committee were involved in the writing of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System. The AIA / COTE Ten Measures of Sustainability are as follows:

Number 1 - Design and Innovation - Sustainable design is an inherent aspect of design excellence. Projects should express sustainable design concepts and intentions, and take advantage of innovative programming opportunities.

Number 2 - Regional Community Design - Sustainability is integrally tied to social, political, cultural and economic issues within a community.

Number 3 - Land Use and Site Ecology - Sustainable design protects and benefits eco-systems, watersheds and wildlife habitat in the presence of human development.

Number 4 - Bioclimatic Design - Sustainable design conserves resources and maximizes comfort through design adaptations to site specific and regional climate conditions.

Number 5 - Light and Air - Sustainable design creates comfortable interior environments that provide daylight, views and fresh air.

Number 6 - Water Cycle - Sustainable design conserves water and protects and improves water quality.

Number 7 - Energy Flows and Energy Futures - Sustainable design conserves energy and resources and reduces the carbon footprint while improving building performance and comfort. Sustainable design anticipates future energy sources and needs.

Number 8 - Materials and Construction - Sustainable design includes the informed selection of materials and products to reduce product-cycle environmental impacts, improve performance, and optimize occupant health and comfort.

Number 9 - Long Life, Loose Fit - Sustainable design seeks to enhance and increase ecological, social, and economic values over time.

Number 10 - Collective Wisdom and Feedback Loops - Sustainable design strategies and best practices evolve over time through documented performance and shared knowledge of lessons learned.

The Lakewood Elementary Expansion intends to address the place of the school in our modern culture and how to create learning environments that respond to a new generation's needs. The East Dallas / Lakewood community has long distinguished itself as one that supports a local culture that is inspired to pursue an active, healthy and sustainable lifestyle. The existing Lakewood Outdoor Learning Area (LOLA) is an excellent example of the community's interest in sustainable education for the school. The new design is centered around an increased focus on LOLA and will be designed to respond to the North Texas region and the special climate conditions in Lakewood. Central aspects of the design will be daylight, views and fresh air, as they have been linked to student performance. The rainwater garden in the courtyard can be used to teach the relationship between built and natural environments. The design of the building will take into account best practices for energy conservation and will pursue the goals of the 2030 Challenge. The project will benefit from North Texas' lead in monitoring the health benefits of building materials through the support of Healthy Product Declarations (HPD) and Environmentally Preferable Declarations (EPD). The project will be designed to accommodate the changes in the educational environment, particularly as it relates to the use of the building in a classroom setting. There are many resources available for best practices for sustainable design strategies that will be considered, including LEED for Schools, CHPS Texas, and Architecture 2030. Adherence to these ten sustainable measures as guiding principles for the design of the project will insure that the final building will exhibit a balanced approach to sustainable design.