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Community Arts Collaborative

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As a public gathering space, the building and its functions strive to instill pride and create a stronger sense of community.
The Community Arts Collaborative facilitates positive change in the Old North St. Louis Community. As a public gathering space, the building and its functions strive to instill pride and create a stronger sense of community. This project is environmentally conscious by re-urbanizing the neighborhood while restoring its historic residential textures.

The site strategy involves: building along the street edge to restore density, controlled access from all sides, a visual transparency that opens the interior to the community, and maintaining a rhythm and scale appropriate for the neighborhood.

The Community Arts Collaborative is divided into three primary wings. The exhibition space and the Urban Studio Café are located to the north, on the most active street front. To maintain the neighborhood’s historical character, the façade of the existing building has been incorporated. The studios along the east edge and their adjacent support spaces create a rhythm of heavy and light, incorporating itself into the neighborhood fabric. The southern wing contains retail space as well as live/work units for the artists/instructors. A courtyard provides a transition space between the three wings.