

Sunbeam School Takes Shape

November 9, 2016

by Tom Ott

This year was a busy year for school and community members involved in the planning and design of the new Sunbeam School. Construction managers also were busy getting the site ready for construction.

Over the summer and into the fall, the Jesse Owens building was demolished to make way for the new school. The new school will be built on the former sites of the Jesse Owens and Alexander Graham Bell Schools.

At a cost of \$24 million, the one-story school will consist of 92,000 square feet of modern educational and community space, serving as a dynamic upgrade to the current Sunbeam School, currently in operation to the north of the new site. The building will consist of new fully inclusive classrooms, dining area, gymnasium with bleachers for 250 spectators, dining area offering dramatic views to the West, and specialty classrooms including art, music, kinesthetic studio and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Lab. The building also will include a new therapy pool, a critical component for the special needs children housed in the facility.

Following planning and zoning approvals received earlier this year, construction drawings were submitted to the City and are undergoing permit review. Once permits are granted site work will begin, and building construction will commence at the corner of Larchmere Boulevard and Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Drive.

This new school will serve as a new gateway to the vibrant Larchmere District. Upon completion in mid-2018, the existing Sunbeam school will be removed and replaced with new fully accessible play areas and a multipurpose field at the north, creating a unified community recreational amenity with Artha Woods Park on the west side of MLK Jr. Drive.

The new school was made possible by passage of Issue 4 in November 2014. To be notified of future events and meetings associated with the new Sunbeam School email your contact information to koravec@cobaltgroupinc.com or call 216.849.6333.