



## GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER AUSTIN, TEXAS

**50%** construction waste diverted.

Expansion of an existing **historic** building.

## Daylighting and low-VOC

emitting materials were used to achieve indoor environmental quality credits

### LEED® Facts

Carver Museum  
Austin, TX

LEED for New Construction  
Certification awarded June 15, 2006

<b>Certified</b>	<b>31*</b>
Sustainable Sites	9/14
Water Efficiency	2/5
Energy & Atmosphere	2/17
Materials & Resources	5/13
Indoor Environmental Quality	9/15
Innovation & Design	4/5

\*Out of a possible 69 points

The information provided is based on that stated in the LEED® project certification submittals. USGBC and Chapters do not warrant or represent the accuracy of this information. Each building's actual performance is based on its unique design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Energy efficiency and sustainable results will vary.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

# MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER SHOWCASES HISTORY AND PROGRESSIVENESS

A greener gathering place for community interaction and learning

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The museum, adjacent to the George Washington Carver Library, features special exhibits and programs on a rotating basis, as well as permanent exhibits celebrating African American history, while providing programs for local youth, schools and groups. In 1979, a bigger library was built, so the little library building switched to become the George Washington Carver Museum. As part of the 1998 Bond election, the citizens of Austin voted to construct a greatly expanded facility. The Carver Museum and Library were developed alongside one another on a site that shares parking and plaza spaces. Today the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center is a state-of-the-art, 36,000 square foot multi-purpose facility.

### STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

There were two challenges to achieve LEED certification for this project:

1. When the project was funded through a Bond Election, LEED certification was not a part of the scope.
2. Reading rooms require special humidity controls and it was difficult to achieve this without a higher energy usage, especially in a humid climate such as Austin.

Despite the challenges, a decision was made by the project team to pursue LEED certification. Use of energy modeling was quite rare 8 years ago when the project was designed. Due to the expense of modeling, Energy and Atmosphere credits could not be acquired, though the building was designed to achieve those credits. The project achieved credits in all other LEED categories by use of recycled content and local materials, construction waste management, low emitting materials, thermal comfort, daylight and views and innovation credits.

### ABOUT CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

Owned and operated by the City of Austin, the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center celebrates the historical and cultural contributions of African Americans to Austin, Central Texas and beyond.

The Carver Museum was one of the first City of Austin projects to work towards sustainable design and construction using the LEED framework and was one of the first 200 LEED Registered projects. It was awarded a LEED-NC v2 Certified rating in June 2006, the third facility to earn LEED Certification for the City of Austin.

It has the distinction of being the first African-American neighborhood museum in Texas and was housed in a historic 1,896 square foot building that was originally Austin's first main public library downtown, later relocated to its current site. Since 1980, it has collected and preserved artifacts that document the history of African Americans on city, county, state, and national levels and promoted a climate in which African American artists are recognized and appreciated for their culturally diverse heritage. The permanent collection is comprised of photographs and artifacts illustrating both local and national African-American heritage, and rotating exhibits appear bi-monthly.

The new Carver Museum was planned to augment the existing museum's space and services through construction of a 30,678 square foot facility adjacent to the historic building and the Carver Library. The new museum has a multitude of functions including the 134 seat Boyd Vance Theatre with dressing rooms and associated support areas, a dance studio/theatre rehearsal room, 4 exhibit galleries and a children's gallery with exhibit preparation and archive storage space, a classroom with adjacent storage and darkroom functions, conference/meeting room, as well as a lobby, catering kitchen, store, and administrative office space associated with the public spaces.



**Owner:** City of Austin  
**Architect:** Carter Design Associates  
**Civil Engineer:** Raymond Chan & Associates  
**Commissioning Agent:** KWR Engineering  
**Contractor:** Cadence McShane Construction  
**Electrical Engineer:** Tom Green & Co. Engineers  
**Interior Designer:** Laurie Smith Design Associates  
**Landscape Architect:** Eleanor McKinney, Landscape Architect, Inc.  
**LEED Consultant:** Earthly Ideas LLC  
**Lighting Designer:** Archilume Design  
**Mechanical Engineer:** Tom Green & Co. Engineers  
**MEP Engineer:** Tom Green & Co. Engineers  
**Structural Engineer:** Jaster Quintanilla  
**Project Size:** 36,000 sq ft

Photography Courtesy of: Atelier Wong



### ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website to learn more.



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512-470-9923