



This project restored and converted a former Lee, Higginson and Company Bank headquarters in the heart of New York's financial district into a 120,000 square foot private school for 1,000 students in grades Kindergarten through Eight.

Originally designed by the firm Cross & Cross prior to the stock market crash of 1929, the first goal of this \$32 million project was to restore the original Neoclassical details after its falling into disrepair during the 1930s.

The building's main hall features a mosaic installation by the World War II Navy combat artist Griffith Baily Cole.

The grand banking hall was restored and outfitted into a striking auditorium. It boasts 5,700 square feet of open space, 29-foot high ceilings, marble columns and polished brass details. Its mosaic entitled "A Pageantry of the History of Commerce by Sea" spans all four walls with depictions of three-dozen ships.

Throughout the ground level, the existing mahogany paneling at the reception and conference areas was restored as well. Interior offices were reconfigured to provide new classrooms, laboratories, and offices.

#### FACT SHEET

**Client**  
MetSchools, Inc

**Status**  
Completed 2005

**Square Feet**  
120,000

**Construction Cost**  
\$32,000,000

#### COLLABORATORS

**Structural**  
Dominick R Pilla Associates, PC

**MEP**  
Thomas Veltre, PE

**Construction**  
Walwilhal Associates  
Cowbay Contracting

schools

adaptive reuse + historic preservation

CLAREMONT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY





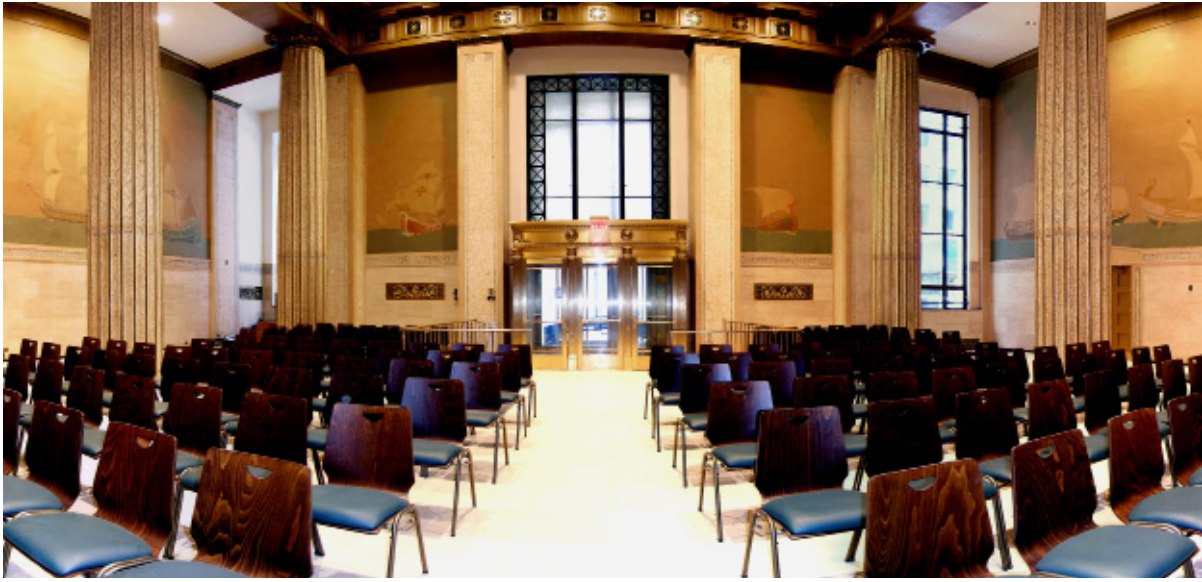
The new cafeteria features a kitchen and serving area located within the former bank vaults while preserving the beautiful thick iron vault doors.

The school opened in September 2005 as the only non-sectarian private school below Canal St. and the first independent ongoing school to open in Manhattan in the last 50 years.

Other highlights include a new Olympic length swimming pool and regulation-size rooftop gymnasium and outdoor playground.







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This elegant bank converted school is a testament to how OCV works hard to maintain the uniqueness of century old construction while incorporating the needs of today's modern society.

In October of 2006, the New York State Historic Preservation Office honored OCV for this project with the Private Sector Achievement Award. The award is given for 'excellence in the preservation and revitalization of the State's historic and cultural treasures.'

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