



Press Release

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Planet Word Awarded LEED Silver Certification

The Word and Language Museum Announcement Coincides with International Museum Day

(Washington, D.C.) LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. To achieve LEED certification, a project earns points by adhering to prerequisites and credits that address carbon, energy, water, waste, transportation, materials, health and indoor environmental quality. Projects go through a verification and review process by GBCI (Green Business Certification Inc.) and are awarded points that correspond to a level of LEED certification. The museum received its Silver LEED certification May 11.

Founder Ann Friedman's choice to site the museum in Downtown D.C. contributed to this achievement; the project was able to embrace a parking-free and transit-rich context, which was valuable within the point system. Other notable accomplishments that contributed were the project team's approach to indoor environmental air quality. The design's use of an air "scrubber" offered an enhanced approach to air filtration that incorporates UV light. It also minimized disruption to the building's historic exterior and maximized rooftop space for programming.

"The revitalization of the Franklin School as a home for Planet Word is a remarkable example of the intrinsic compatibility between sustainable design and historic architecture," said Gretchen Pfaehler, AIA and Partner and Senior Preservation Architect at Beyer Blinder Belle which partnered with Planet Word on the project. "In both arenas, the priority is amortizing existing resources to protect and delight future generations."

Additionally, the project team conducted energy modeling to optimize energy performance. Special software called TRACE 700 helped the team to accurately model how energy would be used by the building once the museum was up and running. Modeling helped inform several aspects of the design, including underscoring the importance of the new interior storm windows. Each window assembly achieved a lower level of thermal transmittance and a lower solar heat gain. This creates a more comfortable indoor air temperature and reduced air conditioning requirements.

For more info about Planet Word visit: planetwordmuseum.org.

For more information about LEED visit: <https://www.usgbc.org/leed>

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