



Building a happier, healthier Atlanta.

The Sheltering Arms Center at Barack and Michelle Obama Academy is a physical manifestation of our commitment to providing children with the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive support they need from the earliest possible moment.

Built to live seamlessly within the organization’s family of 15 other locations as well as visually alongside the Barack and Michelle Obama Academy (formerly D.H. Stanton Elementary School), the 26,600 square-foot, two-story building provides early education and care for 180 children, ages six weeks to five years of age.

Much more than just an early learning center, this facility plays an important role in providing holistic support services for families and the community of Peoplestown. A partner with Atlanta Public Schools, the center promotes a direct pipeline for education and positively impacts Peoplestown’s urban renewal and economic development.

Sheltering Arms broke ground in 2016 and successfully completed the capital campaign for the building

in early 2017. Through the New Markets Tax Credit program, significant financial support came from a partnership formed by Invest Atlanta, the economic development authority for the City of Atlanta, Bank of America, and Reinvestment Fund, a community development financial institution, which enabled the agency to secure financing to bridge capital campaign pledges and proceed with the construction of the building. Other generous support came from The Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, The James M. Cox Foundation, The Marcus Foundation, and The Tull Charitable Foundation, along with more than 150 community and corporate supporters. The new center opened in August 2017.

Facility Tour

SPACE TO GROW

- A mix of infant/toddler (0-3 years) and preschool (3-5 years) classrooms are organized in “neighborhoods,” with connecting offices for family support coaches and curriculum specialists.





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(cont.) SPACE TO GROW

- Meeting rooms and hospitality areas offer comfort and facilitate education opportunities for parents, supporting Sheltering Arms' commitment to whole-family services.
- A large multi-purpose room accommodates up to 65 people, housing large-scale learning opportunities and connecting with community for outreach programs.
- Outside, the building connects visually to Barack and Michelle Obama Academy and physically to the surrounding neighborhood.

UNIQUE WAYS TO PLAY AND LEARN

- The West playground inspires children with a tour of Georgia's northernmost geographic regions, from rolling hills to the Blue Ridge Mountains' dramatic topography. Swings, dramatic play decks, chalk art panels, musical drums, a tricycle path, and natural elements promote open play.

(cont.) UNIQUE WAYS TO PLAY AND LEARN

- The South playground pays homage to Georgia's central Piedmont region with a "forest" on its western edge and sloping topography near the slide. Decks for dramatic play, swings, natural play areas, and a vegetable garden further support a focus on natural play.
- The East playground echoes Georgia's coastal plains with flat, open vistas, a large, interactive water feature, and low grasses and other indigenous plants. Other elements include decks for dramatic play, tricycle paths, natural play elements including a climbing boulder, swings, chalk art easels, music equipment, and open play areas.