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HERITAGE  
OHIO

SUCCESS STORIES

## HISTORIC SCHOOLS

STIVERS SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
(FORMERLY STIVERS HIGH SCHOOL)

DAYTON, OHIO



Stivers High School was built on East 5th Street beginning in 1908, and opened its doors to students in 1912. It was named after Civil War veteran and Dayton school principal Captain Charles Bryant Stivers. Stivers has been in nearly continuous use since it initially opened, operating as a high school through the 1980s. In the 1970s, Stivers and Dayton's Patterson Cooperative High School were merged and provided vocational and prevocational education to ninth-graders. The school became an intermediate magnet school in 1982, when it served seventh, eighth, and ninth-grade students. In 1990, Stivers officially became a visual and performing arts magnet school, originally serving seventh and eighth-graders only. By 1996, the program had expanded to include grades 9 through 12. The school, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2001, needed major repairs, and school and community leaders began planning for the building's renovation. Passage of a bond issue in 2002 generated matching funds that made the rebuilding of Stivers possible.

The renovations completed in 2008 cost a total of \$35 million. The project included the renovation of 51 existing classrooms. A new two-story addition was added, more than doubling the space of the school. Included in the addition are a new 600 seat performance auditorium, studio and gallery space for the visual arts programs, studios for art, dance, and the performing arts, sound-isolated practice rooms, computer labs, a cafeteria, and a 1,300 seat gymnasium. Other amenities include video surveillance, and electronic card access, a lighted regulation soccer field, and a one-fifth mile walking track. The historic exterior was restored, as were the existing marble stair and wainscot at the main entrance.

In 2014, Dayton Public Schools received a grant of \$250,000 for renovations to the original 1914 auditorium, including an updated lighting system, a new sound system, new dressing rooms, and updated rigging and curtains.

# CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROJECT DETAILS

## ARCHITECT/BUILDER

**Original architect:** Charles Insko Williams

**Renovation:** Jeff Wray of Jeff Wray Architects

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

**Dayton Public Schools**

Stivers School for the Arts  
1313 East 5th Street,  
Dayton, OH 45402  
P: (937) 542-7380

## SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Stivers School for the Arts  
1313 East 5th Street,  
Dayton, OH 45402  
P: (937) 542-7380

**Size:** 121,000 sq ft.

**Enrollment:** 920

**Student/Teacher Ratio:** 18:1

## HISTORIC/RENOVATION RECORD

**Date of Construction:** 1908

**Date of Previous Additions:** 1952  
gymnasium; 1936 west wing

**Date of Renovation:** 2006-2008

**Previous Renovations/Additions:**  
both demolished for new addition

**Historic District:** : St. Anne's Hill  
(local historic district 1974; NR district 1986)

**Position within Community:** Stivers School for the Arts is a magnet school, drawing students from all over the city of Dayton. It is located adjacent to the historic St. Anne's Hill neighborhood

## COST

**Total Cost:** \$35 million (1996 dollars)

### Estimate for New School:

39% local (funded by a voter-approved bond issue to renovate or replace Dayton's aging classroom facilities); 61% state funds.



## RENOVATION DESCRIPTION

### State of School Prior to Renovation:

was in use as a school prior to its renovation, but had fallen into disrepair.

### Description of Renovation Process:

students were relocated to another school during the construction phase



## RENOVATION SUCCESSES

**Mechanical/HVAC:** The renovation included new heating and cooling systems.

**Electrical:** lighting was replaced in the original portion of the building.

**Disability Act compliance:** Handicap access is provided through a centrally located elevator. Bathrooms are also handicap accessible.

**Technology:** The original boiler room and gym were combined to create the new centrally located media center.



### Adaptation to Educational Needs::

Original chalkboards were resurfaced as white boards

**Safety compliance:** video surveillance and electronic card access were installed

### Other/unique renovation successes:

Renovation of the façade of the school's historic core, and a large scale addition which echoes the design of the historic portion of the building without copying it exactly.