

# MIAMI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## CENTER FOR THE ARTS

601 NE 107th Street, Miami, FL 33161

### Owner

Miami Country Day School

### Architect

Zyscovich Architects

### Contractor

Coastal Construction Group  
of South Florida, Inc.

### Budget

\$25.5 M

### Construction Cost

Center for the Arts: \$17,656,800  
(includes structural piles, required  
site mitigation, and full audio,  
visual and theater lighting and  
rigging package)  
Garage: \$6,335,900  
Total: \$23,992,700

### Square Footage

Center for the Arts: 43,515 SF  
300-Car Garage: 116,000 SF

### Student Capacity

133 Student Stations  
636-Seat Auditorium

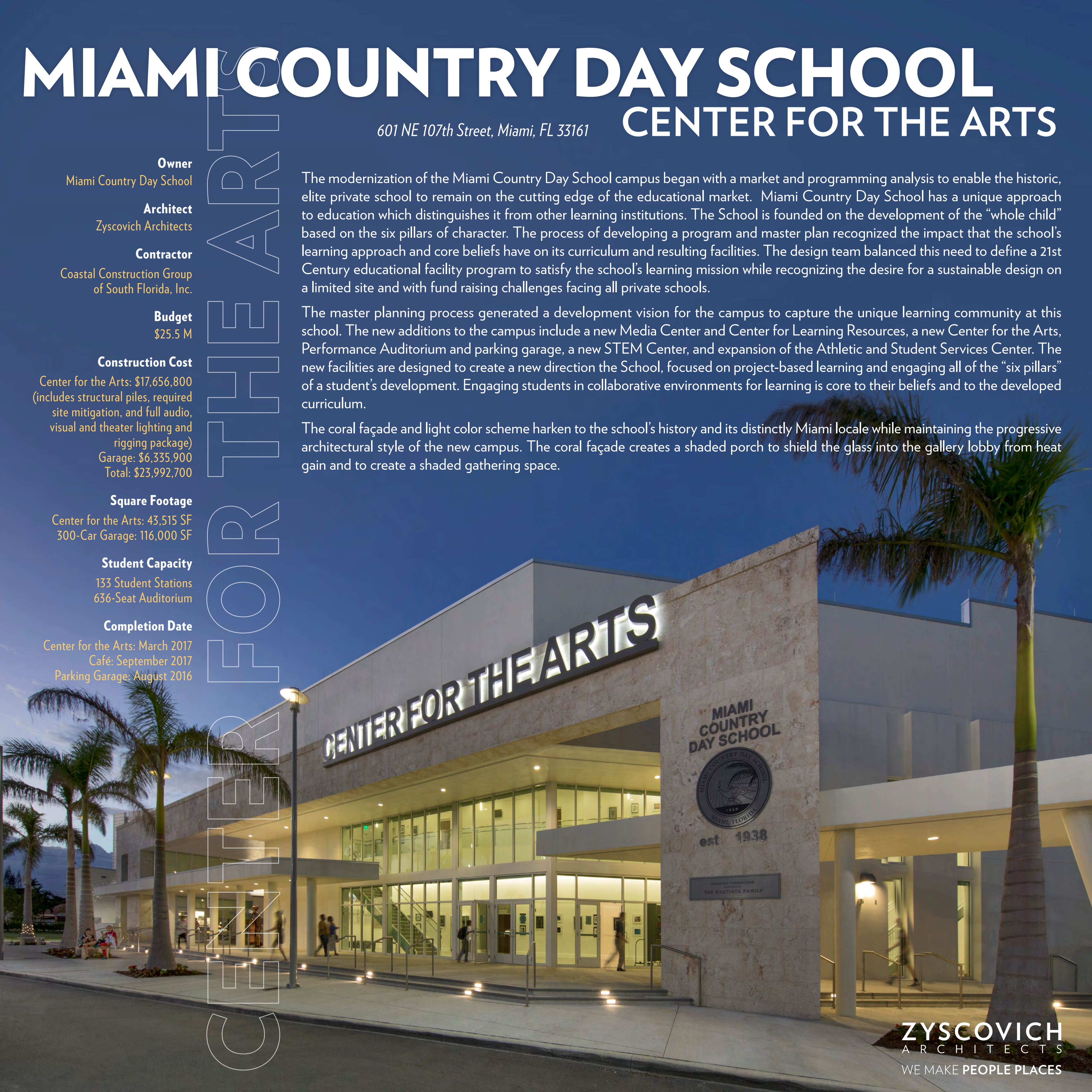
### Completion Date

Center for the Arts: March 2017  
Café: September 2017  
Parking Garage: August 2016

The modernization of the Miami Country Day School campus began with a market and programming analysis to enable the historic, elite private school to remain on the cutting edge of the educational market. Miami Country Day School has a unique approach to education which distinguishes it from other learning institutions. The School is founded on the development of the “whole child” based on the six pillars of character. The process of developing a program and master plan recognized the impact that the school’s learning approach and core beliefs have on its curriculum and resulting facilities. The design team balanced this need to define a 21st Century educational facility program to satisfy the school’s learning mission while recognizing the desire for a sustainable design on a limited site and with fund raising challenges facing all private schools.

The master planning process generated a development vision for the campus to capture the unique learning community at this school. The new additions to the campus include a new Media Center and Center for Learning Resources, a new Center for the Arts, Performance Auditorium and parking garage, a new STEM Center, and expansion of the Athletic and Student Services Center. The new facilities are designed to create a new direction the School, focused on project-based learning and engaging all of the “six pillars” of a student’s development. Engaging students in collaborative environments for learning is core to their beliefs and to the developed curriculum.

The coral façade and light color scheme harken to the school’s history and its distinctly Miami locale while maintaining the progressive architectural style of the new campus. The coral façade creates a shaded porch to shield the glass into the gallery lobby from heat gain and to create a shaded gathering space.



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# PERFORMING ARTS

The new Center for the Arts provides the needed space for development of an already high achieving arts program for the campus. At the center and end of the art studio wing, on each of the two floors, the typical hallway expands to become an informal project-based learning center and gallery—one for art and one for performing arts/music. Students and teachers come together in these flexible environments that encourage interactive learning in ways beyond a typical classroom and lab environment. The Art Studios and Labs are arranged to connect to the exterior environment and to become a nexus for integrating the arts with all areas of the curriculum. The campus gardens create a naturalized connection between the Arts Center and the greenhouse, organic garden, and the rest of the campus. A new social café is located off the Performing Arts center to provide snacks to students at the north end of the campus and to service performances.



The new Arts Center creates a new experience for the middle and upper school grades, approximating a more collegiate-like setting with elevated finishes. It is intended to foster greater opportunities for socialization and preparation for post-secondary education. All systems and equipment are planned to enable flexible uses and preparation for multiple simultaneous events. The Art Studios feature enhanced natural lighting via clerestory windows. Polished concrete floors are highly durable and low maintenance for cleaning spills while maintaining a thoroughly modern aesthetic.



Performing Arts Center



Stage Craft / Production



Stage Craft / Production



State-of-the-Art Control Room

The new Center for the Arts provides space for all of the arts educational components on the campus including a 636-seat professional performance auditorium and working stage, dressing rooms, stage craft and production areas, a high-tech control room, and a gallery lobby; middle- and upper-level Drama Studios that combine via operable partitions to create a black box theater; a Dance Studio; a Music Suite with studios for lower, middle and upper classes, an ensemble room, practice rooms, and the “Agora,” which houses a Steinway piano for impromptu performances; and Arts Suites for lower, middle and upper classes and Digital Arts and Ceramics Labs. The interior showcases an all wood stage with a removable stage to create an orchestra pit and wood-paneled acoustic wall and ceiling treatments.



Gallery Lobby





Ground Floor Plan

Second Floor Plan

The new buildings complement the campus while visibly demonstrating that this is a new era at Miami Country Day School with state-of-the-art, student-friendly, modern building designs, replete with accessible, rich technology throughout. The state-of-the-art Digital Arts Lab features the absolute latest and greatest in hardware and software and is “future approved” to allow technology and future generations to stay at the forefront of current standards. The professional theater features professional-grade sound, LED lighting, audio/visual systems, and rigging systems (with manual rigging and line sets and full fly loft) and a mid-seating catwalk. The facility has become the new activity hub for students, which incorporates interactive student learning, project based curriculum and facilitates board member, trustee and parent ability to educate their children. At the heart of the building is a central gathering space serving as the gallery lobby and a mixing valve for all areas creating a “synergy space” for collaborative and community learning and engagement in the arts. The Dance Studio features a wood-sprung floor, and all Music Studios, Labs, Performance Spaces and Practice Rooms feature elevated finishes and acoustic treatments.



Dance Studio



Drama Studio/ Black Box Theater



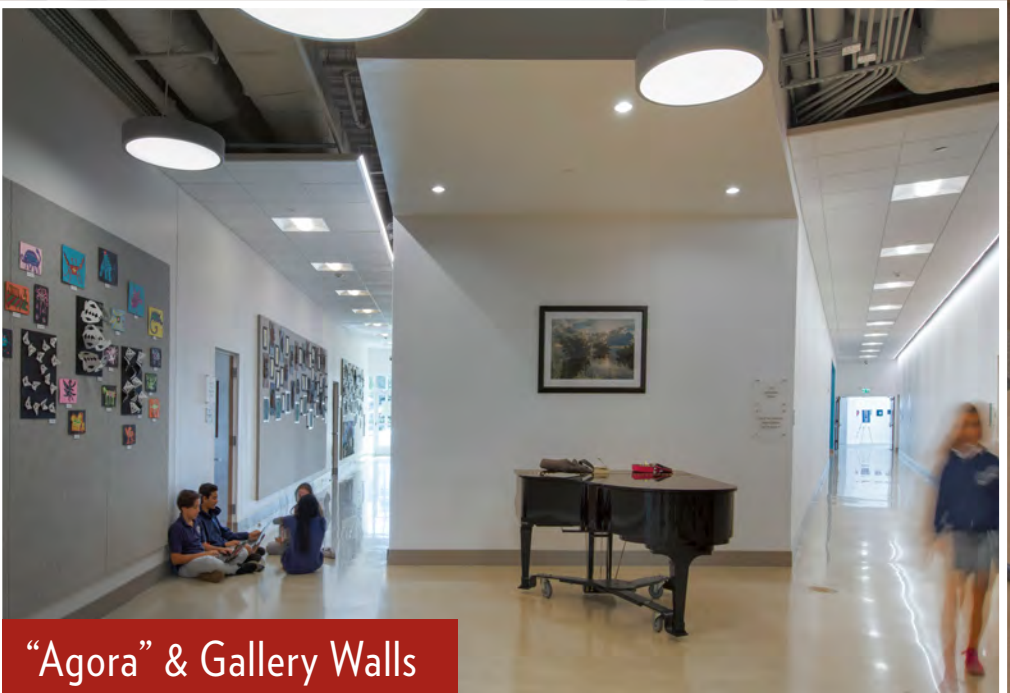
Digital Arts Lab



Lower Music Studio



Art Studio



“Agora” & Gallery Walls



Ensemble

STATE OF THE ART



# MASTER PLANNING

The new site design accommodates the greatly-needed parking garage and expanded arts educational facilities while increasing the landscaped areas and providing more outdoor courtyards, social and recreational spaces. The compact, vertical garage design minimizes site impact and allows the Art Studios to have direct access to exterior Art Patios and views to the canal and natural areas, which are landscaped with native vegetation to create a buffer as well as to inspire students. In the future, the art and music wing is able to grow to the north along the same circulation spine at the newly-acquired property to the north. The master planning and programming has resulted in a more cohesive and integrated educational environment; as important to the development of the School facilities and programming are the spaces and adjacencies created between the new buildings. The new MCDS campus is activated by appropriate relationship of exterior active spaces, purposed circulation and the exterior learning rooms for recreation, socialization and gathering. No space is left unconsidered for its role in education and student learning.

The professional-grade theater with catwalk and full fly and manual rigging was designed to be used as a professional community theater as well as for student performances. The parking garage was located adjacent to the Center for the Arts (CFA), and a new, separate secure entry drive was created to provide direct access to the CFA. The floor plan design allows the classroom areas to be securely locked off during after-hours and weekend use, and the main gallery lobby space will host shows by local professional and student artists. The garage façade is used for “Art in Public Places,” and currently features mural banners created by Shepard Fairey to clearly identify the Center for the Arts and to screen the garage from the community.



Site Plan



# SUSTAINABILITY

In alignment with the school's curriculum, the facility was sustainably designed with LEED for Schools Metrics to integrate the curriculum into building and site design, as well as to target the highest energy efficiency and resource conservation. Energy reduction initiatives, energy modeling, and energy audits during the design process have resulted in a highly-efficient facility that minimizes site impact. Sustainable elements include a high-albedo roof, elevated finishes of sustainable materials with low VOC, direct and indirect lighting, and LED lighting. A high efficiency chiller plant with thermal ice storage not only cools the building, but serves as a learning tool for students.



Gathering Space & Social Café



Art Patio