

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MANNING ARCHITECTS-PERKINS EASTMAN CELEBRATES OPENING OF CITYLAB HIGH SCHOOL IN DOWNTOWN DALLAS

### Experiential learning environments support design-focused curriculum

Dallas, TX (August 29, 2017) Manning Architects-Perkins Eastman a joint venture joins the Dallas Independent School District, faculty, and students in celebrating the completion of Phase 1 of CityLab High School in Downtown Dallas. Perkins Eastman and Manning Architects are working with Dallas ISD and the school's leadership to transform a 120,000 sf five-story office building into an experiential learning environment that supports the school's unique curriculum focused on architecture and urban design.

Sean O'Donnell AIA, LEED AP, Perkins Eastman's Principal-in-Charge of the project, says: "Perhaps never has a school name been so apt: CityLab was boldly founded to engage students with the many issues key to the success of our cities. We have been honored to collaborate with CityLab and Dallas ISD to transform an older office building into an innovative, experiential 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning environment for CityLab's students and teachers. We are excited to see CityLab embrace the entire city as its classroom from this new home base, with its varied settings that will support diverse, active, and engaging learning."

As a program founded on project-based learning and design thinking, CityLab students will use the city as a literal design laboratory, engaging with and exploring the diverse social fabric and neighborhoods of Dallas. Strategically located within walking distance to Dallas City Hall, the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, and the Dallas Farmers Market and with easy access to Dallas landmarks, parks, industry partners, and museums, students truly will develop a multidisciplinary understanding of the natural world, the built environment, and the social and economic systems of the city.

The joint-venture team's adaptive reuse supports this project-based, peer-to-peer learning through the creation of a learning environment that takes cues from an architecture studio. A mix of classrooms, design studios, and small and large group study areas combine with commons spaces, a presentation gallery, and maker

spaces to create an overall dynamic environment that can flex as needed to support the students' varied design projects and collaborative explorations.

A loft aesthetic, ample daylight, and views to downtown Dallas' cluster of high-rise architecture further support the school's mission to create the next generation of civic leaders, engaged citizens, and design professionals with a holistic understanding of the urban environment.

"It was exciting to collaborate with CityLab and Dallas Independent School District on this fast-paced project," says Craig King, Project Manager, Manning Architects.

CityLab begins the 2017-2018 school year with nearly 100 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students and will add one grade each year until it is a full 9-12 high school in 2020-21. The building's transformation is phased accordingly.

## **About Perkins Eastman**

Perkins Eastman is among the top design and architecture firms in the world. With almost 1,000 employees in 15 locations around the globe, Perkins Eastman practices at every scale of the built environment. From niche buildings to complex projects that enrich whole communities, the firm's portfolio reflects a dedication to progressive and inventive design that enhances the quality of the human experience. With work in 46 states and more than 40 countries, the firm's portfolio includes transportation and public infrastructure, high-end residential, commercial, hotels, retail, office buildings, corporate interiors, schools, hospitals, museums, senior living, and public-sector facilities. Perkins Eastman provides award-winning design through its offices in North America (New York, NY; Boston, MA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; San Francisco, CA; Stamford, CT; Toronto, Canada; and Washington, DC); South America (Guayaquil, Ecuador); North Africa and Middle East (Dubai, UAE); and Asia (Mumbai, India, and Shanghai, China).

## **About Manning Architects**

Manning Architects is a 30-person firm of architects, interior designers, urban designers and planners with offices in Dallas and New Orleans. Our firm focuses on Transportation, Education, Civic, Healthcare and Hospitality markets. For over 30 years, we have designed educational facilities for a wide range of public and private sector in the Secondary and Higher Education sectors. We have delivered design services which have enhanced the educational experience for thousands of students throughout the gulf south. Our staff of LEED accredited professionals are licensed in 18 states. Our work brings clients' visions to fruition while adding to the vitality of the communities we live and work. We approach a project not only to meet the programmatic needs of our clients, but also to consider broader social issues at stake to effectively address them through design. We believe that when all elements of the built environment are designed with an eye toward efficiency, sustainability, aesthetic beauty, and a sense of place, the community enjoys a better quality of life.