

### Architect:

Watershed

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### Owner:

City of Norfolk

### Project Cost:

n/a

### Square Footage:

6,000 sf

### Cost per Square Foot:

n/a

### Completion Date:

design phase

### Project Consultants:

#### Landscape Architect

Siteworks Studio

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#### LEEDd Consultant

Topia Design

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Architect, LEEDd AP

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#### Mechanical Engineer

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### Project Description:

Through an extensive and expansive renovation and addition, the project aims to transform itself from a background structure into a civic locus for gathering, learning, and innovating.

The project site is within Lafayette Park, a large community resource in Norfolk, Virginia. Bound tightly to the east by the Virginia Zoological Park, and to the west by Granby Street, a busy north-west connector, the site is ¼ mile west of the Lafayette River. Originally marshland, the park's large open green spaces, clusters of deciduous trees, ball fields, and playgrounds serve a medium-density residential neighborhood to the north and west. Formerly a concession stand, the existing log cabin structure rests near the midpoint of an axis originally extending from 35th Street to the waterfront. Pedestrians freely gain access to the site from the neighborhoods to the north and west, as well as from the south via a path to the Zoo. Automobile traffic approaches the site via parking to the north and from the Zoo access road to the south.

Physically, the new architecture strengthens its community presence. Embracing local vernacular, porches wrap the ground floor and the surrounding park providing shelter and community for gatherings and groups. Rising 50 feet, the tower iconically serves pedestrian and automobile traffic on nearby Granby. By expanding to a second floor and incorporating large areas of garden roofs as well as landscaped spaces, the new center increases to a scale befitting a locus of community pride and activism.

### Green Features:

In concert with the desire to transform itself into a community and educational focus, the architecture employs multiple innovative strategies as it pursues LEED® Platinum certification. Rather than raze the current structure, the new design engulfs it, increasing its thermal performance and bracing it for expansion vertically. To operate as a net energy exporter, Photovoltaic roofs and planted screens shade intense solar exposures and reduce the buildings energy load.

