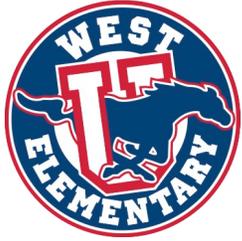


THE WEST U ELEMENTARY LOBBY RENOVATION



A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

**A HUGE thank you to
Olivia Benitez!**

PTO President 2020-21



WUES Lobby Receives a Much-Needed Upgrade Thanks to Generous Sponsors and Volunteers

West University Elementary School in Houston, Texas has just received a complete lobby and reception remodel courtesy of Canaima Design and a number of generous sponsoring organizations.

The school reception had not been renovated for decades before now, and its administration contacted the team of Canaima Design for their assistance in bringing the educational hub back to life with some creative and functional new design elements.

The new reception area has been remodeled to delight children, parents, and visitors of all ages with its imaginative new visual charm. The design focuses on a serviceable and nostalgic color palette of white, brown, blue, green, gray, and black, alongside touches of vermilion red; a classic and traditional shade for school buildings.

One element that immediately catches the eye is the textured pillar that has been remodeled to resemble an emblematic oak tree. Oak trees have flourished around the school's area for hundreds of years, and the design team covered outdated mosaic columns with environmentally-friendly cork to transform them into indoor trees. The newly installed trees are also acoustic in nature, thanks to materials sponsored by Amcork, and help to organically dampen noise levels in the lobby.

The trees' verdant acrylic leaves and the prominent West U logo design were both sponsored by Regal Plastics, and the wainscot accents added by Canaima assist in keeping the design of the lobby transitional and flowing by highlighting the cork trees and wooden benches.

The lobby's old terrazzo epoxy floor tiles were removed and replaced with fresh, easy-to-clean vinyl flooring sponsored by Venetian Flooring, and the beloved aquarium was also given an update with fresh white paint for the first time in over a decade. Blackbuck Resources also donated funds generously towards the realization of the redesign and remodeling process.

Yesely Love from Canaima Design collaborated with local artist Kermit Eisenhut to design and add yet another special element to the new lobby of WUES; a striking painting that contains all of the most meaningful and significant symbols to the school and its history of the neighborhood.

The painting mirrors the same color palette that was used throughout the remodeling process and depicts imagery of the school building, the baseball field, a family supporting their son on game day, a Mustang, 1925 (the year in which WUES was founded... it will be the school's 100th year anniversary in just a few short years!), the iconic oak trees and magnolias of the area, a train, children reading, swimming and playing soccer, symbols representing Little Matt's and Tinys, walkways, chalk drawings, the school's coordinates, and even the legendary local Darth Vader house.



Click [HERE](#) to see more photos!

The symbolism doesn't stop there. Eisenhut has also added firetrucks, flowers, kids on swings, the Reindeer House, school pavers made by WUES students, antique cars, boys and girls in Astros shirts, a cowboy hat for Texan day, tennis courts, horseshoes, and of course, the Texas flag as well. This wealth of home-grown imagery reminds students and visitors to the school alike of the rich history of their school and their area and will instill pride in the hearts of generations to come.

West University Elementary School and Canaima Design team would like to thank the project's many generous sponsors for their contributions to the project. VJ Contractors sponsored and installed all of the lighting for the new reception area.

Speedy Frame donated the PTO Award in full, and the plants were donated by the team at Tall Plants.

Butler Cohen and Tranquility Living assisted with the labor involved in the project, and new furniture pieces were sponsored by High Fashion to make the area as comfortable as it is aesthetically pleasing. Ex-officio PTO President Olivia Benitez is also thanked for her meaningful collaboration throughout the project, and for her assistance in the renovation process during her school year in charge!

