

## Wolcott School Continues to Transform West Town February 25<sup>th</sup> Ceremonial Groundbreaking of new Arts and Athletics Center



Exciting developments continue in West Town as Wolcott School marks the groundbreaking of its new Arts and Athletics Center at 1950 W. Hubbard. The ceremonial groundbreaking of the AAC was held on Saturday, February 25, 2017. The AAC will be located on the northeast corner of Damen and Hubbard, just two blocks from its main campus. The 4-year-old high school is expanding to keep up with the growth and talents of its student body and popularity of its community programming.

Since joining the neighborhood, Wolcott has been a vital presence. Through its Tyree Institute, the school offers frequent, free, public programming on adolescent development and education. Chicago Grand Neighborhood Association, West Town Chamber of Commerce, and Alderman Moreno's office have hosted events at the main campus building. In addition, local businesses have frequently engaged with students by offering internships, service learning opportunities, career guidance, and other partnerships. The new AAC will offer a larger venue for programming and community events.

The AAC will be built on the former site of Midwest Wrecking. Plans include a spacious gym with regulation-sized basketball court and bleacher seating, generous stage for performances with audience seating for 350, increased studio space for art and music, faculty and guest parking, and an urban garden. Construction will be completed in fall 2017. The AAC project was designed by Lothan, VanHook, Destefano Architects in the modern style incorporating precast concrete, aluminum, and glass. Macon Construction is the builder with Daccord providing owner representation services.

The main campus building at 524 N. Wolcott opened in May 2013, and was the beginning of Wolcott's transformative impact on the community. Wolcott completely rehabilitated the long vacant and dilapidated building that had formerly housed the Union League Boys and Girls Club. In addition, through recently acquired office space at 1845 W. Grand, Wolcott's Tyree Institute will offer educational testing, college counseling, mindfulness, and other courses.

### About Wolcott School

Wolcott is Chicago's independent college prep high school for students with learning differences. Located in Chicago's West Town neighborhood, Wolcott's students, faculty, and staff are dedicated to a strength-based curriculum and dynamic student life culture. The school exports best practices in the field through its Tyree Institute, and will be opening its new Arts and Athletics Center just blocks from its main campus in September 2017. Wolcott serves a diverse student body and employs a needs-blind application process. Scholarships are available for qualified applicants. To tour Wolcott or for more information, visit [www.wolcottschool.org](http://www.wolcottschool.org).