#taleof4schools
A Tale of Four Schools

September 22, 2016  Jean Arrington
PS 5 (1895), 140/141st x Edgecombe/Fred Douglass (demolished)
PS 1 (1898) Henry es x Catherine/Oliver,
Lower East Side
Public School 25, now 751 (1894), 4th St x 2nd/1st Ave
The Snyder Revolution

Construction and mechanical innovations for health and safety

Functional innovations to accommodate pedagogical changes: gyms, science labs, mechanical training rooms, auditoriums

A new appearance
PS 166 (1900)
West 89th St.
landmarked
1884 *Real Estate Record and Guide*: “There is not a public school in New York which is even a decently creditable piece of architecture.”
PS 27 (1898), overlooking St. Mary's Park in the Bronx Landmarked
PS 25 (1898)
E 149 x Tinton/Prospect
PS 20 (1899), was Rivington House, an AIDS facility

PS 160 (1899), now Clemente Soto Velez Center
Collegiate Gothic schools
From 1900

PS 169
Northern Manhattan demolished

PS 166
Upper West Side landmarked

PS 31 Bronx landmarked
THREE DECADES OF SNYDER’S CAREER

1891-1900 – The Creative Decade
Making Revolutionary Change

1901-1910 – The Prolific Decade
Building a World-class Public-school System

1911-1922 – The Standardizing Decade
The Glory Dims
Italianate Schools

PS 190 (1904)
Upper East Side

PS 42 (1907)
Claremont,
Bronx

PS 85 (1908), Long Island City
PS 109 (1901), 99th/100th x 2nd/3rd, NRHP
PS 179 (1901, 1995), 101st/102nd x Columbus/Amsterdam
PS 170 (1901), 111th/112th x 5th/Lenox, demolished
PS 186 (1903)
Harlem
Abandoned in 1975
Wadleigh HS for Girls (1902), Harlem landmarked
The original DeWitt-Clinton HS (1906), then Haaren HS, now John Jay School of Criminal Justice. Behind Lincoln Center

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Morris High School (1904), Bronx
#taleof4schools
PS 31

Was at

~East 147th Street and Grand Concourse

The Bronx

All contemporary photos by Edwin Torres
http://www.edwintorrespf.com
On June 14, 1983, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of Public School 31 and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 10). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Three witnesses spoke in favor of designation. There were no witnesses in opposition to designation. The Commission has received many letters and other expressions of support in favor of this designation.
“The End of PS31, A Municipal Disgrace”

Like all Snyder schools it is built very solidly but its skeleton of iron and steel is susceptible to damage from water penetration if roofs and parapets are not properly maintained. The initial repairs could have been straight forward. But the School Construction Authority hired a team that was unfamiliar with work on historic properties. Instead of fixing the problem they inadvertently made it worse.

The Conservancy worked with local residents and elected officials demanding that the school be repaired and reopened. Success seemed at hand when then Schools Chancellor Harold Levy approved a $50 million restoration and expansion of PS 31 in 2000.

That project, which attained all of its approvals, was defunded and never executed. The building has stood vacant since despite several attempts to interest the City, or other entities, in its repair and reuse. At the recent Landmarks hearing, a Department of Buildings engineer said the building was too far gone to bring back. He said an Emergency Declaration was issued on Nov. 8 declaring the building unsafe and an imminent threat.
Community advocates saw their attempts to save the building shot down by the city. Phillip Morrow, president of SoBro, the South Bronx economic-development agency, proposed to turn the building into affordable housing and workspace for local artists, including galleries and space for a film school. But the proposal was rejected over concerns that it would cost too much and be “too difficult.”

The group partnered with Artspace, a nonprofit developer that specializes in such redevelopment, and said they would finance the project through historic-building tax credits and sponsorship by Goldman Sachs’ Urban Investment Group.

Morrow, who had different engineers evaluate the building, contested the city’s account of the damage and its estimate of restoration costs.

“We have three engineers who said the building is not in any danger of falling down by any stretch of the imagination,” he said at the hearing. “We’ve renovated buildings in much worse conditions.”
Protect The Landmarked PS 31 Save It From Demolition

Use #SavePS31 to spread awareness via Twitter, Facebook and all social media!

SAVE PS 31 AKA THE CASTLE ON THE CONCOURSE
financing it with funds from its ten year capital plan. The city also upzoned the site, to double its development rights and density. The city will finance the construction through funds in the mayor's 10-year housing plan, which has as its goal to create or preserve 200,000 affordable units.

Yet instead of a public school going into this building, a charter school will be built instead:
#taleof4schools
The neighborhood has an extensive transportation network providing convenient access to Lower Manhattan and the other boroughs.

The community also offers a range of service and entertainment venues, within walking distance of your front door, including the Apollo Theater, and many other performance spaces.
This project represents years of work by the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem to protect and preserve an historic building in the heart of the vibrant Hamilton Heights neighborhood in Harlem.

Since its early days, Harlem has been well known as a residential, cultural, and business hub in New York City.

Harlem has once again become a highly sought after location for new private residential development, as well as for dining, cultural, and entertainment venues.

At its heart, the neighborhood has always celebrated its diversity through music, food and history.
Public School 186 is a five-story tall building with an H-shaped plan.

It was built in 1901 and was, for decades, considered the architectural and academic pride of the community.
HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

PS 186 was designed in the Italian Renaissance style, with a broad cornice on a first-story base finished in cast stone. The window trim is terra cotta.

Immediately filled to capacity, the school also served as a social hub for the community because it offered adult night classes and became the polling place.
ADAPTIVE RE-USE STORY

CONDITIONS CIRCA 1920

CONDITION BEFORE RENOVATION

CONDITIONS AFTER PRESERVATION
EXISTING EXTERIOR CONDITIONS
EXISTING INTERIOR CONDITIONS
EXISTING PLAN
1 FLOOR

WEST 146TH STREET
ADAPTIVE REUSE PLAN
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
PHOTOS OF APT UNITS AND HALLWAYS

[Images of interior spaces and floor plans]
EXTERIOR PRESERVATION - THE CORNICE

Proposed

1903 ELONGATED  1903  1920 ELONGATED  1920  ORIGINAL PROFILE

Historic
EXTERIOR DETAILS

CAST STONE PRESERVATION

TERRA COTTA PRESERVATION
RESIDENTIAL ENTRANCE ON 146TH STREET
PROJECT TEAM

DESIGN TEAM
Architect—Dattner Architects
Structural Engineer—Dattner Engineers
Mechanical Engineer—AECOM
Specifiers—Construction Specifications
Expeditor—JM Zoning
Historical—Michael A. Tomlan
Ornamental Masonry Consultant—Jim Harwood Architects
Lighting Design—Lumen Architecture
Sustainability—AIA
Acoustical—AVC

DEVELOPMENT TEAM
Monadnock Development LLC
Alembic Community Development
Boys and Girls Club of Harlem
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
EL BARRIO’S ARTSPACE PS109

LOCATED AT 99TH STREET BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD AVE
EAST HARLEM
"The historic school, designed in 1900 had been vacant for over 10 years and was almost demolished at one point — community leaders’ protests literally stopped bulldozers and kept the building standing."
SO MANY OPTIONS...
LIFE AT PS 109 TODAY
#taleof4schools
PS. 64 or

EL BOHIO

C.H.A.R.A.S.
P.S. 64
H shape building
Real Great Society (RGS)
Bimbo Rivas on top of CHARAS/El Bohio building
The Dome Project – at “El Bohio (P.S. 64)” by CHARAS
Poster design by: Chino Garcia,
Inside :
“EL BOHIO” East and West Front Hall
Inside:
“EL BOHIO”
Performance at the GYM. Circa 1995
CHARAS, INC.
presents
MUSICAL-TRAGEDY
EL BAQUINÉ
AN 
DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

MARIA M. DOMINGUEZ
VISUAL ARTIST

MAGDA ECHUARRA
DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER

JUAN M. MORALES
MUSIC/COMPOSER

L.BETTICI
BIMBO RIVAS
PLATFROM/DIRECTOR

FEATURING:
JUAN MA Y SU 
SONIDO COSTENO
also
THE INTERCULTURAL
DANCE COMPANY

AT
CHARAS TEATRO LA TERRAZA
360 E. 10TH STREET
LOISAIDA, N.Y. 10009
(212) 982-0427 / 533-4285

OPENING PERFORMANCE: May 18, 1989, at 8 P.M.
CONTINUING PERFORMANCES: May 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, at 8 P.M.
MATINEE PERFORMANCE: Sunday, May 28, at 2 P.M.

For reservations, call Monday-Friday, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.

This program was made possible by an inter-disciplinary grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
CHARAS INC. is funded partly by the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council for the Arts,
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and others.

ADMISSION: $10.00

EL TEATRO AMBULANTE
EL CUCO QUE HABLA INC.
PRESENTS
"EL PIRAGUERO DE LOISAIDA"

Written by
BIMBO RIVAS

LIFE!
TEARS!
SORROW!
DEATH!

From Oct. 26 thru Nov. 14
Sunday-Sunday 8:00 P.M.
Saturday Matinee 3:00 P.M.
TEL 693-8340

This production was made possible in part by the New York State Council for the Arts and the National
Endowment for the Arts, printed by LA SEMILLA INC.
PROGRAMS

Education
Charas offers several educational workshops for both adults and children.

- Workshops -
  - After School Programs in reading, writing, and arts
  - Youth Program
    - Computer
      - Introduction to the computer
      - Introduction to the internet
      - Software application
      - Technical Training
  - English as a Second Language
  - Spanish as a Second Language

Music
Music theory, history, and appreciation classes are offered for adults and children, plus concerts.

- Workshops -
  - Folk
  - Jazz
  - Latin
  - Rock

Dance
Dance performances and workshops for adults and children.

- Workshops -
  - Caribbean (Bomba Plena)
  - African
  - Salsa
  - Ballet
  - Modern

Visual Arts
Galería en el Bohío presents art exhibits by local and international artist.

- Workshops -
  - Painting
  - Murals
  - Arts and Crafts
  - Art Exhibits
  - Artist in Residence

Theater
Teatro CHAFAS presents several productions annually along with other theater companies.

- Workshops -
  - Drama
  - Voice
  - Movement

Rehearsal/Rental Space
In addition to presenting its own programs, Charas rents space for rehearsal, photo sessions, film screenings, theater, dance, and musical productions, as well as community meetings and conferences, and special events.

- For rental of space and productions call (212) 533-6835

Sound Studio
Charas works together with Tu Casa Sound Studi to offer affordable rehearsal and recording space for musicians. Call for reservations.
(212) 353-1843

Bimbo Rivas was a community activist who gave the Lower East Side the name "Loisaida". He was a profound poet, actor, and playwright whose talent enriched not only the Puerto Rican culture but other cultures as well. Bimbo's spirit and influence live on in Loisaida today. We remember him and pay homage to our good friend and community leader.
Teatro “La Terraza”

First Floor of “El Bohio”
PS64 today
Renderings
GIVE US BACK OUR COMMUNITY CENTER