

### Program Summary:

Restoration and adaptive reuse of an abandoned historic church into a private event venue, designed for large gatherings, weddings, and concerts.

### Program Statement:

This project reactivates a long-vacant 1925 church as a flexible event venue, preserving its architectural and cultural significance and restoring its presence within the historic district. Vacant since Hurricane Katrina, the building required extensive intervention to address imminent structural failure and decades of deferred maintenance, including the replacement of the foundation with a new pile-supported system and the addition of modern mechanical, electrical, and life safety infrastructure.

The design is centered around the preservation and restoration of the defining architectural features. The domed plaster ceiling, ornamental detailing, and elaborate altarpiece were carefully conserved, while exterior work returned the façade, roofing, windows, and doors to their original character.

New program (bridal suites, public restrooms, a catering kitchen, and integrated audio/visual systems) is accommodated through minimal, precisely executed interventions that remain subordinate to the existing architecture. These insertions support a range of event configurations within the 12,000-square-foot venue, accommodating 150 to 1,000 occupants across the main hall and courtyard. Combining preservation and modern updates, the project gives new life to a once neglected neighborhood landmark.

## RR240.01

Building Area: (sf)  
**12,776sf**

Cost per Square Foot:  
**Withheld at Owner's request.**

Construction Cost  
**Withheld at Owner's request.**

Date of Completion:  
**September 2025**

## RR240.02

Constructed in 1925 and vacant since 2005 following Hurricane Katrina, the building had experienced significant structural deterioration. This project undertook a comprehensive restoration and adaptive reuse effort to preserve its architectural character and historic elements.

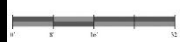


# RR240.03

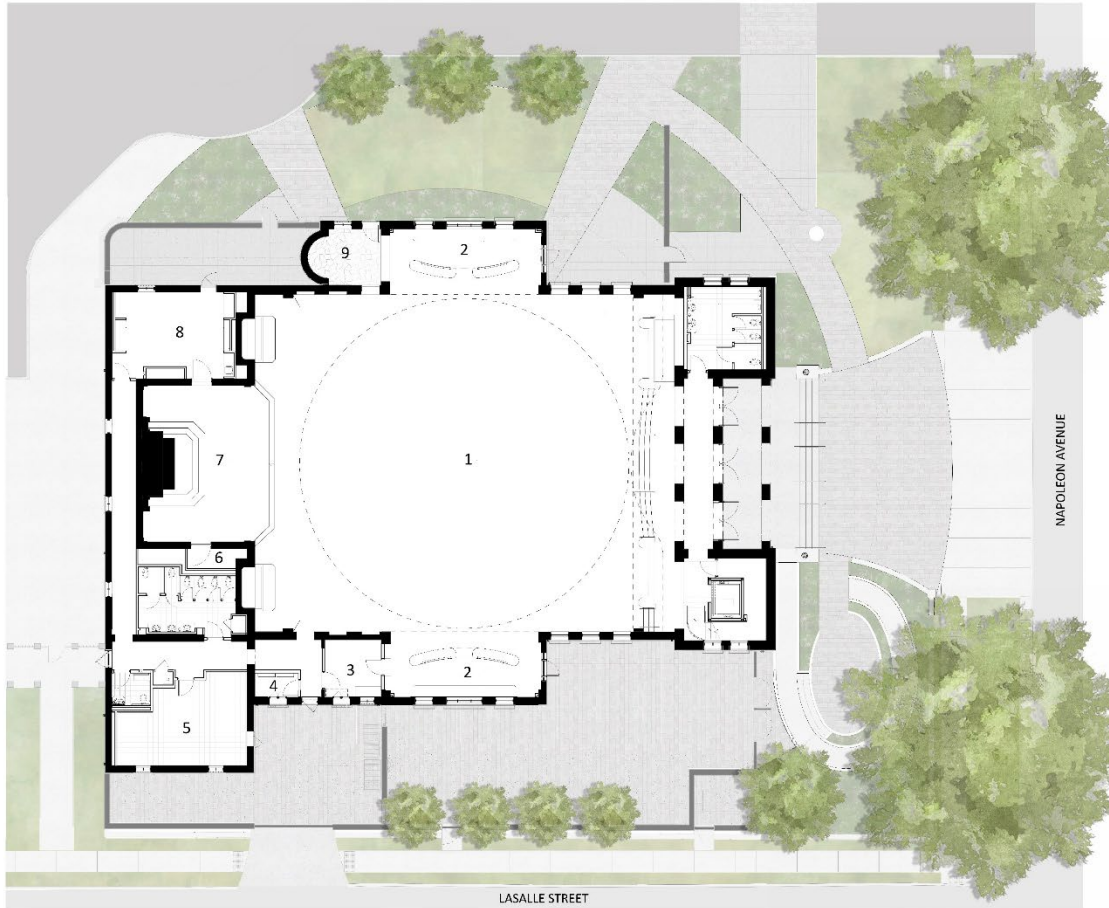
The design introduces new program uses within the existing framework while maintaining the legibility of the original plan. The central domed assembly space retains its original function, while ancillary areas, including side chapels, bell towers, and the former sacristy, are repurposed to accommodate support spaces like restrooms, mechanical systems, and catering support.

Modern mechanical, electrical, and sprinkler systems were carefully routed through existing attics and cavities to minimize visual impact on the historic structure.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



- 1 EVENT SPACE
- 2 BAR
- 3 OFFICE
- 4 ELECTRICAL
- 5 CATERING KITCHEN
- 6 A/V
- 7 ALTAR
- 8 GROOM'S ROOM
- 9 GROTTO



Before



## RR240.04

During the many years of vacancy, the building sustained significant deterioration from prolonged water intrusion, damaging plaster walls and ornamental interior detailing. Structural failure of the original foundation led to extensive cracking in the exterior masonry and collapse of the first-floor slab, including the patterned terrazzo flooring. Restoration efforts prioritized structural stabilization through installation of a new segmented pile-supported foundation beneath the masonry walls, along with complete replacement of the ground floor slab. A new terrazzo floor was installed to match the original patterns and colors.

## RR240.05

Long vacant and derelict, the building became a blight along a primary neighborhood corridor. The structure remained boarded up for years, with extensive weathering, water damage, and mold contributing to its deteriorated condition, a lingering reminder of the storm's impact long after it had passed.



## RR240.06

Interior work included reconstruction of the historic terrazzo flooring and restoration of plasterwork and ornamental detailing.

Carefully integrated lighting and a neutral palette draw attention back to the elaborate altarpiece.



Before



## RR240.07

Key elements, including the domed ceiling and ornamental altarpiece, were carefully restored using traditional techniques.

The plaster dome required complete reconstruction, with new framing and sound-absorbing finish. This allowed the introduction of a fire suppression system and new downlighting.

Before



## RR240.08

The restored interior provides a flexible, light-filled environment capable of supporting a range of events. Interventions are intentionally restrained, allowing the historic architecture to remain the primary experience.





## RR240.09

Exterior plaster surfaces and ornamental detailing were repaired or, where necessary, reconstructed and repainted. Metal elements were cleaned, repaired, and refinished, and the steel sash windows were restored with new glazing in place of the deteriorated temporary plywood coverings. The historic clay barrel tile roof was carefully removed and cleaned to allow for repair of the underlying roof deck. The tiles were then reinstalled with new flashing, gutters, and downspouts, restoring the building's original roof profile and performance.



Before

## RR240.10

The primary entry was restored to its original design, including reconstruction of the oak doors and repair of their heavy hardware. Accessible ramps are discreetly integrated on either side, set behind low masonry walls to maintain the clarity of the entry sequence.

Following deconsecration of the building, the original stained glass had been removed. A new design was introduced at the main window above the entrance, marking the building's new identity and use.



## RR240.11

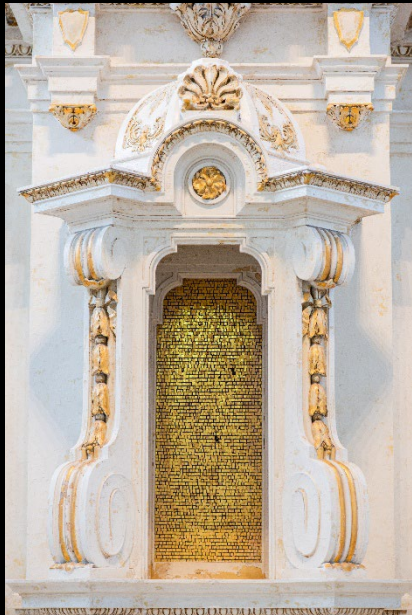
New landscaping redefines the entry sequence, softening the approach and strengthening the building's connection to the street. Adjacent side yards are enclosed with masonry walls and paving to create protected courtyards, expanding the venue's outdoor gathering space.



## RR240.12

Interior restoration balances preservation with subtle integration of new systems and finishes. Original materials and detailing are retained and restored, allowing the historic character to remain legible while supporting contemporary use.

Ornamental plasterwork and architectural detailing were restored throughout the interior, with missing or damaged elements carefully reconstructed to match the original. Existing finishes—including gold leaf at the altar and balcony brackets—were cleaned and preserved wherever possible.





## RR240.13

The adaptive reuse reactivates the building as a vibrant event venue, reconnecting it to the community. The restored space supports contemporary use while preserving its cultural and architectural significance.

The project reestablishes the building as a community anchor, with strong demand for events demonstrating its renewed relevance.

