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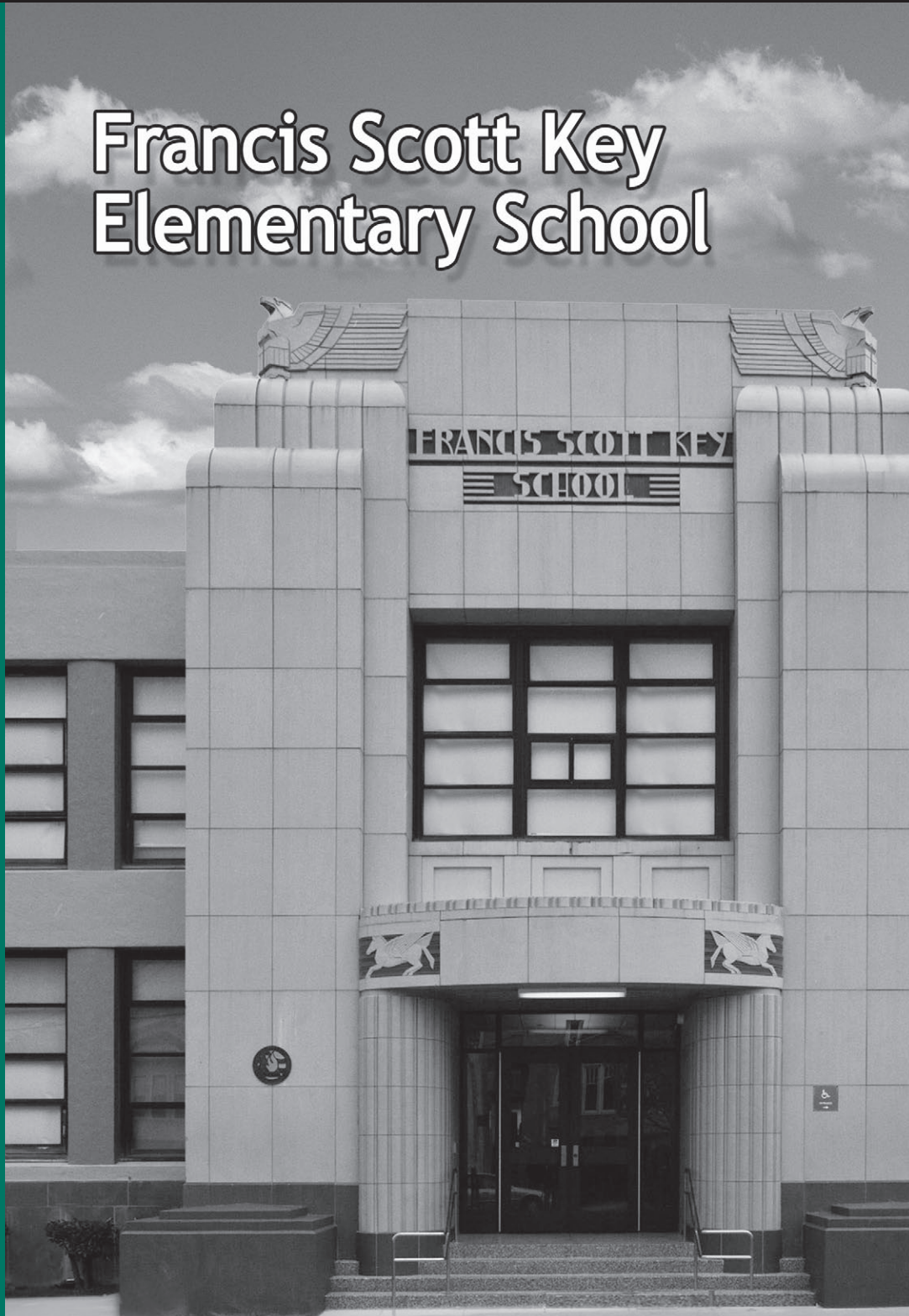
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COALITION FOR ADEQUATE SCHOOL HOUSING

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Francis Scott Key Elementary School



Francis Scott Key Elementary School

Francis Scott Key Elementary School (FSK) is an Art-Deco era construction, originally built in 1935. FSK has an award winning academic program, and is a magnet school for children with severe disabilities. Currently 12% of the student body is enrolled in a special needs program.

The school site consists of 26 K-5 classrooms, plus four classrooms dedicated to special needs students, over two stories. K2A's scope of work was a full modernization for accessibility and life-safety upgrades; including second story exit balconies, and complete fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

Exterior and interior finishes, colors and patterns, were all chosen to highlight and accent the extraordinary character of the depression era San Francisco Sunset District art-deco gem. At the main entry exterior, casts of the original terracotta fluted columns were taken in-place, and exchanged with terracotta reproductions from the original manu-



facturer to mitigate potentially unsafe materials in the original stoneware glazes.

A new freestanding permanent modular building replaces old portable buildings on the site, and provides space for the school library and two classrooms. The time and cost effective building system was greatly enhanced with site selection and design decisions. Along the north face, clerestory windows bring in ample natural light, and create a greater architectural presence with raised ceilings and a pitched roof. Finished on-site, the exterior cladding compliments the main building color and design motif, creating a polished look greater than the sum of its parts.

K2A worked closely with the teachers and administration to design a safe, exciting and equal place to play, addressing the constraints of FSK's large special needs population. Brightly painted maps and games create fun learning opportunities through the expansive yard. At the southeast corner of the playground, a bright and lively new play structure brings delight to students and

neighbors alike. The schoolyard is generously opened to its neighborhood each weekend, and Principal David Wong states that this urban school has had no problems with graffiti or vandalism.

The newly accessible auditorium is used for many functions; including a cafeteria space for school lunches, a gym for physical education classes, as well as special uses and presentations. The original light fixtures were removed and refurbished, modernized with new glass and lamps to meet energy efficient standards, while maintaining their original historic look. Its wood flooring was resurfaced and stained, and the performance stage rigging was refurbished and curtains replaced. The new exterior ramp makes the room accessible for direct entry after-hours. New stainless steel railing details and embossed concrete at the school's main entry and lobby borrow from the branch-like deco-inspired pattern found existing around the building. The design team sought opportunities to honor the period, and bring an historic grace to the accessibility improvements. 