MAIN STREET CENTER FOR VISUAL AND PERFORMING ART
Bringing the community of North Branch, Minnesota together to celebrate fine art...

Unifying Idea

The community of North Branch, Minnesota lacks a suitable fine art culture. The school district has struggled to fund art programs and there are few opportunities for residents to become involved in fine art activities in the community. Locals are not interested in funding any type of art facility, as the school district has struggled to fund art programs and there are few standing residents who would like to keep the building.

The integration of art, architecture, and sustainability in this project aims to provide a supplemental fine arts education, a cultural hub with a specific sense of place, and community pride with a relatively low long term financial burden. The art created in this facility will develop an art culture and a destination for people in the surrounding suburbs. Residents have very little interest in funding any type of art facilities. Many families live in North Branch because it is a suitable fine art culture. The school district has struggled to fund art programs and there are few outstanding residents who would like to keep the property out of commercial use.

The historical significance of education and historic trees on the site yields a great opportunity for a fine arts center to bring back the tradition of learning and community pride associated with the site.

The site features four elm trees that were planted in 1914 along Main Street. These trees survived the Dutch Elm disease that killed many of the other trees that were planted (Malmquist, 2007).

In 2010, the current Main Street School was demolished and the site remains an empty grassy city block today. The property was sold to an out-of-town developer for a fine arts center to bring back the tradition of learning and community pride associated with the site.

Site

When a high school was first built on the site in 1906, an article in the newspaper read, "...that splendid mass of architecture has been a source of pride and even wonder to the citizens of North Branch" (Malmquist, 2007). The program has changed very little with the transformation of the buildings on the site for 115 years.

The integration of art, architecture, and sustainability in this project aims to provide a supplemental fine arts education, a cultural hub with a specific sense of place, and community pride with a relatively low long term financial burden. The art created in this facility will develop an art culture and a destination for people in the surrounding suburbs. Residents have very little interest in funding any type of art facilities. Many families live in North Branch because it is a suitable fine art culture. The school district has struggled to fund art programs and there are few outstanding residents who would like to keep the property out of commercial use.