

## CITY YEAR HEADQUARTERS FOR IDEALISM

*Boston, Massachusetts*

*Client: City Year*



City Year Headquarters for Idealism is the new permanent home base for the community service organization that inspired the creation of the federal AmeriCorps program. Elkus Manfredi Architects provided interior design services for this five-story, 55,000-square-foot signature space. The design tells the City Year story and supports the organization's brand, mission, and goals.

In 2004, Elkus Manfredi began working with City Year, real estate professionals, and the City of Boston to analyze building and development options. Once the appropriate building was identified, the team began to develop the concept for City Year's Headquarters for Idealism. To create a space with the same spirit and energy as City Year's young volunteers, a variety of graphics are incorporated into the design. Adorning everything from walls and glass partitions to floors and furnishings, inspirational messages and images fill the Headquarters with meaning and purpose.

The Lavine Civic Forum serves as a "theater of idealism," hosting corps-wide gatherings, guest speakers, and morning warm-ups. The room features large-scale video screens, moveable partitions and acoustic panels, whiteboards, a stage, and a pantry. Upper floors feature an open office plan that maximizes access to natural light. Floors two and five are organized around collaborative spaces called "action pods."

The project is awaiting LEED-CI Silver certification.





"You must

**be the change** you wish to see in the world."

MAHATMA GANDHI

