

The logo for Summit Public Schools Sierra features a teal background. At the top center is a white asterisk-like symbol. Below it, the words "SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS" are written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the word "Sierra" is written in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS Sierra

Seattle School Named A Top Design Award Finalist at SXSWedu

SEATTLE - Summit Sierra High School in Seattle's Chinatown-International District finished as one of the finalists for the 2018 [Learn By Design](#) competition at SXSWedu.

"We're incredibly honored by this recognition," said Myron Kong, Director of Real Estate and Facilities for Summit Public Schools. He went on to add, "we spend a lot of time thinking about how to create a diverse array of educational spaces that support our students and Summit Learning. This recognition is strong affirmation that we are trying to innovate."

Ten projects from Seattle to Japan were selected as finalists for the 2018 Learn by Design competition. The competition spans PreK- 12 to higher education and recognizes groundbreaking work in the design of physical learning environments and how it impacts pedagogy and learning outcomes. Photos of Summit Sierra can be downloaded [here](#).

"One of the things I enjoy most about this school is how it was set up to support students whether collaborating, learning, or bonding with their teachers and classmates," said Malia Burns, founding principal of the school. "It's a space that enhances community, teaching and learning."

Jeffrey Vu an 11th grader and founding student at Summit Sierra added, "The design of the school makes the environment extremely welcoming. I really like this school. I like the bright colors and the open spaces feel comfortable."

[Summit Sierra High School](#) offers a personalized learning model, where students work at their own pace, progressing once they've shown competency in a subject. Personalized learning is supported through design of spaces in the school that encourage a diverse, dynamic spectrum of activities including:

- In class, students experience adaptable learning environments that can shift from collaboration to individual teaching and learning. Large glass garage doors can connect individual classrooms with the open spaces.

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- Larger collaborative spaces are complemented by seminar rooms and smaller rooms, which are used for a wide array of individual quiet study time and small group activities.

“Collaborating with Summit Public Schools helped produce a space that stimulates active learning,” said Philip Riedel, principal architect at [NAC Architecture](#). “The design of Summit Sierra High School compliments the great teaching, sparks creativity and supports impromptu collaboration.”

Summit Sierra is a charter public high school. All Summit schools are state approved, tuition-free and open to all students. Learn more at <http://sierra.summitps.org/>

MEDIA

For more information, please contact Craig Kanaya at 206-718-8249.

About Summit Public Schools

Summit Public Schools is a leading charter management organization serving diverse communities in California and Washington State. Summit operates 11 schools and shares its personalized approach to teaching and learning with more than 300 schools across the United States for free. Historically, 99 percent of Summit Public School graduates are accepted into a university, and Summit Public Schools graduates complete college at double the national average. To learn more, please visit www.summitps.org.