Owner:
Lighthouse for the blind and visually impaired of San Francisco

Architect:
Mark Cavagnero Associates

Consulting Architect:
Chris Downey – Architect for the Blind

Lighting Design:
Auerbach Glasow

Electrical Engineer:
Glumac
The LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired of San Francisco

1155 Market St.
San Francisco, CA
Existing 11-story building
The LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired of San Francisco
The LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired of San Francisco

Project started in 2014
Completed in 2016
Design Process
Design Process

• Learning how low vision people see

• Understanding what visual cues are helpful or confusing

• Observing a class at the LightHouse
Visual cues
Visual cues
Visual cues
Luminaire review
Luminaire review
Luminaire review comments

- “Bright light on my hand is good, but I don’t want to see bright fixtures.”

- (2) T8 lamps in 6” wide lensed fixture is too bright to look at
Luminaire review comments

- “OMG! Too bright!”
- “Glary!”
- “It looks too stripey and too busy.”
“I really like this big glowing fixture.”
Requirements

- The space needs to look great for both low vision and normal vision people
- Light levels to be adjustable
- Shared office and private office with visitor seating area to be brighter than other private offices
- Meeting room to be bright
- Corridor to be bright to recognize faces
Light levels in the old facility

- Most comfortable meeting room: 50 fc to 80 fc
- Computer training area: 30 fc to 60 fc
- Corridors: 7 fc to 15 fc – not enough light
Target light levels for the new facility

- Meeting rooms & non-computer training rooms: 
  50 fc to 80 fc

- Computer training rooms: 
  40 fc to 50 fc

- Corridors: 
  15 fc to 25 fc
Title 24
Design results
Design results

- Circulation
- Fitness room
- Use of colors
Visual cues
Circulation
Circulation
Circulation
Circulation
Circulation
Fitness room
Fitness room
Color
Color
Color
Color
Create visual environments with sufficient lighting, minimal glare, access to daylight and exterior views, and care with light transitions.

Include well-planned design elements like contrast and value differences to provide useful visual cues.
QUESTIONS?