



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAFAEL GAMO

CALA

Somerville, Massachusetts

- TYPE
Commercial
- SIZE
28,939 sq. ft.
- COMPLETION
June 2020

This public green space is home to 74 murals that total in 4,320 square feet of community art.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Client
Sebastián Mariscal

Landscape Architect
Groundview Design

Green Roof Types
Intensive and Extensive

Plant Types
Non-invasive
wildflowers, bushes,
and trees; sedum

Green Roof Design
Groundview Design

Green Roof Installation
Recover Green Roofs

General Contractor
Kaplan Construction

Hardscaping Installation
Recover Green Roofs

Irrigation Installation
Recover Green Roofs



Once a vacant elementary school, CALA (Community Architecture Landscape Art) was granted a new lease on life when architect Sebastián Mariscal secured development rights on the property from the City of Somerville. The sunken central courtyard, upper landing, and second floor balcony were each designated as green roofs in the renovation design, totaling in 28,939 sq.ft. of publicly accessible green space.

Recover installed all three sections of green roof, as well as the hardscaping for the courtyard and its connected pathways. Careful planning and creativity were required to continue a seamless paver pattern throughout. A transition from pedestal pavers to setting bed pavers became necessary at various points in the courtyard in order to maintain a uniform elevation over the undulating roof membrane.

Top left to bottom right: A view of the central courtyard from the upper landing || Upper landing sedum flowering mid-summer || CALA mural by Brian Hart, member of the Recover team