



# MELROSE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

## COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

**MARCH 18, 2024**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The meeting commenced with introductions of the project team and Facilities Directors, followed by an update from the Program Manager on the project's progress. Participants reviewed the engagement process for this phase and the engagement process that helped to provide a scope for the project. The architect team also introduced potential building options for the new middle school at MLA. The chosen project delivery method is Lease-Lease Back. Advancing to the schematic design phase, the focus is on finalizing the project scope and key design elements. The design process is expected to span 12 to 16 months.

Participants reviewed engagement highlights from the previous planning stage which included meetings with the MLA community and a survey that garnered approximately 300 responses. The project team outlined various engagement activities planned for the Spring to shape the decision of the building location, aiming for comprehensive feedback from students, parents, teachers, staff, and neighbors at MLA.

The meeting proceeded with an overview of the project details and a presentation of the building location options. Architects also reviewed the floor plan for the existing building, which comprises 8 classrooms on the first floor and 9 classrooms on the second floor and 7 portables, totaling 22 classrooms. All classroom spaces were accounted for, including those utilized for purposes such as the afterschool program.

The architect team explored diverse options for the new building's location considering community preferences and play space preservation. Choices ranged from attaching the new structure to the existing one for internal circulation and play space retention along Monticello Ave to separate L-shaped or long buildings impacting circulation differently. Lower yard options faced challenges like geological constraints and fire lane obstructions, making them less feasible. A chart detailed each option's classroom layout, elevator, stairwell needs, and utility connections, emphasizing features like gender-neutral restrooms and solar heat gains.

## **BUDGET**

The total budget for the project is \$36.5M. A notable allocation of \$2M was dedicated to constructing an ADA-compliant ramp from the upper yard to the lower yard, enhancing accessibility. The construction budget itself is set at \$22.2M, with an additional \$12.3M earmarked for mandatory soft costs.

This portion of the soft cost budget encompasses various essential elements such as professional contracts, permits, and inspections, ensuring the comprehensive success and compliance of the project.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- *March 25 to March 29, 2024:* The Project Team will collect feedback from students, teachers, staff, and the community via a survey. The survey consists of collecting preferences on what to consider when making the final recommendation of the new building location.
- *April, 2024:* The Facilities Planning & Management team will reach a final decision on the location of the building based on the processed feedback from the MLA community. Following this decision, the team will promptly follow up with the site to communicate the chosen location for the new middle school building.
- *Fall, 2024:* The design phase for this project will continue next fall where we will be exploring all the new features of the new middle school building.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **General Inquiries & Feedback**

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### **Project Feedback & Questions**

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