



MELROSE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION - PLANNING PHASE

OCTOBER 5, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this Community Input Session, participants discussed the reduction of the project budget and learned about past and future work on the Sherman Campus. The project team reviewed scope options and survey data. The data reflected the preferences of community members and teachers providing valuable insights into school community perspectives.

BUDGET

Participants were briefed on the necessity of eliminating the overall project budget for the Sherman Campus upgrades. The primary reason cited was the comparatively better condition of the Sherman Campus in relation to other elementary schools. A discussion on the exponential rise in project costs due to inflation further underscored the need for budget reduction.

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. All budget changes were approved by the OUSD Board through the Revised Spending Plan.

SHERMAN CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Some recently completed upgrades on the Sherman Campus involved new painting, lighting improvements, restroom replacement near the play yard, and other work. Planned upgrades include a collaborative project with Kaboom!, the Eat Learn Play Foundation, and OUSD Facilities Planning & Management Department, which will introduce new structures, a nature play area, and sport courts. Other enhancements include an additional FloWater system, heat mitigation for classrooms, and various building upgrades.

PROJECT OPTIONS

During the session, the project team presented three project options aimed at providing middle school facilities for MLA students. The options encompass:

- **Option 1:** *Modernization of Existing Structure.* A renovation to align with middle school standards, which will provide upgraded classrooms and labs.
- **Option 2:** *Construction of a New Classroom Building.* The creation of a two-story, 10,520 sq. ft. building with new standard-sized classrooms and labs.
- **Option 3:** *Development of a Multipurpose Building.* Construction of an 8,000 sq. ft. multipurpose building housing a gym and stage area.

As part of the presentation, participants were informed about the carbon reduction benefits associated with choosing an option featuring a new structure, which aligns with OUSD's Sustainability initiatives.

Results from an online survey of 18 community members and 13 teachers were shared. Notably, the top preference for both groups was the construction of a new middle school building.

NEXT STEPS

- October 12, 2023: Community Input Session. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the three proposed project options. This interactive session will allow participants to have their questions addressed directly by the architects, fostering a collaborative and informed decision-making process.
- November 13, 2023: MLA Staff Meeting. The meeting will focus on presenting and reviewing options for the Maxwell Park Campus. HKIT Architects will lead in ensuring that teachers and staff gain a better understanding of proposed plans.
- November 15, 2023: Student Visit to HKIT Architects. A chaperoned group of students from the Youth vs. Apocalypse group visit the selected architectural company to review HVAC options and their different cost implications.
- November 28, 2023: Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting. Members will discuss poll data from surveys conducted with parents, students, teachers, and community members. PAC members will weigh in on their final recommendation.
- November 30, 2023: The Facilities Planning & Management Department will make a final decision based on the processed feedback. Following this decision, the team will follow up with the site and public to communicate the chosen project scope. This marks the closeout planning phase.

CONTACT INFORMATION

General Inquiries & Feedback

oaklandbuilt@ousd.org

Project Feedback & Questions

Ray Bermudez

Community Engagement Specialist

Facilities Planning & Management

ray.bermudez@ousd.org



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