CUBBERLEY
CO-DESIGN

MEETING 2 SUMMARY



Palo Alto Unified School District

CITY OF PALO ALTO

concordia
architecture | planning | community engagement



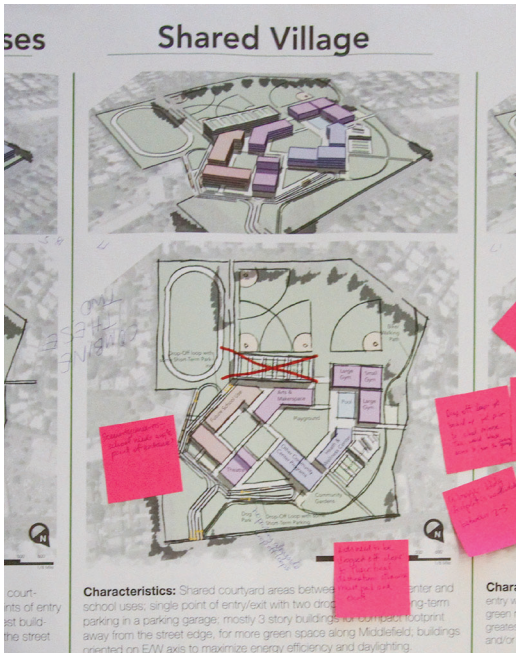
ABOUT MEETING 2

118 community members participated at the second Cubberley Co-Design meeting. They refined their visions for future program needs and evaluated three conceptual layouts for the site based on input from Meeting 1.



The Palo Alto Unified School District and the City of Palo Alto hosted the second of four Cubberley Co-Design meetings at the Cubberley Pavilion on November 1st, 2018. The meeting included two small-group activities, each of which built on the activities from the first meeting. The first activity focused on program development and the second focused on site organization.

In the first activity, participants reviewed a list of the most popular programs from the first meeting and used stars to prioritize their preferences. They then chose three programs to describe in more detail, responding to four open-ended prompts. In the second activity, residents analyzed and evaluated three different site layouts that represented the range of massing ideas shared in the first meeting. The layouts demonstrated a range of building heights, ratio of green space to building footprint, parking strategies, and overall site organization. Participants scored each site layout on how successfully it addressed six different criteria: (fill in the six criteria). And then as a group, each table then ranked the layouts overall and provided additional comments for improvement.



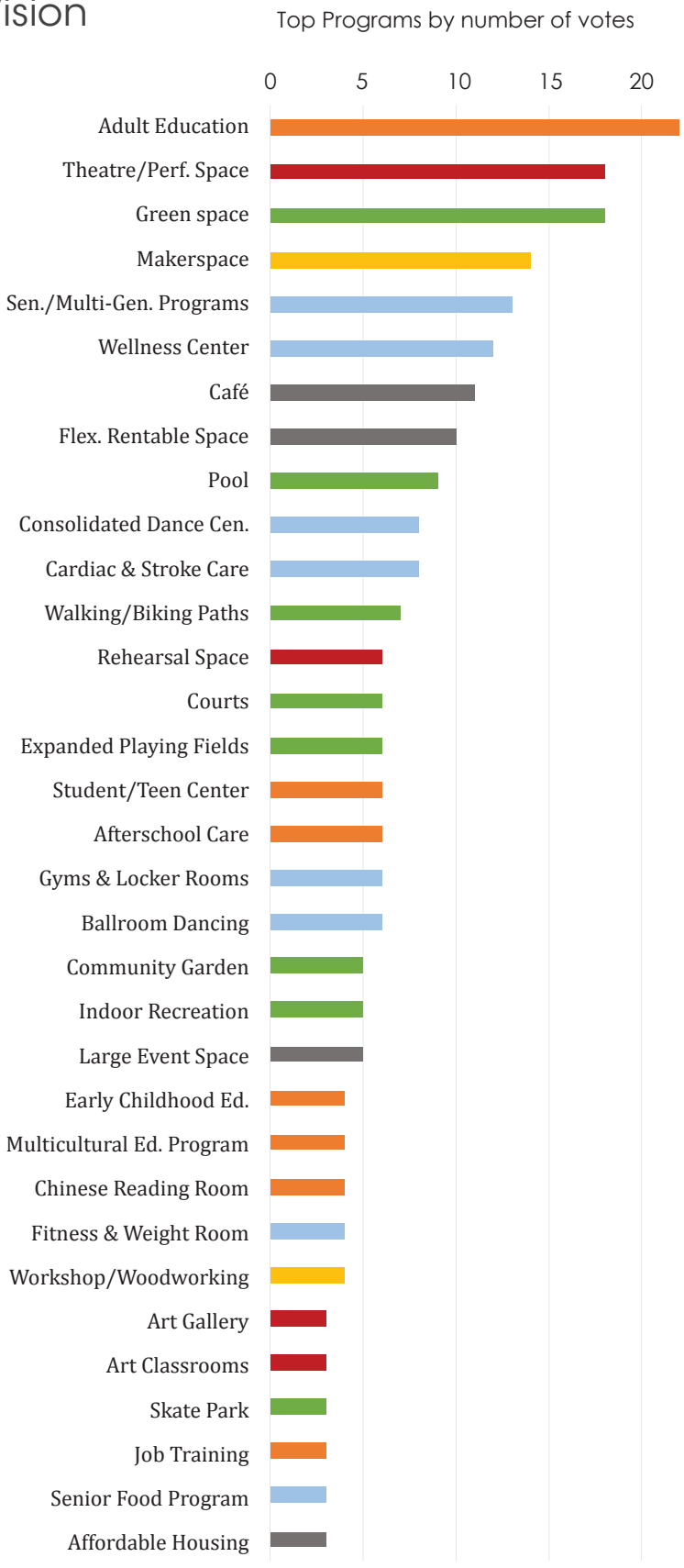
This document summarizes the input gathered at the meeting. Full verbatim comments and input are available for download as a separate file on the project website at www.pausd.org/cubberleycodesign.

ACTIVITY 1: Honing the Program Vision

Prior to the first activity, Concordia presented the results of Meeting 1, in which residents discussed program needs and connections, as well as building and parking structure heights.

Meeting participants then transitioned into their first activity, reviewing the most popular programs suggested in the previous meeting and voting on their favorites. Each table group was given 15 star stickers, equal to one vote each. Participants allocated their stickers across the board to indicate their preferences. The bar chart to the right shows the most popular programs based on the combined votes. Programs that received two stars or fewer are not shown here.





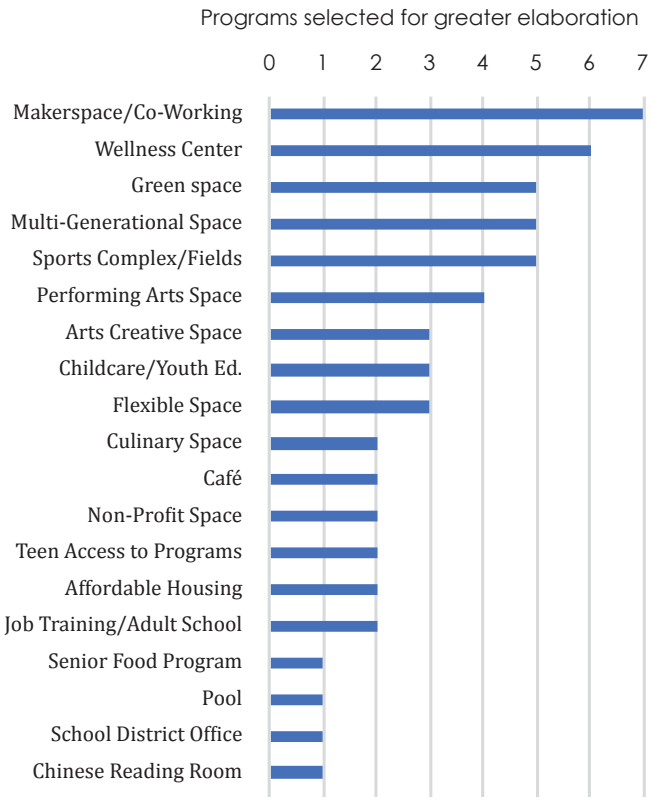
The chart above shows the programs that received the most votes in Activity 1. Each table had 15 individual votes, which could be however the group determined, including assigning more than one vote to any single program.

Elaboration on Programs

After residents voted on their top programs, they chose 3 Programs to describe in greater detail, responding to these 4 prompts:

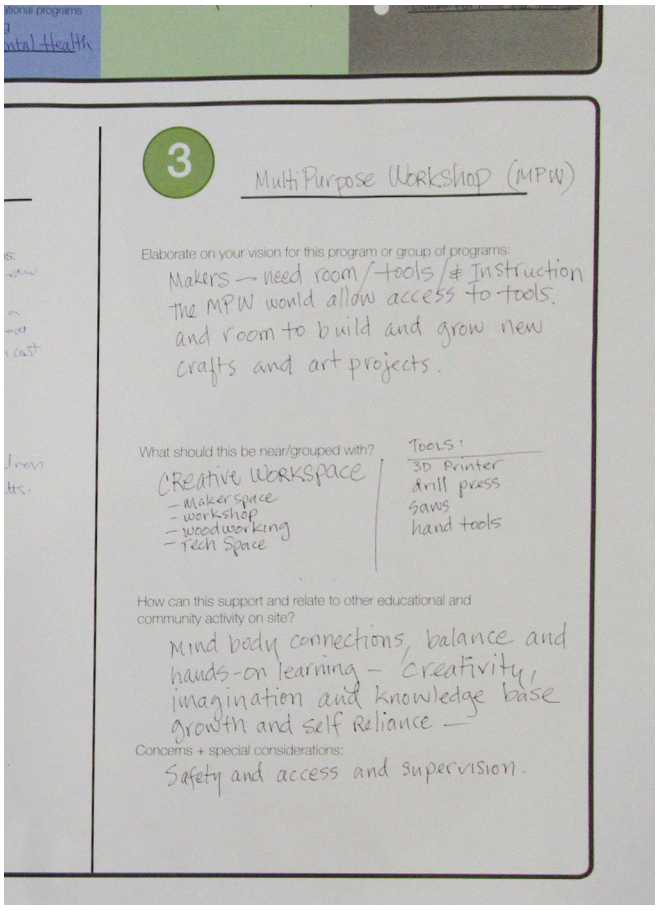
1. Elaborate on your vision for this program or group of programs.
2. What should this be grouped near/grouped with?
3. How can this support and relate to other educational and community activity on site?
4. Concerns and special considerations

The chart to the right shows the programs most selected for greater elaboration in order of their frequency, with Makerspace/Co-Working being the most frequently selected. Summaries of the input received on these programs are organized below. Some priorities that were mentioned include ample, usable, easily accessible green space, preservation of existing programs at Cubberley, and not duplicating nearby assets.



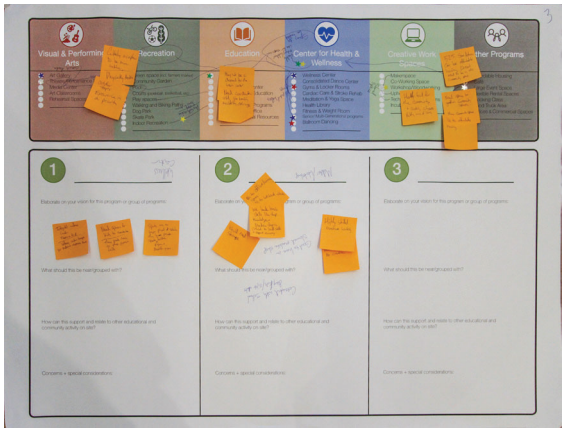
Makerspace/Co-Working Space: Residents suggested the space include a variety of programs such as woodworking, tech space, 3D printing, upholstery, machine working, and more, equipped with the necessary tools and staff to help run the facility. Residents are mainly concerned with the noise from power tools. They suggested that the music, dance, and other performance spaces be located further away so that there is no noise pollution. Participants also suggested adult education classes be nearby or have adult education courses in the space at night when younger students aren't using the facility.

Wellness Center: Residents value the existing heart health and wellness facilities that currently exist at Cubberley and would like to preserve and expand them. Additionally, they cited the need for more facilities that promote exercise and sports. Residents requested that the wellness center be located near the gyms and fields and include a therapy pool and meeting space for speakers. Residents also suggested adding a health library to integrate the center with the future school.

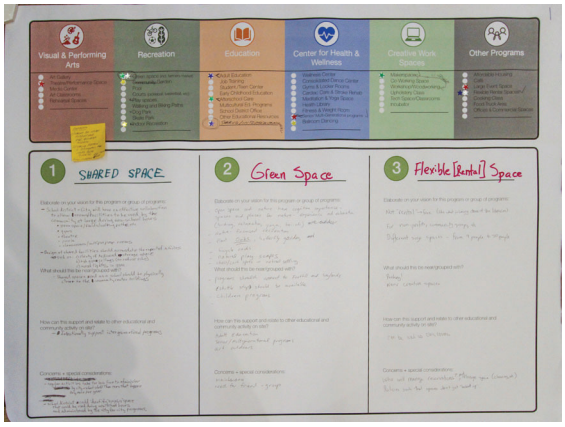


Program Visions

Green space: Residents requested additional un-programmed green space. This space could then function as outdoor meeting space for events like farmer's markets, festivals, etc. If there is programmed space, residents suggested natural play spaces, walking paths, and gardens (to partner with café or culinary school). Residents also requested that there be bathrooms and parking easily accessed from the outdoor activities.



Multi-Generational Space: Residents envisioned a space that includes programs and classes for all skill levels and attracts students of all ages. Residents also want a space that accommodates programs for seniors and youth to interact, such as a youth volunteer program to help with senior programs on site.



Sports Complex/Fields: Residents elaborated on the sports facilities needed at Cubberley, including courts for basketball, tennis, and pickleball, and fields for soccer. They suggested that turf fields could be useful during a drought so that the soccer clubs can still play.

Performing Arts Space: Residents requested a performing arts space that can accommodate many different functions, including dance, theater, and symphonies. Such a space would include full technical capabilities such as a fly space, light boards, and acoustic design. Some also requested a smaller black box theater and a media center equipped with camera and broadcasting equipment. Residents also emphasized that the auditorium have an accessible loading dock or zone and ample parking for events.



Arts Creative Space: Residents cited a need for a space for artists and creatives to create and display work. They suggested adding studios for visual artists and a gallery to showcase their work. Participants also described having spaces around the entire site that allow for artists' work to be exhibited. They also suggested that this focus on the arts could potentially influence the future school to serve as an arts magnet school for the city.

Childcare/Youth Education: Residents would like affordable, on-site childcare services to make it easier for adults to attend classes. They recommended that the childcare space be located in a safe, well-supervised location on site, with minimal car traffic.

Flexible Space: Residents specified that flexible meeting spaces be available to accommodate a variety of uses. They suggested that these spaces could be offered for a reduced rate or donated to non-profits and community groups. Residents are open to both long- and short-term rentals, as long as the community is prioritized over larger for-profit companies and entities.

Program Visions

Culinary Space: Residents described a space that could be used as a commercial kitchen, usable for cooking classes, catering for group events and senior meal programs. Participants want the space be part of a larger event space for catering purposes. Some residents suggested cultivating organic produce at an on-site community garden.

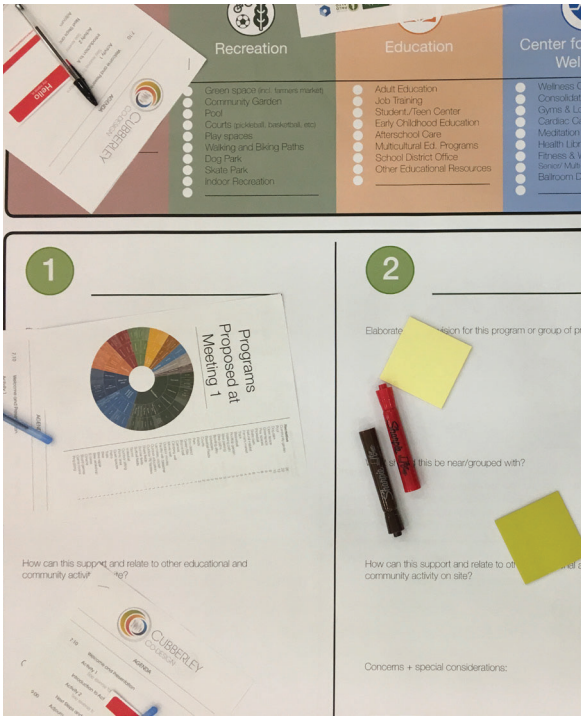


Café: Among those who want to see a café on site, they suggested that it be centrally located with indoor and outdoor seating options. Participants also discussed a menu that includes a variety of health food options and perhaps offer beer and wine at night for performances. Residents also suggested the café be used for job training or work for youth/seniors.

Non-Profit Space: The two groups that elaborated on non-profit space emphasized the need for these spaces to be updated with essential technology and tools to provide professional services

Teen Access to Programs: The two groups that focused on making the site accessible to teens discussed the need for walking and biking accessibility to the site. They also suggested an LGBTQ center, mental health support for youth, and a media center.

Affordable Housing: Residents that support affordable housing suggested it only be available to teacher and workers on site, seniors, and artists. Some residents suggested that housing be located at 525 San Antonio instead of on Cubberley. Other residents are strongly opposed to including housing on a community-use site, citing safety concerns, its Public Facilities zoning designation, and other factors.



Job Training/Adult School: Those who elaborated on job training emphasized the need for ESL classes, job skill training, and computer training.

Senior Food Program: One group discussed a senior food program. They would like to see lunch space for seniors run by La Comida.

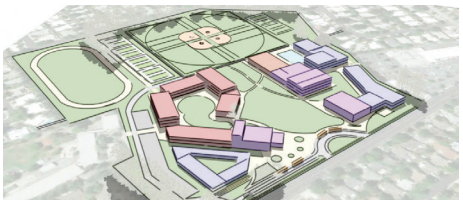
Pool: One group chose the potential swimming pool to elaborate on and multiple groups added notes about their visions for this space. Some described an indoor heated therapy pool, and others described an outdoor recreation lap pool. Everyone agreed that regardless of its specific programming, the pool should be located near or within the wellness center. However, there was some pushback on the addition of a swimming pool at Cubberley, citing the Greenmeadow Community pool only a few blocks away.

School District Offices: One table suggested the school district office consolidate into a professional space on site.

ACTIVITY 2: Site Design

For Activity 2, residents reviewed three conceptual site layouts. They were asked to rate the concepts according to six criteria: Arrival, Parking & Safety, Landscape & Greenspace Organization, Program Distribution, Balance of Buildings & Greenspace, Being a Good Neighbor, and Pedestrian Circulation Through Site. After, residents ranked the three concepts overall and added comments. The graphic below shows the conceptual layouts and participants' average ratings and rankings for each concept.

Independent Campuses





Average Rank
(1 is best, 3 is worst)

2.03

Element Scores
(5 is best, 1 is worst)

Arrival, Parking & Safety	2.53
Landscape & Greenspace Organization	3.22
Program Distribution	3.53
Balance of Buildings & Greenspace	3.19
Being a Good Neighbor	3.25
Pedestrian Circulation Through Site	3.00

Shared Village





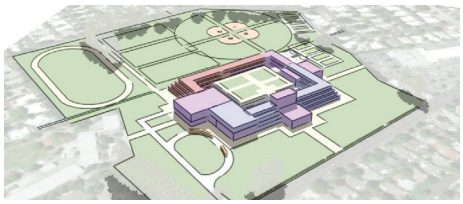
Average Rank
(1 is best, 3 is worst)

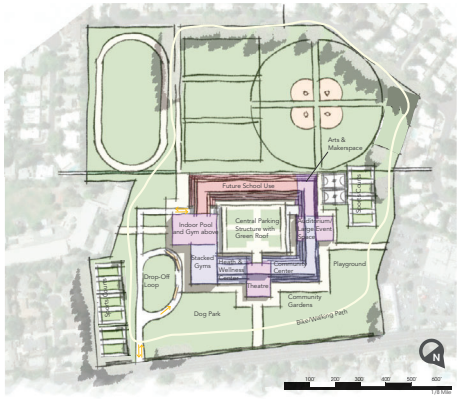
1.22

Element Scores
(5 is best, 1 is worst)

Arrival, Parking & Safety	2.39
Landscape & Greenspace Organization	3.17
Program Distribution	3.82
Balance of Buildings & Greenspace	3.82
Being a Good Neighbor	3.81
Pedestrian Circulation Through Site	3.41

Building in a Park





Average Rank
(1 is best, 3 is worst)

2.75

Element Scores
(5 is best, 1 is worst)

Arrival, Parking & Safety	2.47
Landscape & Greenspace Organization	3.18
Program Distribution	1.76
Balance of Buildings & Greenspace	2.29
Being a Good Neighbor	2.88
Pedestrian Circulation Through Site	2.65

Site Vision

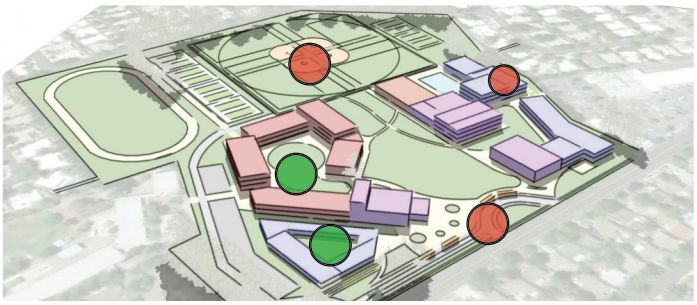
Residents commented on each of the concepts, summaries of which are below each image to the right. In addition to comments pertaining to each conceptual layout, residents contributed general comments and feedback across all three.

Parking and ingress/egress was the topic that garnered the lowest ratings across all the concepts, and residents contributed ideas to help improve it. Many said that parking need to be spread out so that there is easy access to as many programs as possible. They said that there needs to be extra entrances and exits to mitigate congestion on Middlefield Road. There is considerable support for underground parking but some residents have concerns about ease of access, safety, and car fumes. Some suggested that the underground parking needs to be closer to the programs; several suggested it be directly under the buildings rather than below the fields. Residents said that the drop-off area is needed but should be expanded and closer to programs that are for children and/or seniors so that they don't have to be escorted in. There was also some concern about safety and congestion for these drop-off points during peak hours.

Residents discussed support for shuttle drop-off public transportation to Cubberley. Bike parking and safe bicycle access is also important to the community. They said that especially once this is a school that they will want to dissuade using cars to travel to the site and encourage biking as much as possible. There was strong support for a bike/pedestrian path around the site.

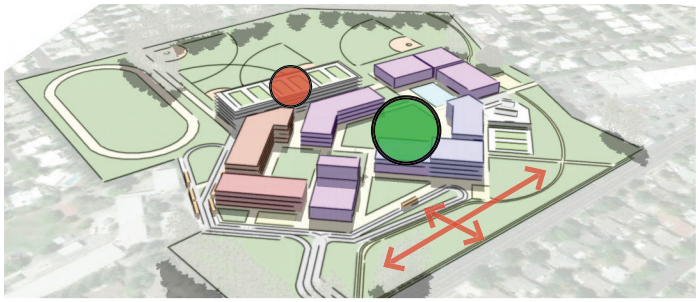
If there is a playground, residents would prefer it to be near the sports fields so that parents can keep watch of multiple children. Participants indicated that the fields are used for soccer more than softball and should be planned to ensure multiple soccer games can occur simultaneously.

Independent Campuses



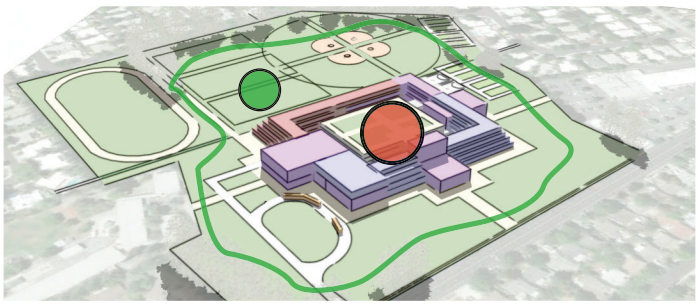
Residents liked the separate school campus for safety. They also liked the courtyard near the school, especially for younger children. Residents would prefer more drop-off space and surface parking near the wellness center. They also commented that the field design should be focused more on soccer than baseball.

Shared Village



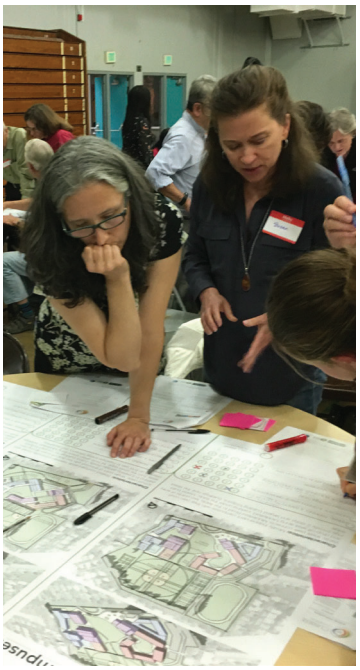
Residents appreciated the energy efficiency, program distribution, and scale of this site concept. They were concerned about the long distance between parking areas and program locations. They also suggested that there be less "dead" greenspace close along Middlefield.

Building in a Park



Residents particularly like the bike/walking path around the entire site. They also said that, of the three concepts, this one had the best field design. Residents were critical of the center structure, saying that it was too dense and compact.

Of participants who commented on the building placement, most suggested that the buildings could come closer to Middlefield Road than some of the concepts proposed, citing that green space would be better placed on the inside of the site, protected from the noise and bustle of Middlefield Road. Lastly, some residents raised concerns over the scale of the buildings, but overall the comments indicated that residents were comfortable with 2-3 story buildings, particularly if they are hidden by trees and placed away from Nelson Drive, which is consistent with what we heard in the first meeting.



The illustrated programs on the site diagrams prompted more discussion about some of the outdoor programs. Some participants disagreed about whether a dog park and lap pool should be included, given that those programs exist in walking distance at Mitchell Park and Greenmeadow Community Pool, respectively. Some suggested that instead of a lap pool, it would make more sense to include a smaller therapeutic pool, or other small pool as part of the Health and Wellness Center. There was also some disagreement about community gardens on site. While some appreciated them, others pointed out that if gardens and/or a dog park are included they should be somewhere quiet and away from classrooms so they don't distract from classes. Many mentioned the need for open, unprogrammed green space and more trees.

Overall, the results point towards a hybrid of concepts 1 and 2, with a heavier lean towards the latter. Additional focus needs to be directed towards adding multiple safe and efficient entrances for cars, bikes, and pedestrians, and reorganizing parking so it is accessible to all programs. Energy efficiency, green space, and safety for eventual students are priorities for community members.

Next Steps

Concordia is using the recommendations collected at Meeting 2 to inform a programming document that will be the guide for the design phase of the project. The feedback on the conceptual layouts will also directly inform the site design. At Meeting 3, residents will evaluate a rough draft of the site layout and participate in an activity focused on the look and feel of spaces, using design precedents to prompt the discussion.

All are welcome to attend future meetings whether they came to previous meetings or not! **Meeting 3 will be January 24th at the Cubberley Pavilion, from 7-9 p.m.** It will build on the work done at Meeting 2 and move the project towards a final plan.

You can RSVP for Meeting 3 now at eventbrite here: goo.gl/dUhFrb
Facebook Event page for Meeting 3: facebook.com/events/304842610120476/
For more information about Cubberley Co-Design, visit the web page at: pausd.org/cubberleycodesign

