



# MELROSE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MODERNIZATION

## COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

(DESIGN DEVELOPMENT)

**JANUARY 16, 2024**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The HKIT Architects and OUSD Project Team provided an update on the MLA modernization project, covering key areas such as building design, security features, outdoor spaces, murals, and color palettes. The presentation included revised design drawings, with discussions on classrooms, administrative spaces, and outdoor areas. Additionally, the team shared plans to survey the MLA community for feedback on proposed color schemes.

A major highlight of the meeting was the new controlled entry system, designed to enhance campus security. New doors will be installed, remaining open during arrival and dismissal but secured at other times. The office space layout will feature a principal's office, a nurse's office with an adjacent restroom, private phone rooms for confidential conversations, and flexible workspaces to accommodate staff needs. Building A will undergo structural reinforcements, requiring the removal of some existing finishes, including murals.

The discussion around murals and color palettes was a key point of community engagement. Designated spaces for future murals have been incorporated into the new building, and community input will guide mural designs. Attendees inquired about the possibility of preserving existing murals, with suggestions including photographing and recreating them or framing images of them. The team also introduced three proposed color palettes: one reflecting the existing building colors, a second featuring warmer tones, and a third inspired by the colors of the current murals. A survey will be conducted to gather input from the community.

Outdoor spaces were another focal point. The new play yard will include tables, a circular learning area, an outdoor whiteboard, and amphitheater-style seating to support both structured and flexible learning environments. Concerns were raised regarding outdoor lighting, particularly for sports fields. While pathway lighting is included in the plans, the team noted that sports field lighting is not currently funded, though they will explore budget options for it in future discussions. The courts will be striped for multiple sports, including soccer, pickleball, volleyball, and basketball, while incorporating existing features such as the turf field and track.

As the project nears the end of Design Development, a final review of drawings is planned for May of 2025. Concerns about potential funding reallocation were addressed, with the project manager confirming that the Board-approved contract for preconstruction services indicates stability.

## **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/April, 2025:* The community-at-large receive presentations about the final design of the new building and modernization of the existing building.
- *Fall 2025:* The OUSD Project Team will start engagement efforts around the new mural.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **General Inquiries & Feedback**

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### **Project Feedback & Questions**

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