

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION #4

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

Date: March 30, 2026

Location: Jefferson High School, Cafeteria

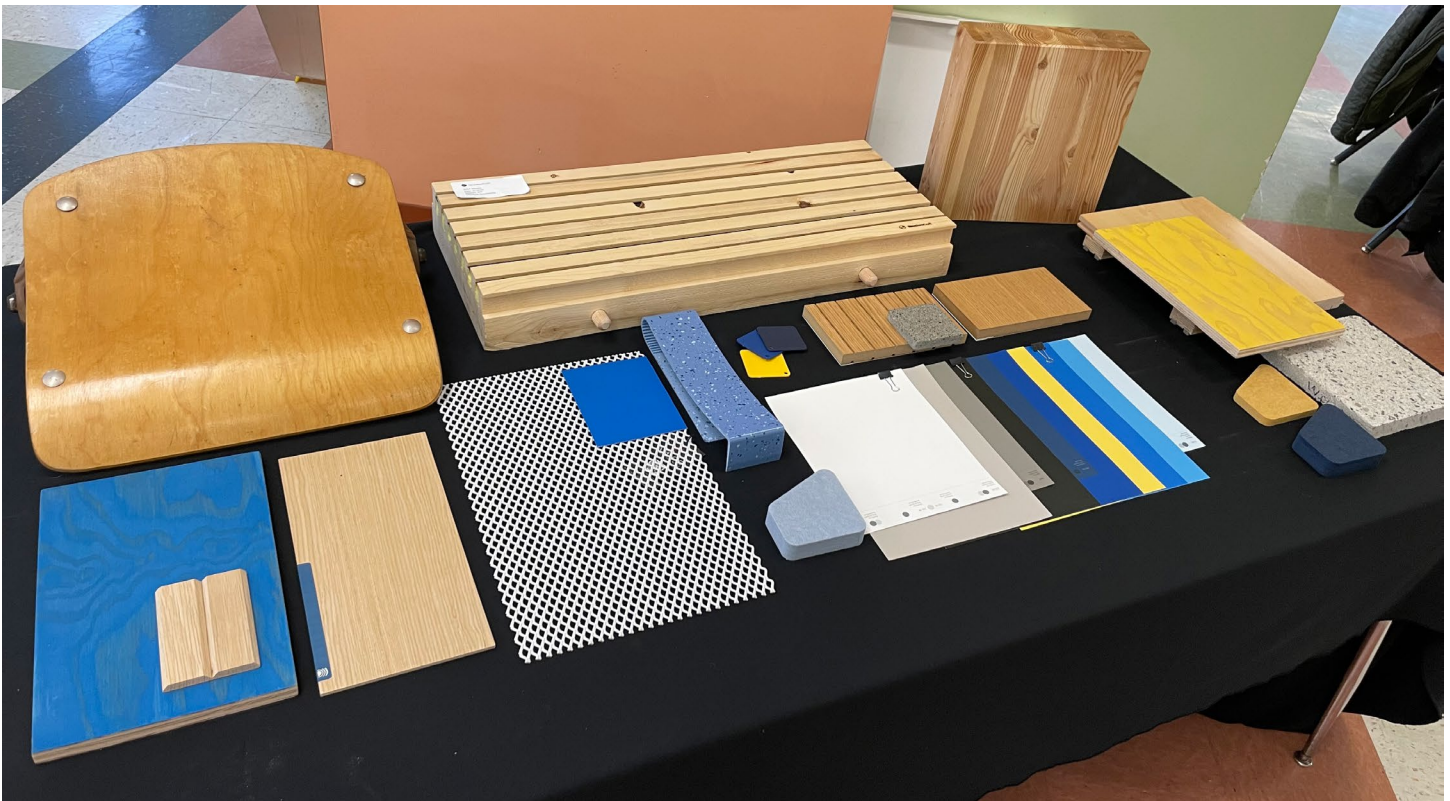
Design team: Bora, Colloqate, LEVER, PLACE, RISE, PPS

Participants: community members

Presentation Material: [Boards \(30" x 42"\)](#), [Presentation](#), [Handout](#)

As the modernization of the new Jefferson High School (JHS) progresses, community input continues to play an important role in shaping the project.

March's Community Information Session (CIS) featured the full design team and the boards featured elements such as updated interiors and environmental graphic design (EGD) from Bora for the Athletics Lobby, the Theater Lobby, and the Commons. Colloqate shared Cultural Placemaking throughout the new school and showed visualizations for lobby spaces, entries, and corridors. LEVER showed updated exterior conditions and PLACE shared the concept designs for the Crossblock as well as the site plan for the entire project. The design team is incorporating community input to design spaces and solutions that foster Jeff pride, celebrate the school's history, and create a welcoming environment for all.



Materials and color palette being considered for Jefferson High School



Site model showing location of the new JHS and the athletic fields



Exterior materials and chosen color palette

JHS TRACKING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



CULTURAL PLACEMAKING

The items below were identified by the community and relate to maintaining the legacy of Jefferson High School.

The team is incorporating cultural placemaking into the modernization project, creating a tangible legacy of excellence and history at Jefferson.

Opportunities on the site and building will be studied in more detail throughout the design phases to address these items, working with the Jeff community.

"Storytelling through the art and murals throughout the building, i.e. stories of diverse community histories, neighborhood history and legacy of Jeff, current student identities, influential cultural figures."

- a** Carry over historic artifacts from current school to new Jeff, such as artwork, stones, artifacts, building materials and elements. Choose and design these elements with extensive community involvement.
- b** Allow ways for student-initiated customization over time, so each class can leave their creative mark.
- c** Include graphic storytelling elements that depict the histories of BPOC communities at Jeff, within the broader context of events in Portland, the region, and the country.
- d** Create spaces for gathering and community celebration with cultural art and visual storytelling.
- e** Provide adaptable ways for new generation of students to personalize space while celebrating creative expression and achievements of previous generations.
- f** Collaborate with community stakeholders to identify pieces that should be kept and displayed as physical artifacts. Document and archive murals and art pieces in the building to incorporate into future exhibits.
- g** Celebrate history of Jefferson, provide range of display spaces throughout the building.
- h** Integrating culturally specific and diverse art throughout the building.
- i** Retain memorabilia from athletics spaces, recognizing these key stories and memories in Jefferson history.
- j** Integrate art throughout the site. Consider the old statue platform and walls of the building as opportunities for art.

SPATIAL DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

Through **previous community engagement**, these spatial design implications have been identified as important to the Jeff community. These implications are being evaluated as part of the modernization project. Throughout the design phases, the team is taking these implications under consideration and developing solutions which best address the community's input. The team will continue to share how the feedback of Jeff community is being incorporated into the project.

Each implication is color coded by narrative themes.



"Community accessible spaces to support leadership education and related types of programming."

"Top of the line stem facilities and programs - i.e. maker space, science lab."

- 1** Create various gathering spaces for both loud and quiet activities, accommodating large groups and smaller meetings.
- 2** Allow flexible, student-initiated customization over time, so each class can leave their creative mark on Jeff.
- 3** Employ Trauma Informed Design Principles such as: biophilic design strategies, natural light, materials and forms; multi-sensory with spaces for retreat, self-reliance and providing choice; consider lighting temperature and glare.
- 4** Create safe spaces for students to seek refuge or ask for help at the school, i.e. counselors, support groups - locate so its not connected with punishment/ control authorities.
- 5** Quiet/slow stimulus spaces (sensory space) for students who are experiencing sensory overload.
- 6** Allow for access to community programs beyond school hours.
- 7** Provide clear wayfinding for both students and visitors in multiple languages.
- 8** Provide spaces for students to work collaboratively or get tutoring help.
- 9** Ensure event spaces are accessible for community use outside school hours.
- 10** Locate the main entrance in a clear and visible place, both security and wayfinding considerations, in proximity to other services in the building, i.e. community resources, clinic, admin, etc.
- 11** Provide easily accessible stairs and convenient elevators to the natural flow of students through the school.

"Colorful and playful spatial elements to create a beautiful and welcoming school."

"Flexible spaces for non-class activities such as study and meetings are desired."

- 12** Provide accessible, safe and beautiful restrooms - considering diverse genders, cultural and religious norms and physical abilities. Provide all-user restrooms. Design bathrooms for a spectrum of users. Include single-user and family restrooms.
- 13** Provide commons with comfortable and welcoming space for gathering and student activities.
- 14** Provide spaces with view and connected to nature.
- 15** Provide state of the art classrooms with comfortable movable furnishings, spaces for pin up, and storage.
- 16** Provide spaces for PLAY.
- 17** Provide quiet and open outdoor places to connect to nature.
- 18** Spaces for gathering and community celebration, provide cultural art and visual storytelling.
- 19** Provide adaptable ways for each new generation of students to personalized space while preserving and celebrating creative expression and achievements of previous generations.
- 20** Provide color, playful elements to create a welcoming vibrancy across the school.
- 21** Provide distinguishable character for wayfinding across the school.
- 22** Provide space for new art and artifacts created by students, reflecting identities and stories.
- 23** Welcoming atmosphere for commons, with natural light, open food court style outside eating areas, self service stations for students who bring their lunch.

"Safe spaces to step away from classroom environment, that is not connected to administrative or punitive spaces, or in a location that is on great public display."
"Large community rooms for bigger events."

- 24** Provide flex spaces in the library with a calm environment, comfortable seating, study rooms and windows.
- 25** Provide hallways with seating areas and tables with outlets for students to do homework.
- 26** Provide ample natural light in working spaces.
- 27** Provide dance facilities that honor this special program at Jeff.
- 28** Prioritize physical health of school environment - air conditioning, proper heating, natural light, natural ventilation and views to the outside.
- 29** Dedicated spaces to do homework or mental health breaks aside from classrooms.
- 30** Reclaiming the unused field that is currently being used like a dog park.
- 31** Provide learning community garden with benches connecting to heritage from multiple cultures.
- 32** Create a safe site for students.
- 33** Site way finding - Consider flow of traffic for car drop off, buses, walking, and parking and clear signage indicating how to get around.
- 34** Provide usable outdoor buffer spaces with shade trees.
- 35** Provide places to study or have lunch in small peaceful nature gatherings.
- 36** Cover outdoor spaces and walkways so they can be used even when it is cold and raining.

BASE REQUIREMENTS

The spatial implications below are comments we heard from the community that align with the PPS Education Specifications requirements for high schools, PPS district standards and the Board approved space program for JHS and/or are required by current building codes. These items are considered **base requirements**. These items will not be separately tracked, but will be fully incorporated.

Spaces and amenities should be available to communities for events, learning partnerships, etc.

Provide spaces to facilitate community support networks, i.e. mentoring opportunities, student groups, connection with other schools.

Provide private changing areas in locker rooms. Gender inclusive spaces are necessary to help students feel safe in vulnerable spaces.

Consider safety and sense of welcome for students and visitors.

Provide a communal pantry, i.e. food, clothes, hygiene products - considering impact to student overall well-being.

Site and entry to be wheelchair accessible.

Provide easily accessible stairs and convenient elevators to the natural flow of students through the school.

Provide comfortable places for refuge and decompression.

Provide flexible spaces for non-class activities, studying, clubs, etc.

Consider flexible sharable spaces for cultural and religious needs.

Provide space for community gatherings, inside and outside use.

Provide theater, band, choir spaces. Provide art studios.

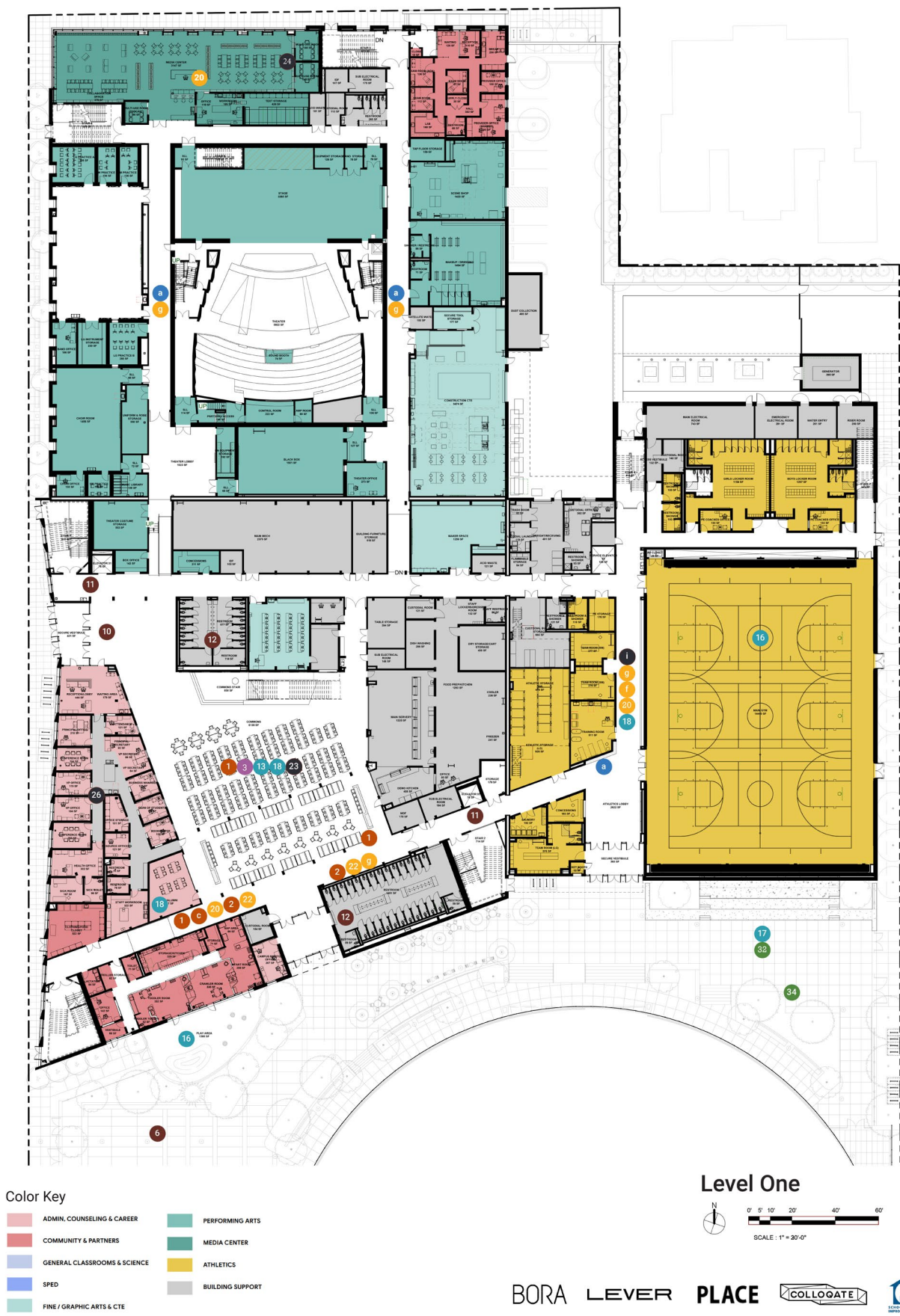
Provide top of the line STEM/ Science classroom.

Provide dedicated space for teacher planning, prep, and breaks.

Provide spaces for students to access mental health - suicide - substance abuse support.

Provide planted areas and covered outdoor seating space to gather, eat lunch, play and decompress.

JHS MODERNIZATION - FLOOR PLANS



JHS MODERNIZATION - FLOOR PLANS



Level Three



Level Four



Level Two

Color Key

ADMIN, COUNSELING & CAREER	PERFORMING ARTS
COMMUNITY & PARTNERS	MEDIA CENTER
GENERAL CLASSROOMS & SCIENCE	ATHLETICS
SPED	BUILDING SUPPORT
FINE / GRAPHIC ARTS & CTE	

JHS MODERNIZATION - COMMONS

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE PRELIMINARY IMAGES THAT ARE INTENDED FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY



A New Crossroads of the Jefferson Campus
At the center of it all, the Commons brings the Jefferson community together. Filled with daylight and energy, the design is inspired by the original "center hall," reimagined as a more spacious and flexible place for dining, connection, and celebration—supporting both school and community gatherings.



Adjacent to the main entry and school administration, the Commons is an organizational anchor at the heart of daily student life. An upper-level overlook offers seating and views along Kerby Avenue, as students move between classes, linking the two academic wings.



An environmental graphic featuring "Demos I say, You Know" anchors the main entry—inviting all into the spirit and identity of the Jefferson community.



Sectional perspective: Academic spaces are organized into two four-story wings centered around a two-story Commons with skylights. The design prioritizes balanced, high-quality daylight throughout classrooms, supporting a healthy and engaging learning environment.

JHS MODERNIZATION - THEATER

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE PRELIMINARY IMAGES THAT ARE INTENDED FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY



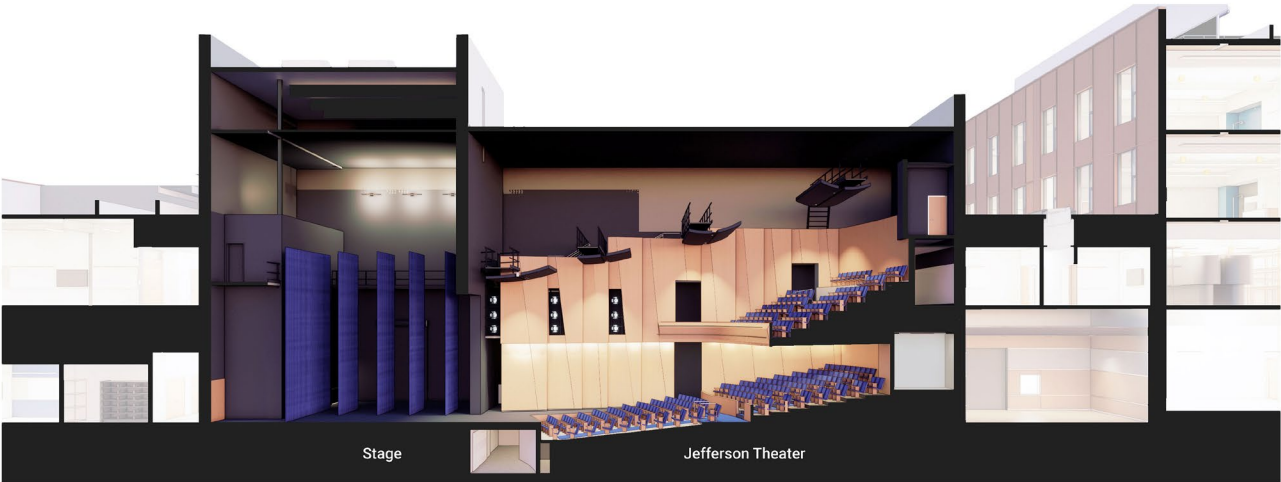
The Theater Lobby
A dedicated Lobby marks a moment of arrival—an immersive threshold into the 720-seat Jefferson Theater. Rich blue-stained plywood heightens the sense of drama, while an installation of reclaimed seats from the original theater weaves memory into the experience, linking Jefferson's past to its future.



The Box Office serves as a key connector between the main school entry and the Theater Lobby. Reclaimed "AUDITORIUM" lettering from the original Jefferson building creates a familiar point of orientation, connecting visitors to the school's history.



Within the Theater, faceted wood wall panels surround the audience with warmth, texture, and movement. A blue material palette infuses the space with Jefferson's spirit, energizing every performance.



Sectional perspective: The 720-seat Theater is shaped to deliver an exceptional experience from every seat, with a balcony that ensures strong sightlines throughout. Designed as a flexible, multi-use venue, it supports a range of performances, with a stage proportioned for dance.

JHS MODERNIZATION - MAIN GYM

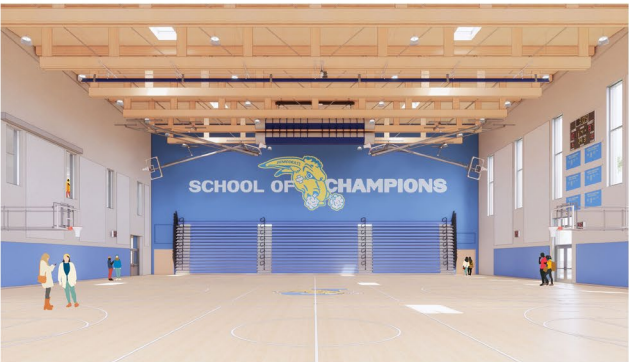
PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE PRELIMINARY IMAGES THAT ARE INTENDED FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY



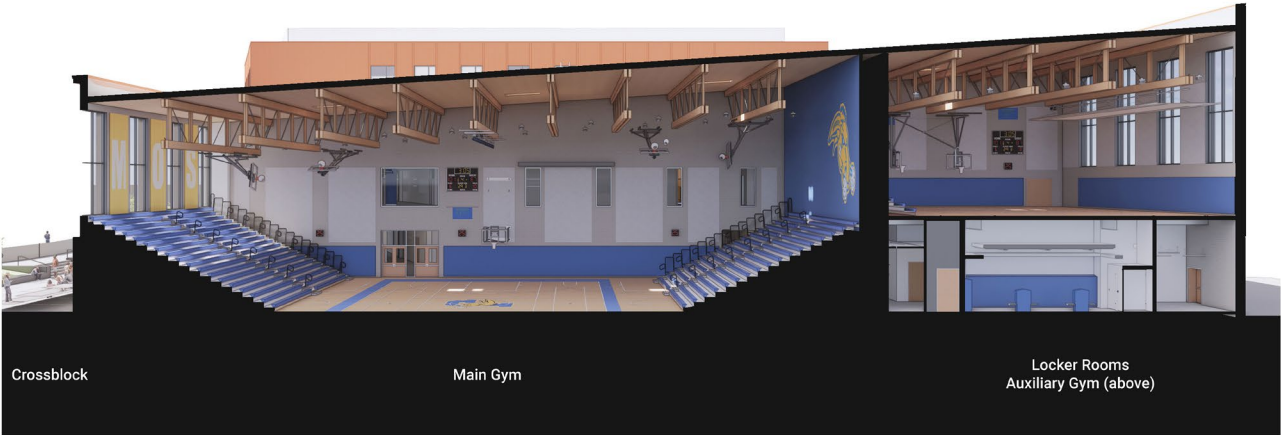
A Dedicated Athletics Lobby
A new Crossblock connection brings Demos directly from the fields into a dedicated Athletics Lobby. Reclaimed wood from the 1964 gym floor and bleachers from the original 1928 gym is transformed into a feature wall—welcoming Demos home with pride.



High windows bring in daylight that washes across the exposed wood trusses, energizing the space throughout the day. Expanded bleacher seating welcomes the full Jefferson community for games, assemblies, and shared moments.



The new Main Gym is designed for competition, celebration, and community—featuring full regulation courts, modern equipment, and enhanced safety.



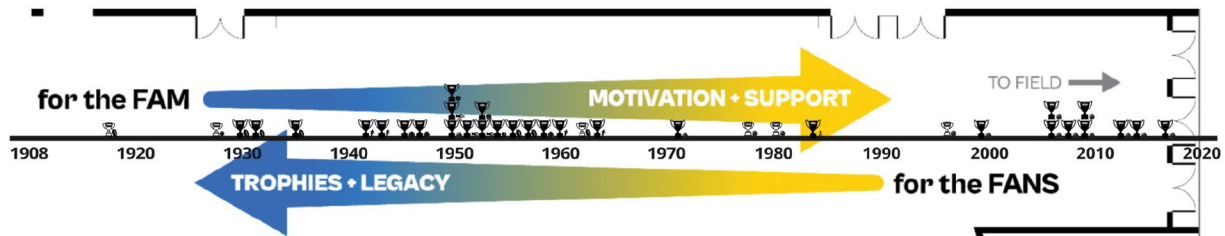
Sectional perspective: This view highlights the volume of the Main Gym, designed to meet official game requirements. To maximize the site's constraints, locker rooms and the Auxiliary Gym are efficiently organized in a stacked configuration.

JHS MODERNIZATION ATHLETICS STORIES

HALL OF CHAMPIONS: FOR THE FAM & FOR THE FANS

The "Hall of Champions" display motivates the fans and hypes up the fam with trophies, memorabilia, and cheering faces from past games proudly on display. This display reminds current students that they are a part of a legacy of champions. THEY are champions.

Jefferson's pride means showing up for each other, for the game, and for the legacy -- generation after generation!



+ 2nd floor: focus on community support moments in the works!

GATHERING THE STORIES...

A TIMELINE OF CHAMPIONSHIP

For generations, Jefferson athletics have been about more than winning games. They have been a source of pride, discipline, and opportunity — shaping leaders who carried Jefferson's values onto fields, courts, rings, and into their communities.



WHAT OTHER SIGNIFICANT STORIES
SHOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED?

SCAN QR CODE TO SHARE YOUR STORY

BORA LEVER PLACE

COLLOQATE



JHS MODERNIZATION ARTS CONCEPTS

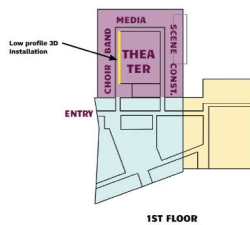
SHINING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FROM THE LEGACY OF CENTER HALL TO THE FUTURE OF JEFF



1ST FLOOR

SHINING IN THE SPOTLIGHT



1 ENCOURAGING STUDENT INTERACTION

legacy graphic panels filled with bold colors or graphics to provide moments of self expression



VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR DISPLAY

2 SHOWING OFF JEFF VIBES

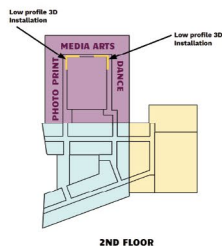
color and graphics present themselves boldly, edge lights create a theatrical effect

3 CELEBRATING HERITAGE

curated legacy graphics tell the stories of Jeff's arts programs, linking the school to the history of Albina

2ND FLOOR

SHINING IN THE SPOTLIGHT



4 TURNING THE CORNER

Second floor wraps the experience at each end



VIEW OF SECOND FLOOR DISPLAY

NOTE: RENDERINGS ARE PRELIMINARY IMAGES THAT ARE INTENDED FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY.

JHS MODERNIZATION ARTS STORIES

SHINING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The "Shining in the Spotlight" display celebrates the legacy of creativity at Jefferson high school, from program success highlights to stories of alumni heritage and influence. This display encourages current students to put themselves in the spotlight, and see what might shine!

Jefferson's arts programs give students a outlet to express themselves fully, becoming a home away from home, where creativity can flourish.



* Fine Arts on 2nd floor

GATHERING THE STORIES...

MEDIA

At Jefferson High School, media is about learning how to see, question, and shape the world. Through newspapers, photography, broadcasting, and hands-on production, Jeff students learned to tell real stories, showcase their communities, and inform the public.

TV Studio Highlight: In the TV studio, generations of students have stepped into the world of broadcasting: running cameras, preparing graphics, writing scripts, cueing music, and delivering news on-air — just like real professionals.



MUSIC

Jefferson March
"J stands for Justice
E for high Endeavor
F and his mate stand for Faith
and Fight
Willing we are to uphold the
right, And we will ever do our
very best"

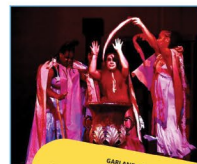
Jeff and Jumptown Highlight: Jefferson High School was at the heart of Portland's vibrant Black jazz, blues, soul, and funk scene known as Jumptown for its packed clubs, live bands, and creative energy. Venues like the Upstairs Lounge hosted local musicians and national touring acts, including Jefferson HS students!



THEATER

Jefferson High School is a training ground for students who go on to shape American theater and film.

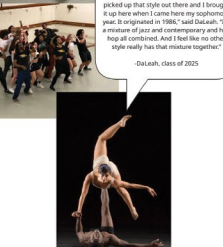
The Wiz Highlight: For many years, The Wiz has held special meaning at Jefferson High School. The musical—known for its celebration of Black music, culture, and storytelling—has been a powerful part of the school's performing arts tradition. When Jefferson students perform The Wiz, many say they feel truly represented on stage, seeing characters, music, and styles that reflect their own communities and identities. That tradition continues today. In 2026, performers from the national tour of The Wiz visited Jefferson to work directly with students.



DANCE

The story of the Jeff Dancers is about what's possible when talent meets high expectations, mentorship, and community. Students learn how to move with purpose, work as an ensemble, and carry themselves like professionals on and off the stage.

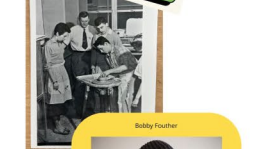
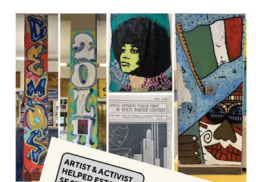
The Jefferson Dancers are known for discipline, range, and performance power, blending styles like African and African American dance, ballet, modern, jazz, and hip hop.



FINE ARTS

Jeff shapes artists who go on to influence Oregon's visual culture and public spaces. This includes teachers, mentors, and cultural organizers. Artists like Isaka Shamsud-Din and Bobby Fother use their work to uplift Black history and identity. Others were leaders in the Northwest modern art movement.

Jeff-trained artists helped ensure that art in Portland reflects the full story of its people.



WHAT OTHER SIGNIFICANT STORIES SHOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED?

SCAN QR CODE TO SHARE YOUR STORY

BORA LEVER PLACE

COLLOQATE



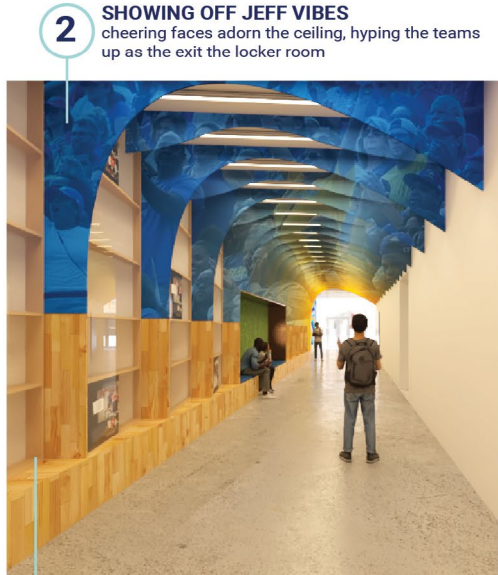
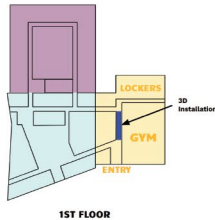
JHS MODERNIZATION ATHLETICS CONCEPTS

**FOR THE FAM
FOR THE FANS**
SCHOOL OF CHAMPIONS

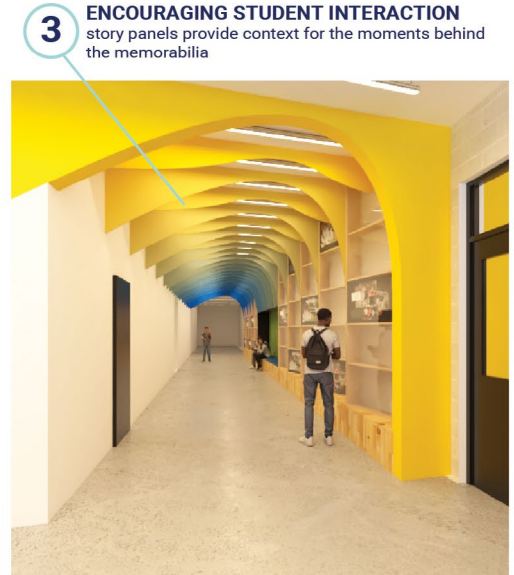


1ST FLOOR

FOR THE FAM - FOR THE FANS



2 SHOWING OFF JEFF VIBES
cheering faces adorn the ceiling, hyping the teams up as the exit the locker room



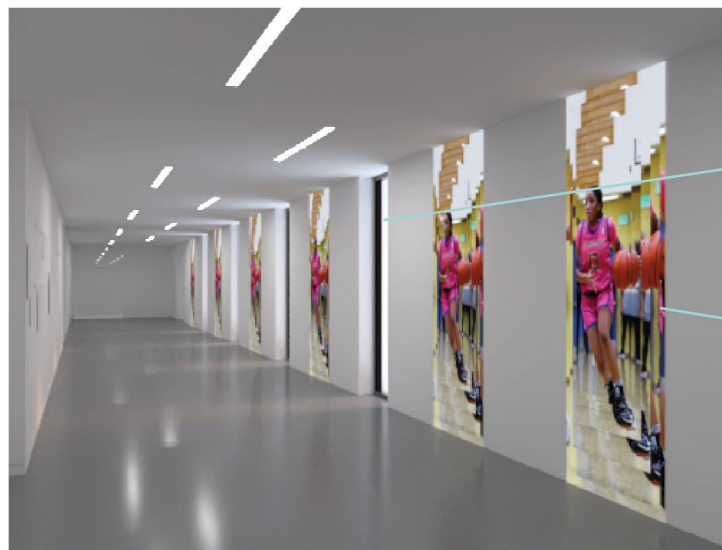
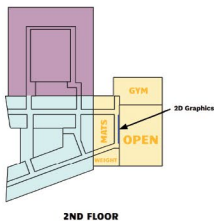
3 ENCOURAGING STUDENT INTERACTION
story panels provide context for the moments behind the memorabilia

VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR DISPLAY

1 CELEBRATING HERITAGE
display cases show the storied history of Jeff athletics success

2ND FLOOR

WINDOWS INTO STUDENT ATHLETICS



VIEW OF SECOND FLOOR DISPLAY

1 CELEBRATING HERITAGE
Graphic panels and windows create rhythm in the corridor

2 SHOWING OFF JEFF VIBES
illuminated graphic panels provide windows into the day-to-day experience of Jeff athletes

NOTE: RENDERINGS ARE PRELIMINARY IMAGES THAT ARE INTENDED FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY.

BORA LEVER PLACE

COLLOQATE



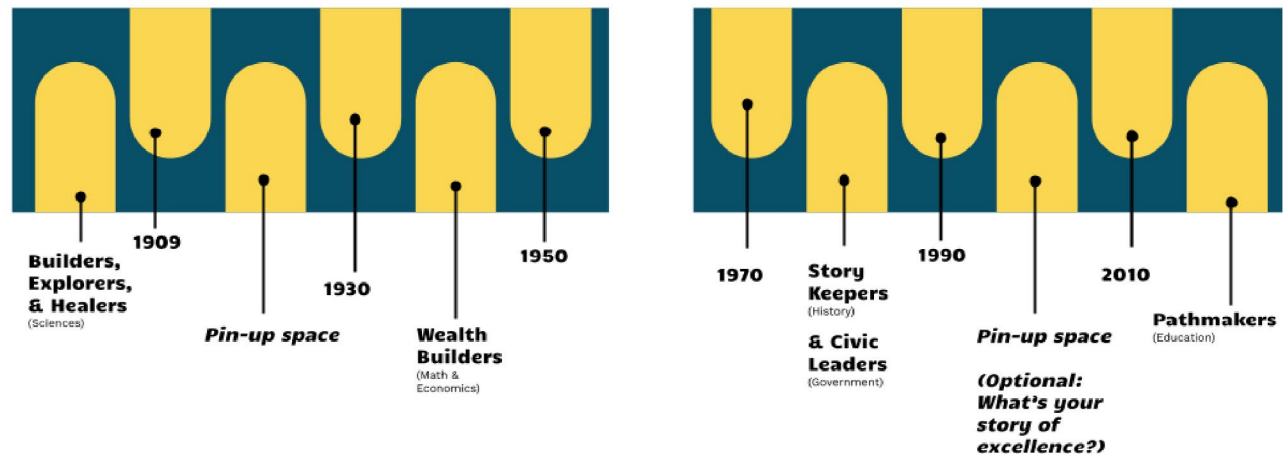
JHS MODERNIZATION ACADEMICS STORIES

BUILDING FUTURES

Jefferson's strength comes from people investing in one another — students lifting students, teachers believing in possibility, families carrying pride across generations.

The "Building Futures" display sets the broader context of Jefferson in the neighborhood while highlighting individual stories of alumni who have gone on to do amazing things. This display inspires current Jeff students to dream big!

Once a demo, always a demo.



GATHERING THE STORIES...

SETTING THE BROADER CONTEXT



1900s: School opened as Albina High School. The neighborhood was home largely to Scandinavian, German, Irish, Jewish, and Eastern European immigrants tied to Portland's rail yard and shipping industries. The school was renamed to Jefferson High School in 1909.

1911-1930s: Building additions expand classrooms, athletic facilities, and gathering spaces. **Jefferson's athletic dominance begins**

1948: Redlining and displacement following the Vanport Flood pushed Black families into North and Northeast Portland, establishing Jefferson as a vital community hub for Black & Indigenous residents and strengthening its role as a center of cultural and civic life.

1970s: Jefferson Dancers Started

1990s: Jefferson becomes an Arts Magnet School

1990s-2000s: Jefferson's television production program gains recognition for preparing students for real careers in broadcasting and media.

2000: The 4A Jefferson Democrats finish 28-0, win the State Championship, and become one of the most celebrated teams in school history.

Middle College Program launches, expanding access to higher education pathways.

2007: Self Enhancement, Inc. started the Jefferson Whole School model which moved the student graduation rate from 54% to 93% over a four-year period — and still anchors student success today.

2020s: After years of advocacy, Jefferson students move into a new, state-of-the-art building!

ALUMNI INSPIRATION STORIES (EXAMPLES)



WHAT OTHER SIGNIFICANT STORIES SHOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED?

SCAN QR CODE TO SHARE YOUR STORY

JHS MODERNIZATION ACADEMICS CONCEPTS

BUILDING FUTURES

FROM THE LEGACY
OF CENTER HALL
TO THE FUTURE OF
JEFF



1

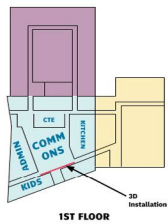
CELEBRATING HERITAGE
entry arches reference the 1909
building and Center Hall

3

ENCOURAGING STUDENT INTERACTION
a place where seniors can mark their final year in
high school

1ST FLOOR

BUILDING BLOCKS OF
SUCCESS



VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR DISPLAY

2

CELEBRATING HERITAGE
a space for stories of Jeff's moments
over time to be highlighted



VIEW OF FIRST FLOOR DISPLAY

NOTE: RENDERINGS ARE PRELIMINARY IMAGES THAT ARE
INTENDED FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY.

BORA LEVER PLACE



KILLINGSWORTH STREET / ARTS



Dance Studios



Corner of Killingsworth and Kerby



North Portland Library and Dance Studios



Media Center

KERBY ENTRY / ACADEMICS



Kerby Avenue



Kerby Avenue



Killingsworth Court



Main Entry

FIELDS / ATHLETICS



Track and Field + Gym



Track and Field + Gym



Crossblock



Crossblock

FIELDS / ATHLETICS



Aerial of Athletics and Fields



Grandstand looking onto Track and Field



Baseball Home Plate



Intersection of Alberta and Kerby

JHS MODERNIZATION - SITE PLAN

KILLINGSWORTH PRESENCE

- JHS IDENTITY MOMENT
- KERBY PEDESTRIAN GATEWAY
- LIGHTS + SEATING

MAIN ENTRANCE

- ENTRY COURT
- DEMOCRAT IDENTITY
- BIKE PARKING
- SEATING

CROSSBLOCK CONNECTION

- GATEWAY TO ATHLETICS
- SEMI-PUBLIC ACCESS THROUGH THE BLOCK
- ATHLETICS TICKET BOOTH
- INDOOR/OUTDOOR COMMONS SPILL-OUT
- TEEN PARENT CENTER SEPARATE ENTRY AND OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

KERBY PLAZA

- BIKE ROUTE CONNECTION
- NATIVE PLANTINGS
- EXISTING TREE PRESERVATION

TENNIS COURTS

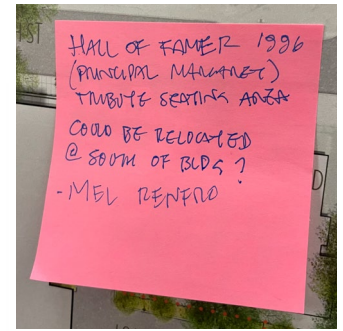
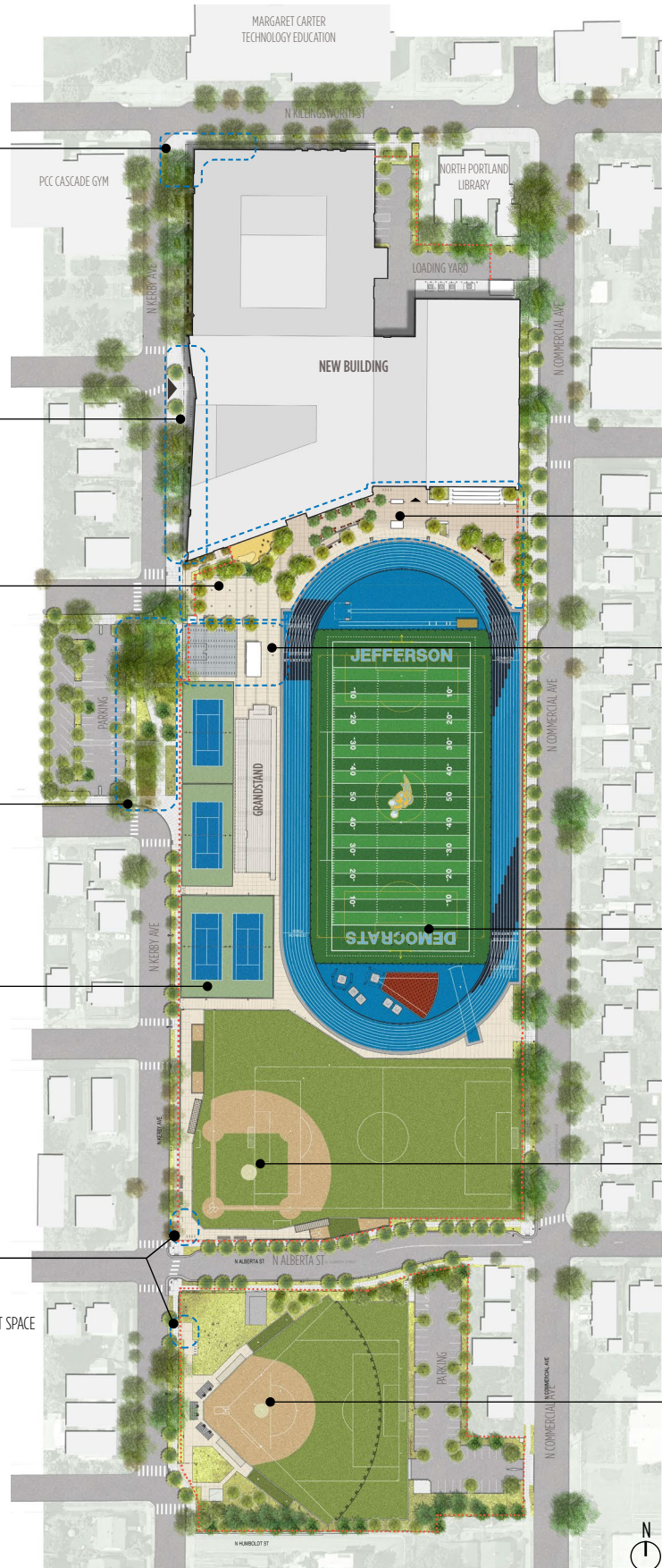
- 4 REQUIRED BY PPS ED. SPEC.
- COMPETITION SIZE

FIELD ENTRY

- FIELD ACCESS NEAR CORNERS
- CAMPUS GATEWAY MOMENT
- PEDESTRIAN GATHERING/ SEATING/PRE-EVENT SPACE

LEGEND

- PROGRAM ZONES
- SECURE PERIMETER
- ▲ PRIMARY BUILDING ENTRIES



ATHLETICS ENTRANCE

- BIKE PARKING
- COMMUNITY GATHERING/PRE-EVENT SPACE
- HERITAGE STEPS / ATHLETICS SPILL-OUT
- SEATING AND GATHERING
- GRAND FIELD ENTRY FROM ATHLETICS

FIELDS COURTYARD

- CONCESSIONS AREA
- ATHLETIC SUPPORT + TRAINING
- SPORTS EVENT GATHERING
- COVERED BIKE SHELTER WITH SECURE AREA

FOOTBALL FIELD COMPETITION

- SOCCER FIELD COMPETITION
- TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS COMPETITION

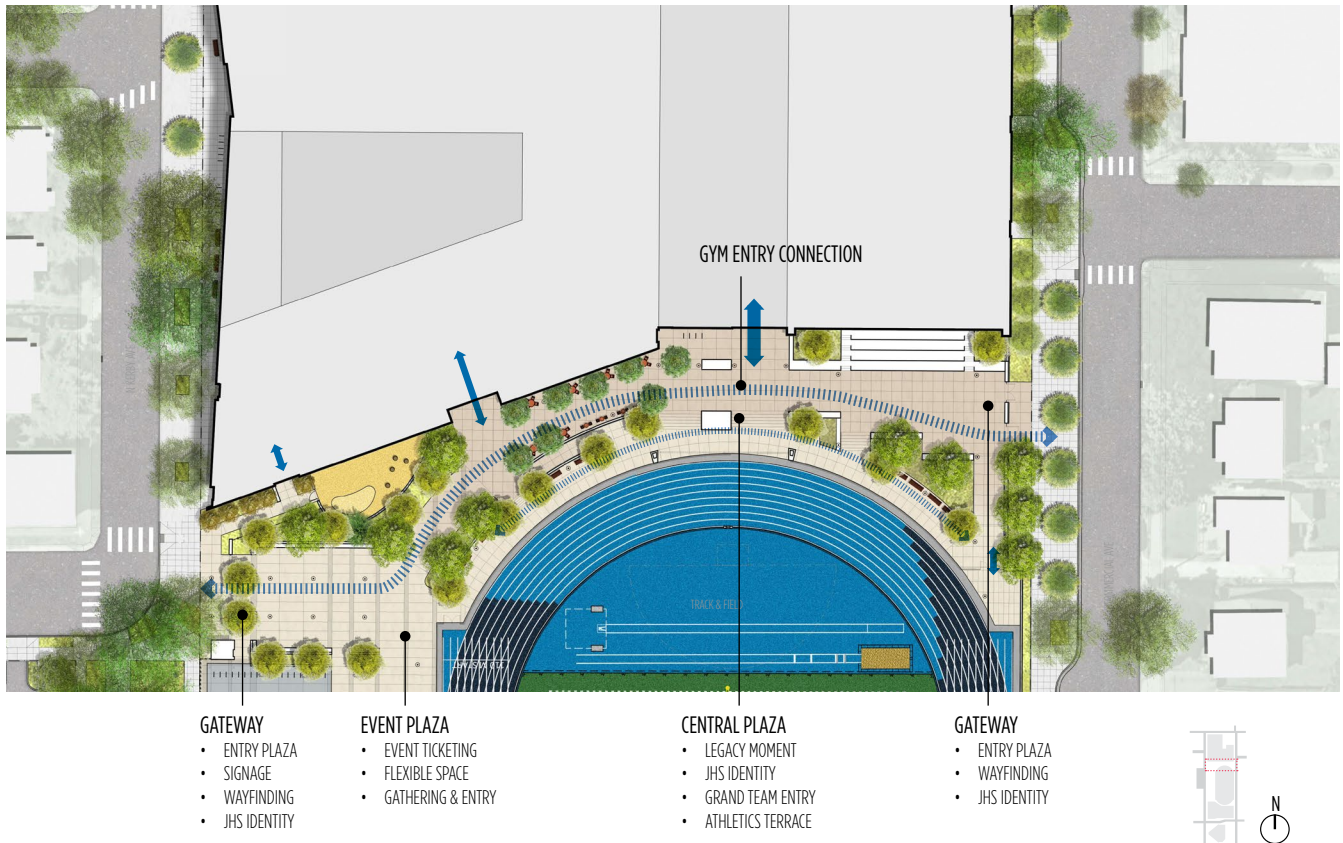
BASEBALL FIELD COMPETITION

- MULTI-USE PRACTICE FIELD

SOFTBALL FIELD COMPETITION

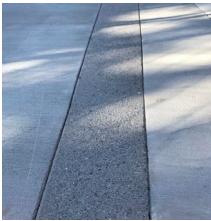
- MULTI-USE PRACTICE FIELD

CROSSBLOCK - PROGRAM & PLACEMAKING



CROSSBLOCK MATERIALITY AND CHARACTER

SITE ELEMENTS



CONCRETE PAVEMENT



CONCRETE STEPS AND RAMPS



TREE GRATES AT PLAZA



SEATING - TABLES & CHAIRS

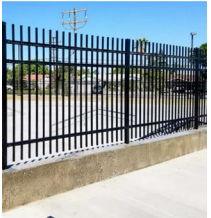


SEATING - BENCHES

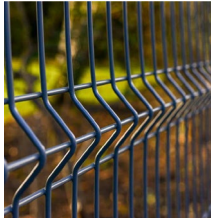


SEATING - SEATWALL

SITE FENCING



PICKET FENCE (ENTRIES)



WELDED WIRE FENCE (PERIMETER)



CHAIN-LINK FENCE (ATHLETICS)



PERF. PANEL FENCE (TPC PLAY AREA)



BOARD FENCE (LIBRARY/LOADING)



MASONRY WALLS (NORTH SIDE)

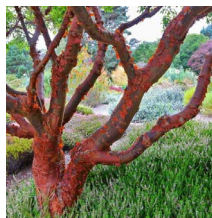
PLANTING CHARACTER



ARMSTRONG MAPLE



HONEY LOCUST



PAPERBARK MAPLE



VICTORIA CALIFORNIA LILAC



SOFT CARESS MAHONIA



TORSPIREA