



GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

DECEMBER 12, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the community meeting, QKA architects presented updated design plans for Garfield Elementary's modernization. Key decisions include modernizing the entire school to address infrastructure issues without demolishing any parts due to budget constraints. Spaces will be reconfigured to support educational needs, including transitional kindergarten, music and art classrooms, a flex classroom, an expanded library, and a larger Family Resource Center. Plans also feature redeveloping the courtyard and playground, with temporary housing on the field to allow construction in one phase.

The scope of work for outdoor learning and play includes installing safe bike parking for faculty and students, adding new accessible play structures and ramps to connect classrooms to the playground, integrating nature into play areas, and creating diverse options for social interaction, ranging from active play to individual activities.

The general modernization scope includes structural upgrades for all buildings, new windows in Building B classrooms, replacement of mechanical systems with air conditioning, updated wall, floor, and ceiling finishes, roof replacement, water pipe replacements, and exterior painting.

The QKA Team pointed out that traditional restrooms often lack sufficient supervision, creating opportunities for bullying, vandalism, and misbehavior. The architects are designing inclusive restrooms that aim to improve supervision of areas outside stalls, enhance privacy within individual stalls to encourage comfort, and create facilities that accommodate all students regardless of gender identity or expression.

New classrooms designs will include new finishes, improved ventilation, and enhanced teaching walls with tackable surfaces. Flexible, movable furniture and storage will allow teachers to reconfigure spaces for various lessons, providing adaptability for changing educational needs over time while keeping costs lower.

The architects shared that the design prioritizes adaptability, with a flexible meeting room for meetings or Pre-K, an expanded library for community use, and a versatile flex classroom for special programs. Multi-Purpose Room upgrades include structural repairs, improved finishes, an accessible ramp, a renovated kitchen with serving windows, updated stage sound and lighting, and an upgraded air-conditioned mechanical system.

The project team noted that efforts are underway to create temporary housing, including using an adjacent park, for safe learning spaces during construction. Non-profit partners are helping develop green schoolyards for outdoor learning and play. The team is also selecting a lease-leaseback contractor and planning construction logistics to ensure safety, efficiency, and minimal disruption during the school year.

BUDGET

The total budget for the project is \$56.7 million. The construction budget and mandatory soft costs will be determined once the project scope is finalized.

NEXT STEPS

- **Quarter 1, 2025:** Project Team completing Design Development and Construction Documents Additional Community and Teacher Engagement Meetings to review design and gather feedback.
- **Quarter 2, 2025 :** Project Team completing Construction Documents and submitting to CA Division of State Architect (DSA.)
- **Quarter 3, 2025:** CA Division of State Architect (DSA) review of the project.
- **Quarter 4, 2025:** CA Division of State Architect (DSA) backchcek and approval of Construction Documents. Expected DSA Approval in early 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Project Feedback & Questions

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