



Anishinabe Academy New School

Longfellow Community July 8, 2026

VISION STATEMENT

Future-oriented, the vision statement paints a picture of Anishinabe Academy as a place for educating and empowering through cultural revitalization by creating a dedicated home rooted in their values and reflecting how they teach and learn. The board and representative team guided the district's early decision-making efforts and crafted the following vision statement:

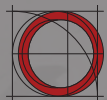
A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE:

Rooted in the founding vision of the Four Winds, this school is a beacon of hope, reclaiming and revitalizing American Indian identities, cultures, and languages through authentic academic experiences.

A place where:

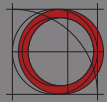
- *Children see themselves reflected in their education.*
- *Culture is woven into learning, not separate from it.*
- *Language is honored and reclaimed as a living connection to identity.*
- *Families feel valued, seen, and supported by MPS.*

MPS reaffirms its commitment to American Indian students - not just acknowledging their heritage, but uplifting and celebrating it for future generations.



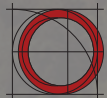
GUIDING DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Indigenous culture and values drive design decisions and strategies
- Voice of Native community is first
- Principles of cultural learning
- Embrace contemporary Indigenous society and needs
- Generational learning
- Sense of welcome and identity
- Healing and connection to culture through design
- Community
- Authenticity
- Indoor/outdoor experiential learning
- Embrace seasonal patterns
- Listen to the land
- Listening to sun, trees, topography, and culture



GUIDING DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Foster a culturally immersive learning environment in built form
- Create spaces that support specific cultural learning activities and ceremony
- Create a welcoming environment rooted in cultural identity
- Utilize art to foster place making and cultural expression
- Create spaces that honor Indigenous ways of learning (group teaching, 1:1 teaching)
- Learn by experience and opportunities
- Honor the new ways of being scientists and/or ecologists
- Feel like home
- A place to imagine and dream





GUIDING DESIGN STRATEGIES

Nature and Connection to Outdoors

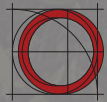
- No trees in straight lines
- Community of plants from ground, shrub, sub canopy to canopy. That is the most complex and most life giving
- Space for outdoor activities
- Preserve all trees
- Collect seeds from Elder trees
- Doors and openings to the exterior to create connections

Community Scale and Welcoming Design

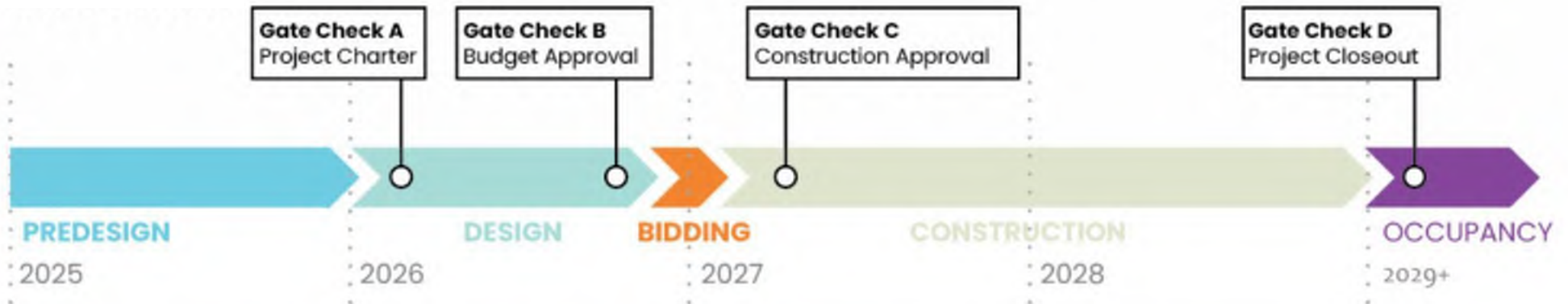
- Nested approach to design
- Appropriate scale of gathering spaces accommodating a range from individual to whole community
- Layers of structure
- Create a sense of arrival, sequence

Centering Indigenous Culture and Learning

- Centering is an Indigenous Concept. Being alone and contemplative.
- Places to smudge
- Powwow circle integrating with outdoor play and learning
- Places to sing and dance throughout site
- Freedom of Expression
- Maker space indoor and outdoor



SCHEDULE



Gate Check A - Project Charter Approval

May 12, 2026

Cost - \$150,000

The design team will create a predesign report with a description of project scope, schedule, and rough order of magnitude cost

Gate Check B - Budget Approval

December 2026

Cost - \$2,300,000

MPS will propose a finalized budget and funding structure

Gate Check C - Construction Approval

early 2027

Cost - TBD*

MPS will present construction contracts for award with specific contract bids in accordance with District policy & regulation

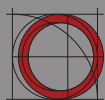
Gate Check D - Project Closeout

2029+

Cost - TBD*

MPS and the design team will present for acceptance a final report on the delivery of the project

*Subject to change pending completion of design



Full Circle
Indigenous Planning + Design

Cunningham

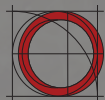
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DESIGN STORY

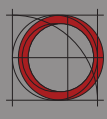
You arrive through a quiet grove of burr oak trees reminiscent of native vegetation, where the land greets you and Elders guide your steps. The air carries the scent of cedar; Ojibwe and Dakota words welcome you home. Before you even cross the threshold, you know: this place was made with care, for community, by community.

Outdoors, the land continues the teaching. Gardens of sweetgrass, sage, cedar, and berries trace the turning of the year. Paths wind through prairie and forest, leading to places for reading, ceremony, play, and quiet.

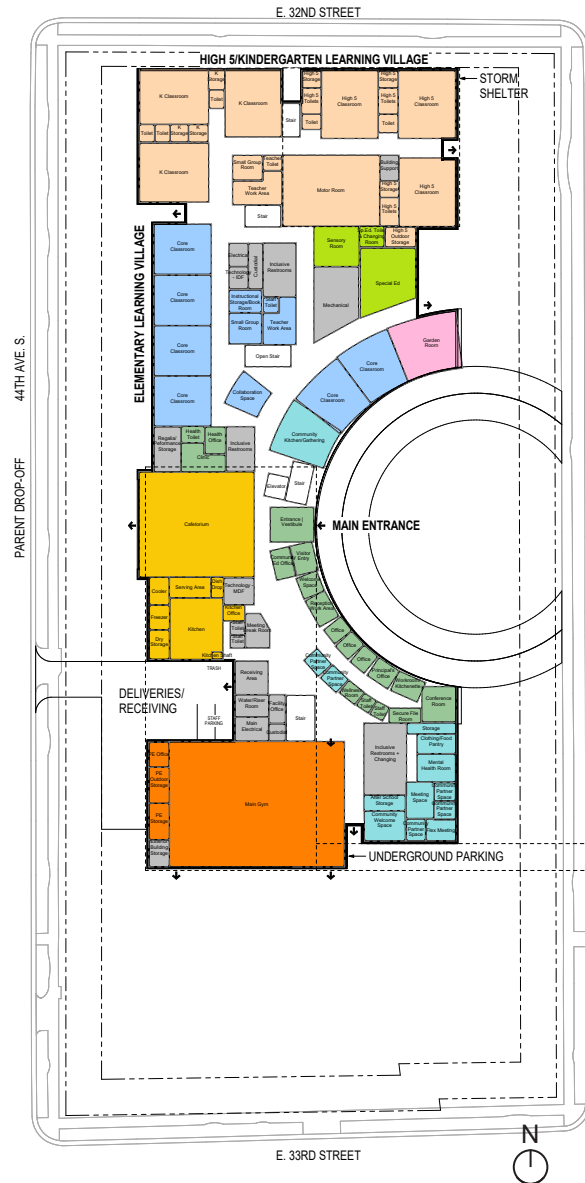
Built of durable, beautiful materials, the new Anishinabe Academy is designed to last a century and to carry forward the confidence of future generations. It is a visible message of belonging—a place where Indigenous education and identity are honored, **a place where you are sacred, valuable, indispensable, irreplaceable.**



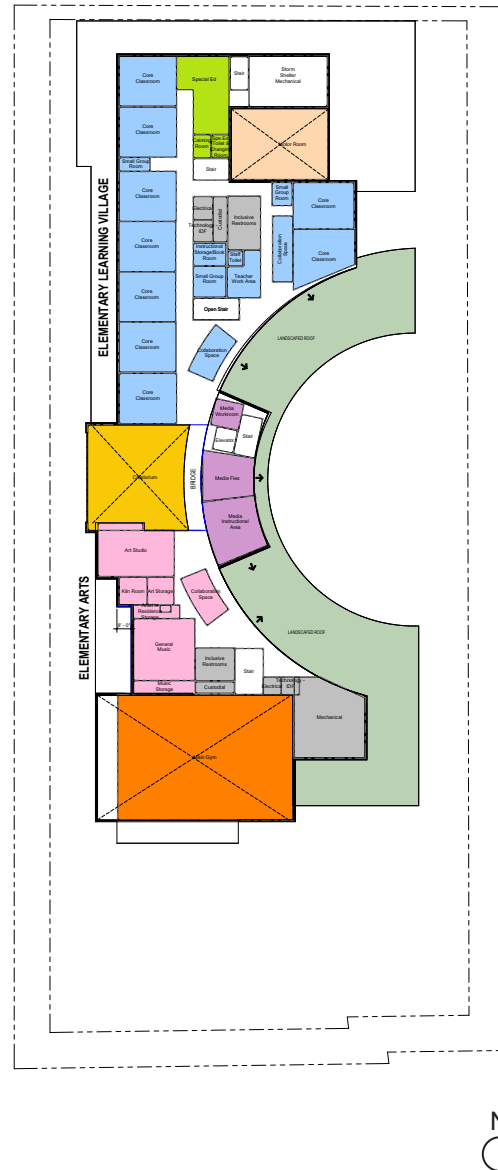
E 32nd Street



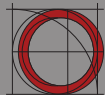
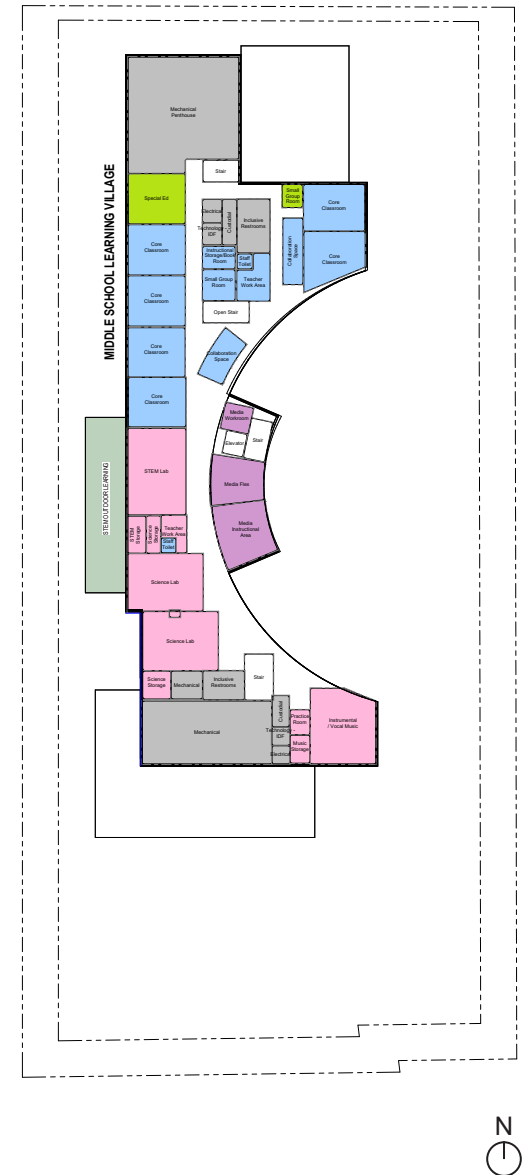
FIRST LEVEL PLAN



SECOND LEVEL PLAN



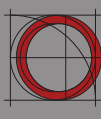
THIRD LEVEL PLAN



E. 32ND STREET



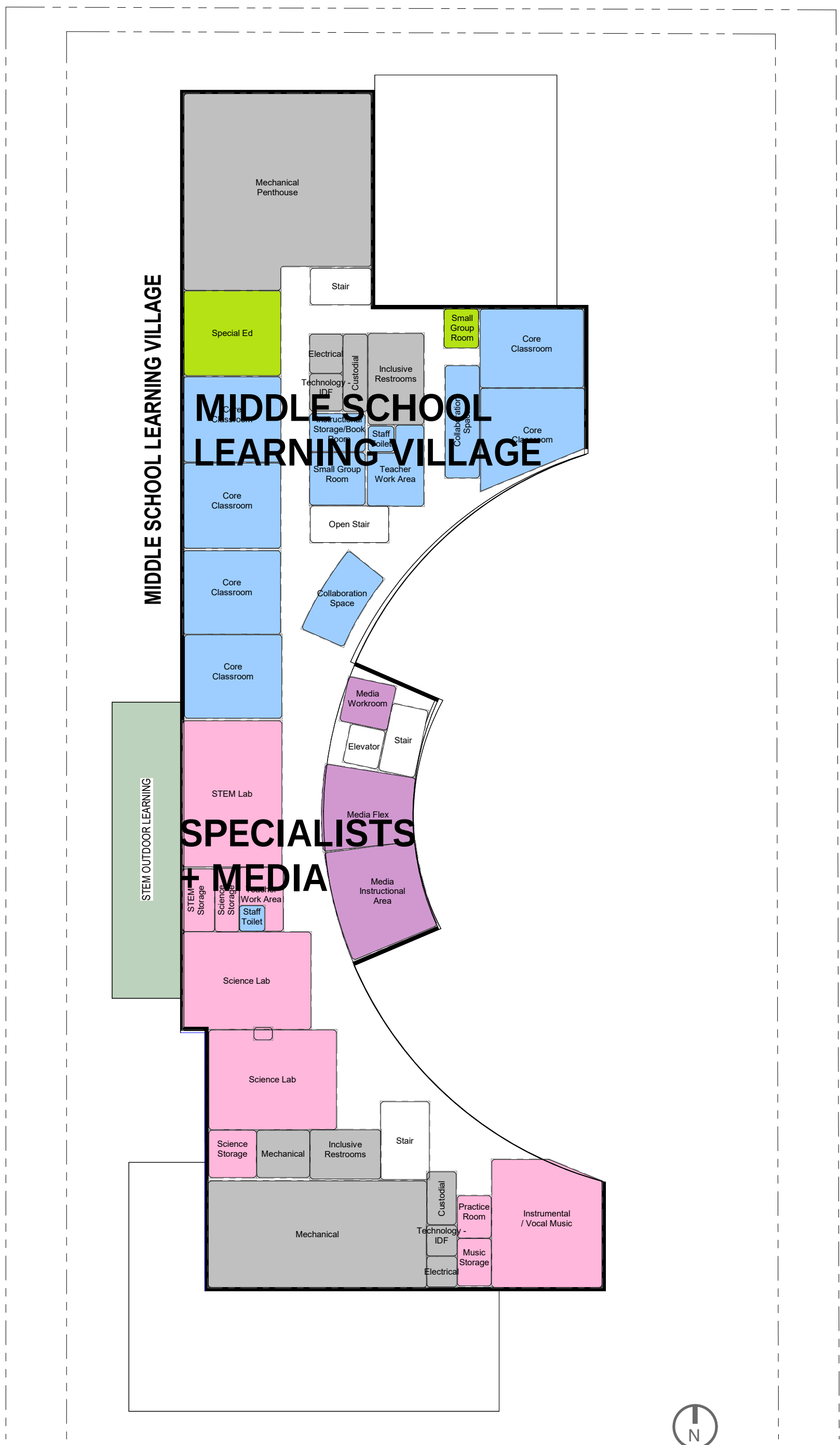
LEVEL 2 - SCHEMATIC PROGRAMMING PLAN



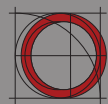


URBAN ECOSYSTEMS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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SCHEMATIC RENDERING: AERIAL VIEW LOOKING NORTH (33rd ST + 45TH AVE)



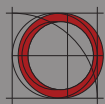
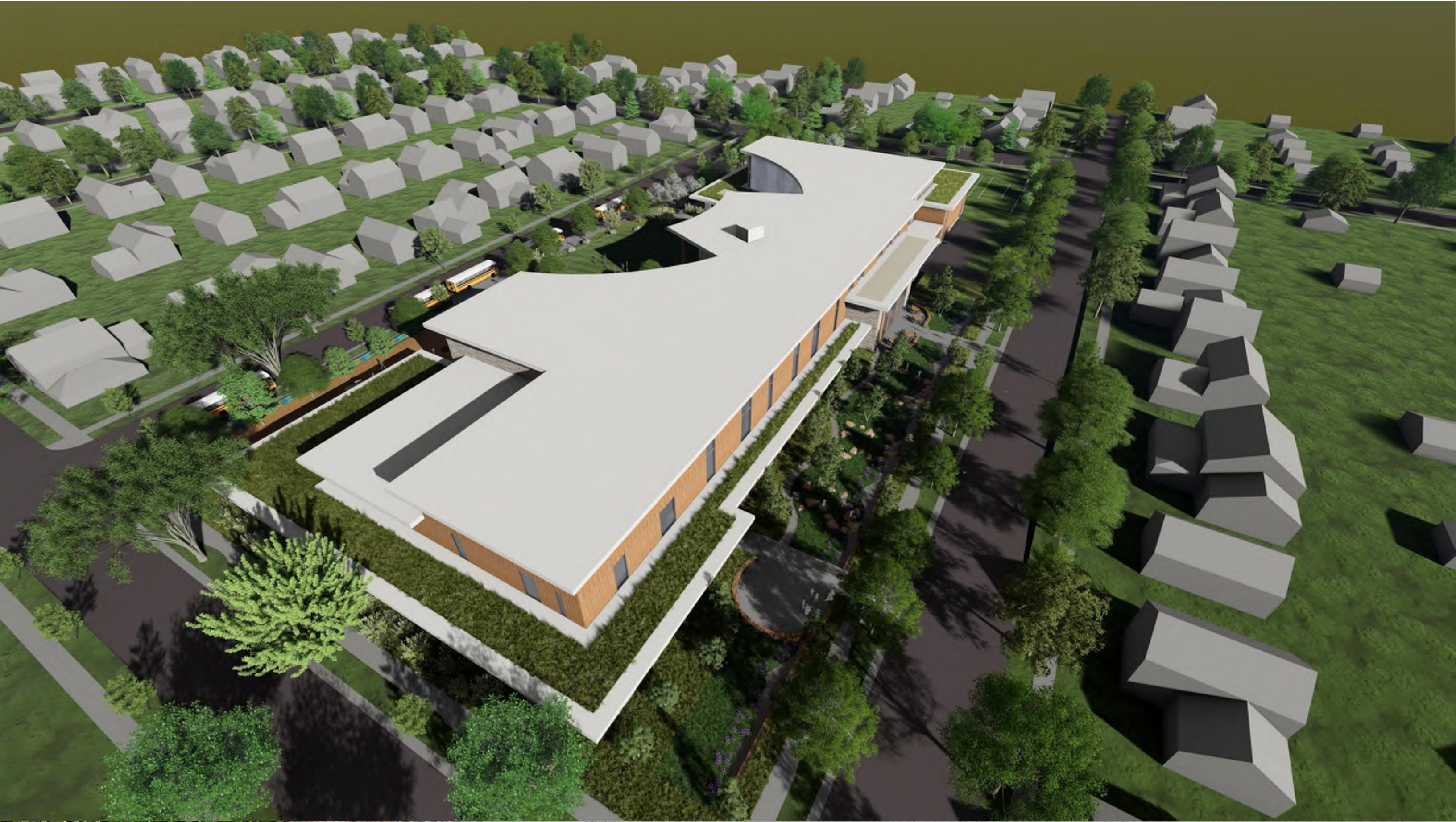
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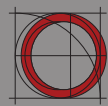
SCHEMATIC RENDERING: AERIAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH (32ND ST + 44TH AVE)



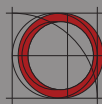
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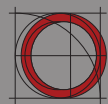




SCHEMATIC RENDERING: BIRDS EYE (SOUTH LOOKING NORTH)



SCHEMATIC RENDERING: NATURAL PLAYSCAPES AND SOCCER FIELD (SOUTH SIDE - E 33RD ST)



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ANISHINABE
ACADEMY

Wopida Tanka
Chi Miigwech
Thank you