

Campus Master Plan for Shorter College

North Little Rock, Arkansas

by

University of Arkansas Community Design Center

July 2026





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outreach center of the
school of architecture

July 10, 2026

Dr. Charles Prince
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Shorter College
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Prince,

We are pleased to submit the Campus Master Plan for Shorter College. Along with the Program document, the master plan provides the College with a framework to organize future development efforts. On behalf of the UACDC faculty, staff, and students, I want to thank you for the opportunity to partner with Shorter College. We thoroughly enjoyed our collaboration with you and Shorter College stakeholders. We have learned much from the inspiring vision articulated by the College's leadership team and hope that this planning and design work will help you to realize your future goals.

Please understand that while we have provided more detail than expected in conceptual master plans, our aim was to provide compelling visualizations that inspire investors, philanthropists, and public sector grant agencies, because, as we have routinely seen, funding rewards planning. As you know, building forms will evolve in response to funding opportunities, technical studies, and other new information that arise. The underlying principles, however, should remain a stable guide for future decision making.

Next steps will require the services of architectural and engineering firms who will thoroughly revisit the issues in more depth and technical detail beyond what a master plan can appropriately address. The UACDC would very much like to remain involved in the planning and design process as a design partner with you to help in maintaining the vision throughout implementation. You also have the best restaurant in town—please always keep it as part of the Shorter College experience, no matter how contemporary your students may become!

Please don't hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance. I look forward to continuing our partnership as this vision becomes a reality.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen Luoni", written in a cursive style.

Stephen Luoni, Director
Steven L. Anderson Chair in Architecture and Urban Studies
Distinguished Professor of Architecture

Shorter College is reimagining its campus to create a residential learning environment centered on academic excellence, career preparation, and new forms of community engagement. The master plan transforms the existing commuter campus into a pedestrian-oriented campus while respecting the historic character of the surrounding Rock Island neighborhood. As the College prepares to nearly triple the square footage of its campus facilities, three guiding principles shape the campus' transformation.







Looking east toward the campus entry from the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza, with the Bus Stop and Arrival Pavilion in the foreground

Executive Summary

Founded in 1886 by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as Bethel University, Shorter College is the only private historically Black junior college in the U.S. Shorter College is part of the nation's HBCU network. Enrolling more than 700 students, the faith-based college offers two-year associate degrees in liberal arts, para-professional fields, and vocational trades. Its open-ended enrollment policy provides an accessible and affordable pathway to higher education for many who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend college or earn certification in a trade. New instructional facilities, student housing, and support spaces will accommodate growth in both the student population and new programs. The College will establish four new areas of research and social impact: Energy and Environment, Education, Public Safety and Social Justice, and Health and Wellness. The 10-acre campus sits in a working-class neighborhood within a larger industrial district east of

downtown. The campus master plan includes both adaptive reuse of existing buildings and vertical expansion through the construction of taller buildings.

Importantly, a new campus landscape system framing outdoor rooms replaces parking lots, inviting greater sociability and learning.

The plan is modulated to accommodate incremental development as funding opportunities become available. The approach establishes a new campus building perimeter with distinctive gateways for security, while articulating new building frontages to create vibrant places on neighborhood streets. A new sequence of outdoor rooms organizes the main campus block. Off-campus structured parking will replace surface parking lots (except for that under the Conference Center), making space for an Arrival Court, a Pedestrian



Mall, a Boardwalk, a Big Porch, and a Campus Lawn—all with ample seating for outdoor learning and gathering. The redesign calms fast-paced traffic on Bishop Lindsey Avenue fronting the campus. Bishop Lindsey Avenue will be transformed into the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza, an outdoor room with enhanced pedestrian facilities, lighting, furniture, and landscaping. This new streetscape becomes a festive neighborhood node, anchoring satellite properties acquired by Shorter College to the main campus. The BL Street Plaza flanks a campus Arrival Court with a bus stop, an Arrival Pavilion, and a refurbished covered walk facing the campus' new Pedestrian Mall. The Mall is an internal spine, connecting all campus buildings and gateways to reinforce a sense of security and identity presently lacking on campus. The campus serves as a neighborhood park beyond the academic day. Establishing good wayfinding and visitor orientation on this once auto-dominant campus is

imperative given Shorter College's mission to expand its community engagement functions.

To express a general sense of welcoming and connection to the neighborhood, the plan establishes a family of distinctive building frontages that create social places on street and campus space edges.

Buildings respond to the neighborhood's human scale while creating strong connections between interior and exterior spaces. Active, engaging ground-level spaces provide unique experiences that complement rooftop amenities, including a community garden. A three-story urban porch—the Big Porch—at the Student Services Center shares the skyline with the Campus Chapel perched above to greet visitors at the main arrival point (College



officials want campus visibility to motorists passing on the adjacent elevated highway). The Big Porch is one of many outdoor learning and fellowship spaces. Secondary gateways between buildings along the campus perimeter greet campus guests, while maintaining vitality along surrounding streets. Transparent building frontages reveal interior activities and even support their spillover onto outdoor campus and neighborhood spaces. Buildings are designed to support a mix of learning, recreation, worship, dining, athletics, study, and community gatherings.

New academic facilities, outdoor learning environments, and community spaces support the College's expanding mission in Energy and Environment, Education, Public Safety and Social Justice, and Health and Wellness. The Conference Center's ballroom can accommodate large Sunday community dinners, a tradition in the AME church.

Much like a hive, the stacking of mixed functions on this tight urban site ensures that buildings' upper floors sustain a social vitality equal to that expected on the ground level. The campus design reflects the generosity, hospitality, and deep fellowship that is the hallmark of America's Black churches and schools.

The master plan reinforces Shorter College's identity as America's only private historically Black junior college through a campus that supports academic success, spiritual life, workforce education, and neighborhood partnership.





The Shorter College was once a red brick campus.

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Principles of the Plan

1

Transform the campus from an automobile-oriented commuter college into a residential HBCU with a distinctive identity, welcoming character, and strong sense of purpose.

2

Create an interconnected network of indoor and outdoor campus spaces that foster learning, community, and belonging for students and neighbors alike.

3

Define secure campus edges with active building frontages, welcoming gateways, and architecture that complement the surrounding neighborhood.



Existing Buildings



1 S.S. Morris Student Center



2 Athletic Facilities Complex



3 F.C. James Human Resources Center/Auditorium



4 Tyree Hall



5 Logistics Yard/Storage Building



6 A.W. Young Library/Adult Education Center



7 Student Housing



8 Alexander-Turner Child Development Center



9 Health and Wellness Center



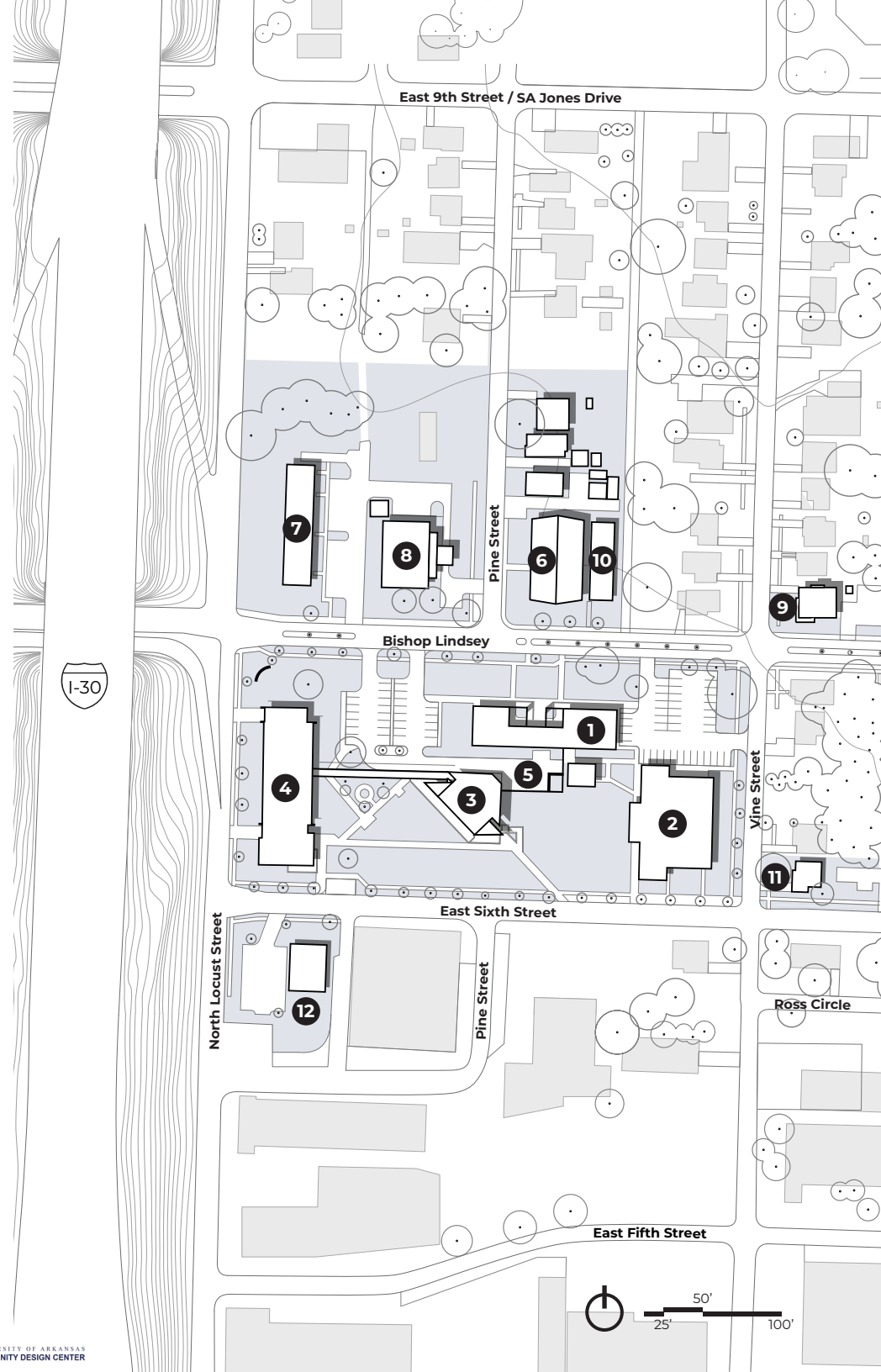
10 Nursing Annex



11 Reimagine Workforce Center

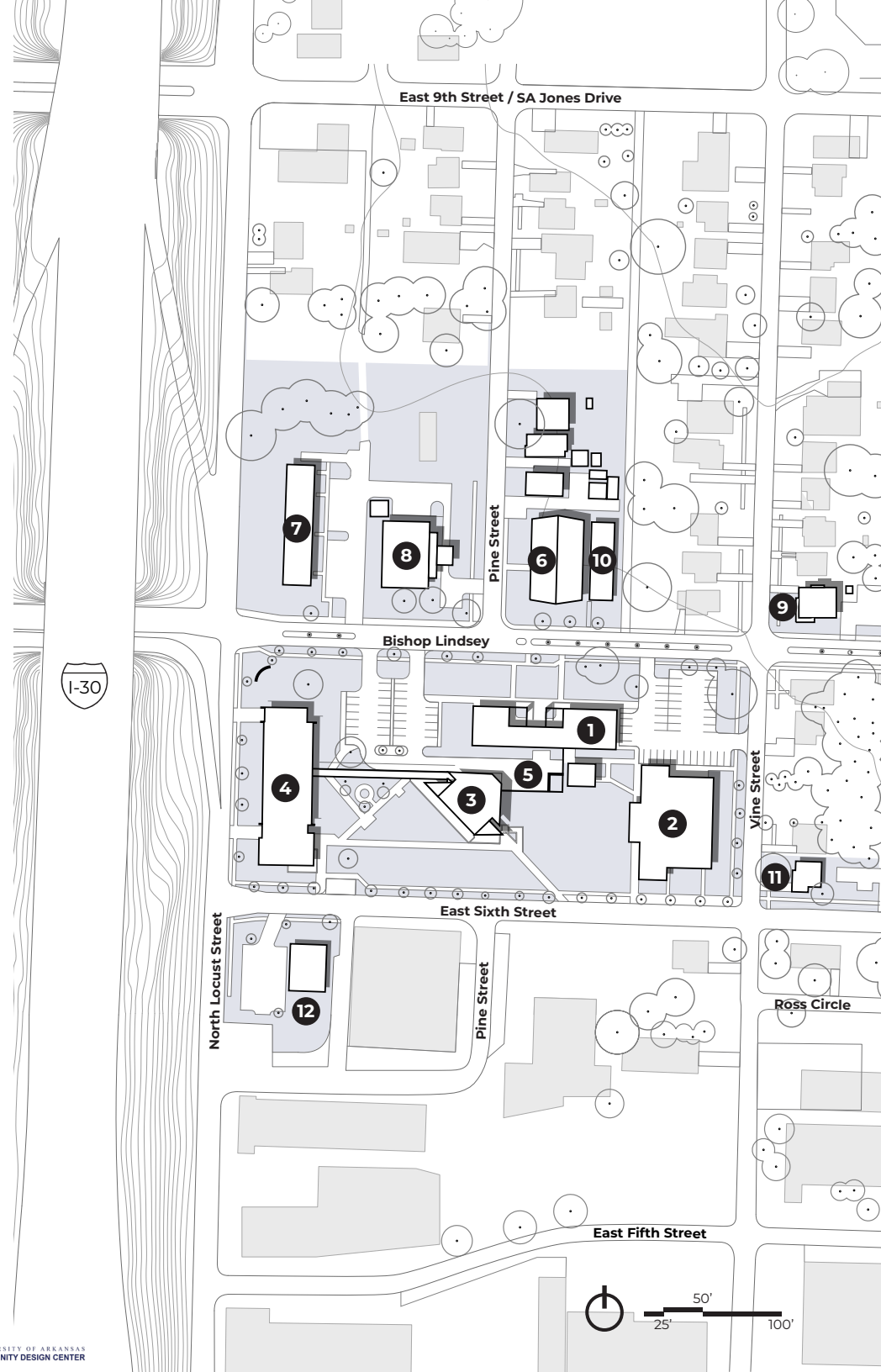


12 AME Headquarters



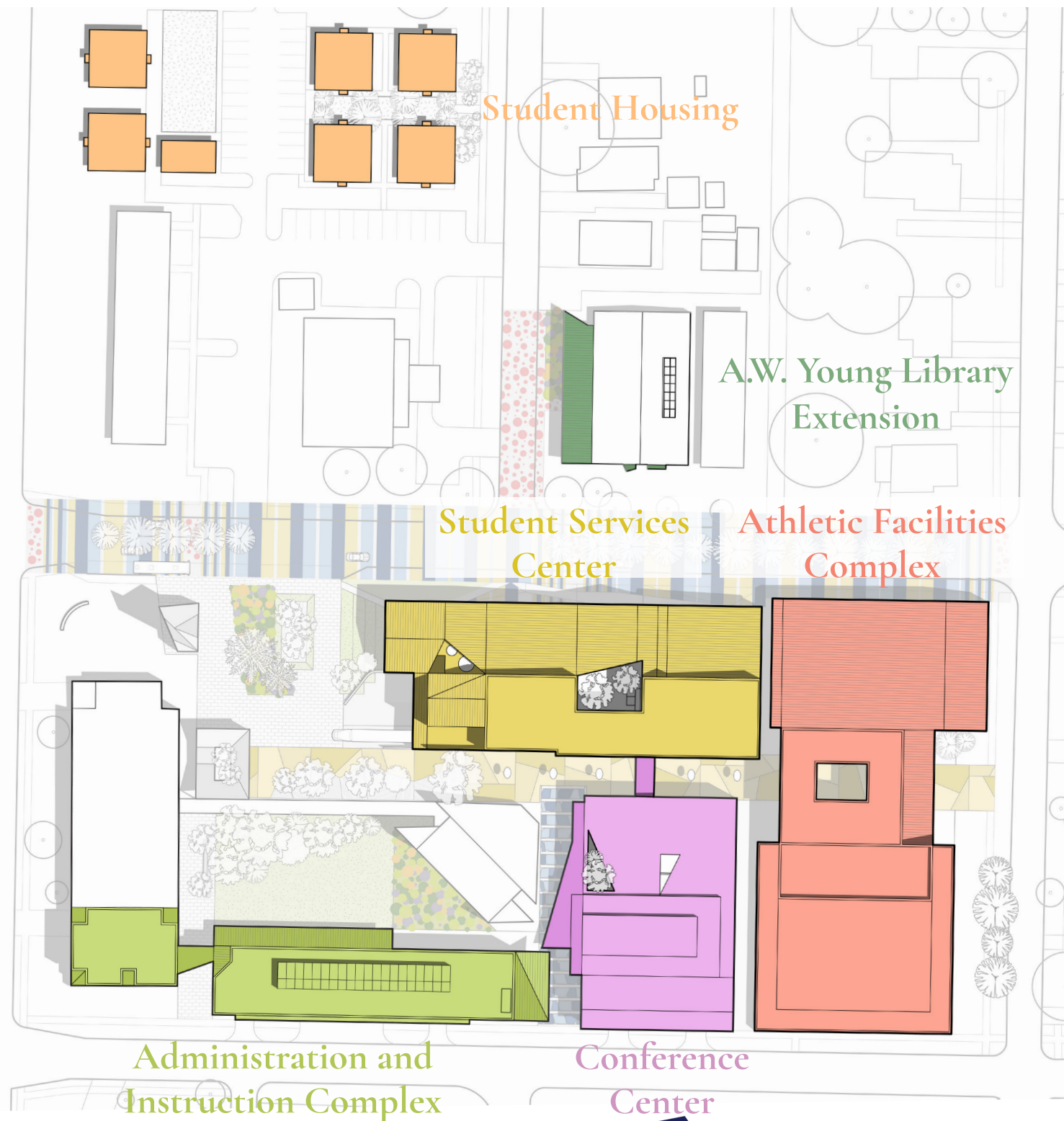
Existing Program

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 S.S. Morris Student Center
7,200 sqft
Dining Hall
Kitchen
Pool Room
Staff Offices
Restrooms | 2 Athletic Facilities Complex
14,100 sqft
Lobby
Locker Rooms
Bleachers
Restrooms | 3 F.C. James Human Resources Center/ Auditorium
4,150 sqft
Office
Auditorium
Lobby |
| 4 Sherman-Tyree Hall
22,900 sqft
Classroom
Office
Conference Room
Storage
Restrooms | 5 Logistics Yard/Storage Building | 6 A.W. Young Library/ Adult Education Center
7,400 sqft
Reception
Office
Restroom |
| 7 Student Housing
12,760 sqft
Bedroom
Bathroom
Living | 8 Day Care
5,850 sqft | 9 Health and Wellness Center
1,460 sqft |
| 10 Nursing Annex
3,200 sqft
Classroom
Office | 11 Reimagine Workforce Center
1,100 sqft
Office | 12 AME Headquarters
6,150 sqft |









Student Housing

A.W. Young Library
Extension

Student Services
Center

Athletic Facilities
Complex

Administration and
Instruction Complex

Conference
Center

Proposed Buildings

The SSC should facilitate a sense of belonging and a place “where students find community.” Among the many social functions the SSC must accommodate, it should include a bookstore, dining, kitchen, fireplace, climbing wall and gaming area, a Zen room, intimate study areas, and perhaps the chapel. The center should house complementary outdoor landscapes with generous seating.



Student Services Center

57,055 sqft



Conference Center

36,645 sqft

The Conference Center is an important forum for learning, fellowship, and community engagement central to the College’s mission. The Conference Center will facilitate the College’s expanded community outreach and new research missions.

The Athletic Facilities Complex is organized into three primary building volumes. They are an Athletics Gym for official college competitions, a Recreation Gym with a running track, and Support Facilities for athletic training and community fitness.



Athletic Facilities Complex

69,650 sqft



A.W. Young Library Extension

9,250 sqft

The library should function primarily as a learning and social center, with substantial seating areas that encourage casual gatherings and frequent use. Architecturally, it also presents an opportunity to more powerfully express the legacy of Shorter College.

The A&I Complex creates an instructional core around a new campus quad. This includes traditional classroom spaces, lecture halls, production studios/workshops, science labs, a cadaver lab, nursing simulation, and flexible meeting space, combined with new spaces for the College Administration.



Administration and Instruction Complex

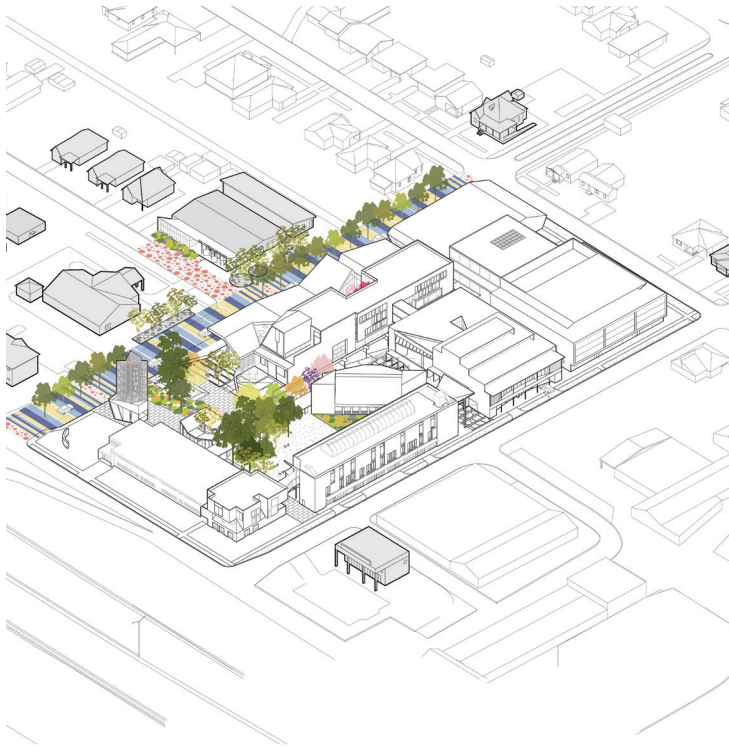
39,500 sqft



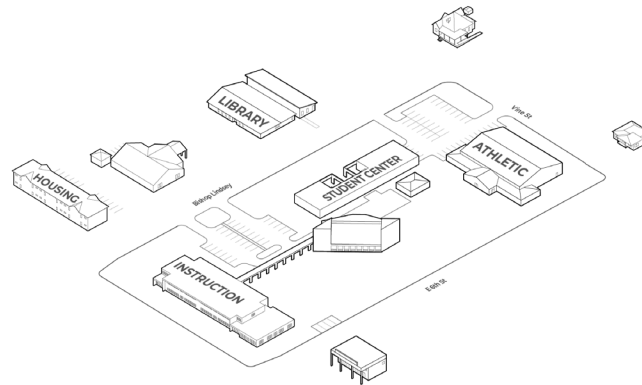
Student Housing

10,440 sqft

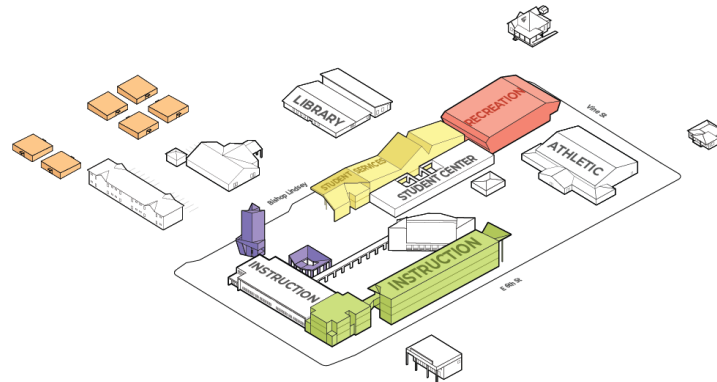
New housing will play a vital role in supporting student life. Responding to the College’s commitment to shipping container construction, six modular housing units are arranged as a pocket neighborhood that encourages daily interaction and shared community.



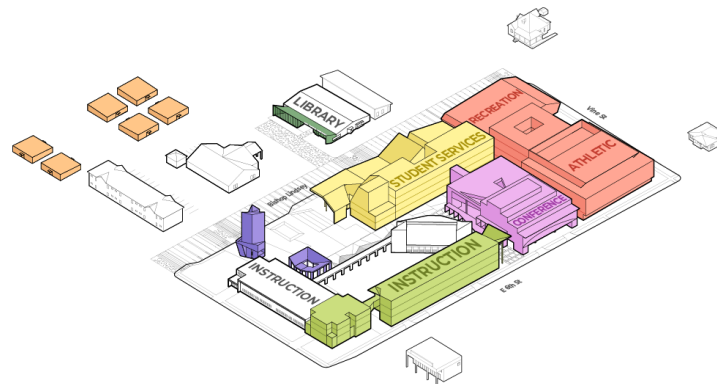
Southwest view of the proposed main campus block showing new buildings and urban elements (other Shorter College campus buildings in gray)



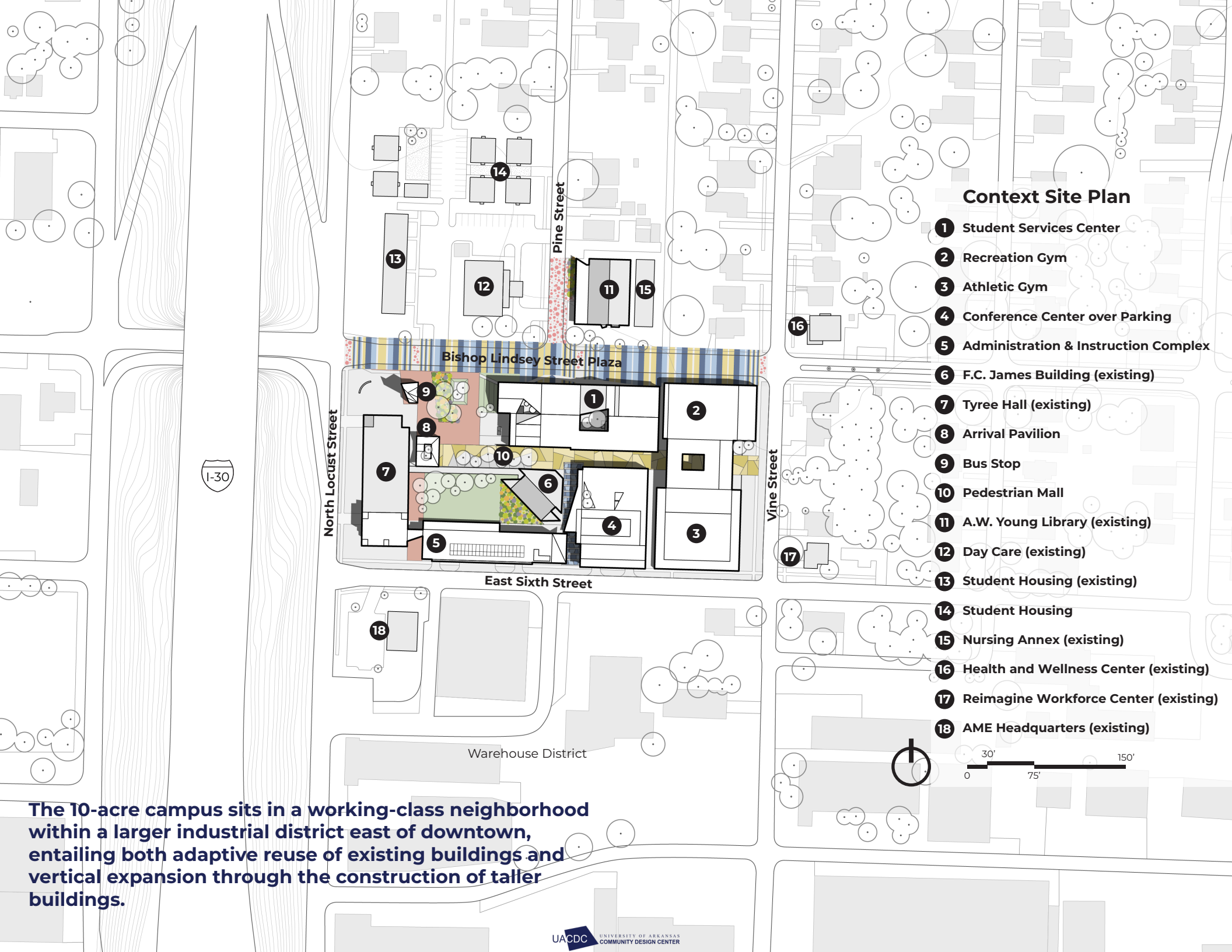
Existing Building Area:
86,000 sqft



1
Building Area Added:
84,210 sqft
Demolished Area:
3,830 sqft
Total Building Area:
166,380 sqft



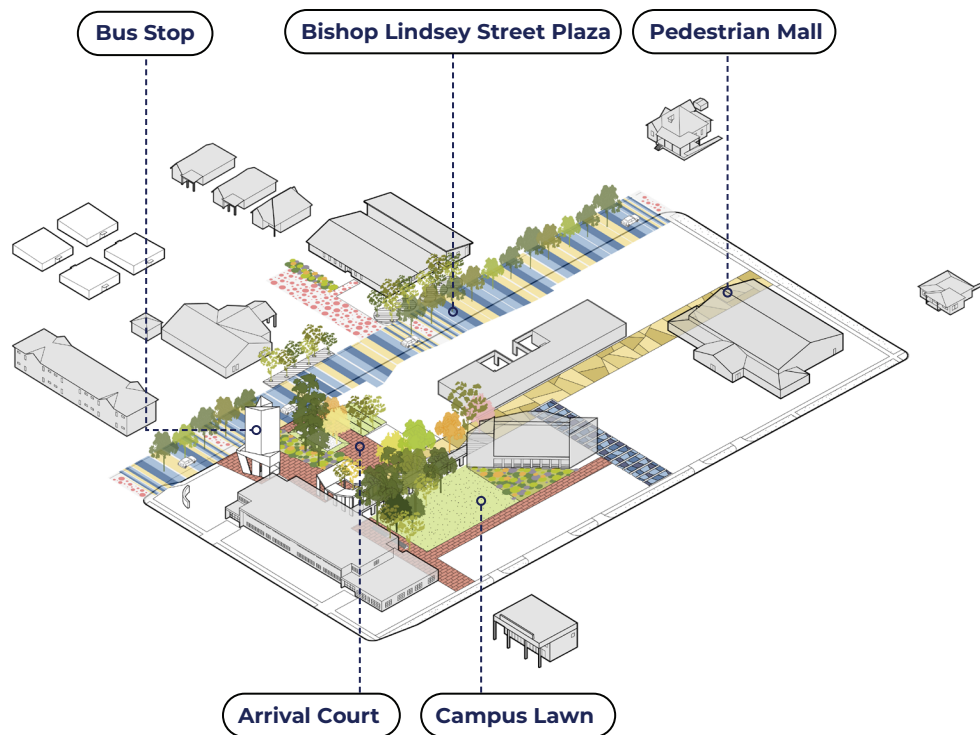
2
Building Area Added:
156,170 sqft
Demolished Area:
26,070 sqft
Total Building Area:
296,480 sqft



Context Site Plan

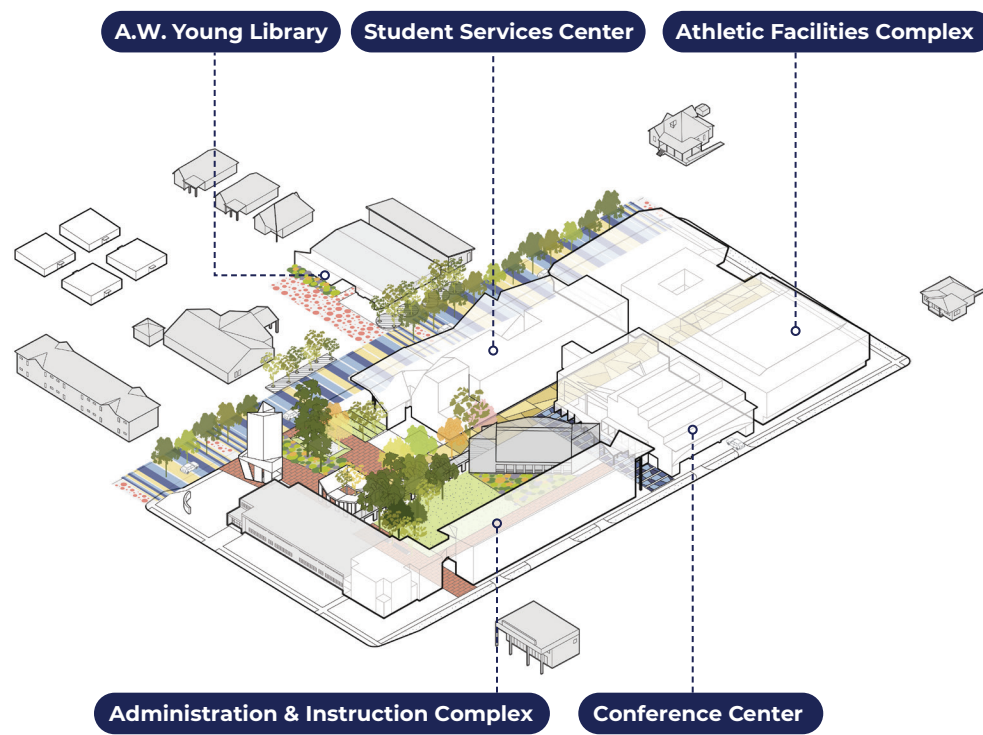
- 1 Student Services Center
- 2 Recreation Gym
- 3 Athletic Gym
- 4 Conference Center over Parking
- 5 Administration & Instruction Complex
- 6 F.C. James Building (existing)
- 7 Tyree Hall (existing)
- 8 Arrival Pavilion
- 9 Bus Stop
- 10 Pedestrian Mall
- 11 A.W. Young Library (existing)
- 12 Day Care (existing)
- 13 Student Housing (existing)
- 14 Student Housing
- 15 Nursing Annex (existing)
- 16 Health and Wellness Center (existing)
- 17 Reimagine Workforce Center (existing)
- 18 AME Headquarters (existing)

The 10-acre campus sits in a working-class neighborhood within a larger industrial district east of downtown, entailing both adaptive reuse of existing buildings and vertical expansion through the construction of taller buildings.



Master Plan Urban Framework

The plan articulates a new sequence of outdoor campus rooms: an Arrival Court, a Pedestrian Mall, a Boardwalk, and a Campus Lawn. The installation of a new Street Plaza on Bishop Lindsey Avenue fronting campus will calm fast-paced traffic. This new outdoor room features enhanced pedestrian facilities that support new buildings.



... with the new buildings

The Street Plaza flanks a campus Arrival Court with a Big Porch and refurbished covered walkway connected to a new Pedestrian Mall. The Mall is an internal spine connecting campus buildings and gateways. A new campus building perimeter features strong gateways and building frontages on neighborhood streets.



Campus Master Plan

- 1 Student Services Center
- 2 Recreation Gym
- 3 Athletic Gym
- 4 Conference Center over Parking
- 5 Administration & Instruction Complex
- 6 F.C. James Building (existing)
- 7 Tyree Hall (existing)
- 8 Arrival Pavilion
- 9 Bus Stop
- 10 Pedestrian Mall
- 11 A.W. Young Library (existing)
- 12 Day Care (existing)
- 13 Student Housing (existing)
- 14 Student Housing

10' 25' 50'



Looking south across the Arrival Court toward the Big Porch and Bus Stop on the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza

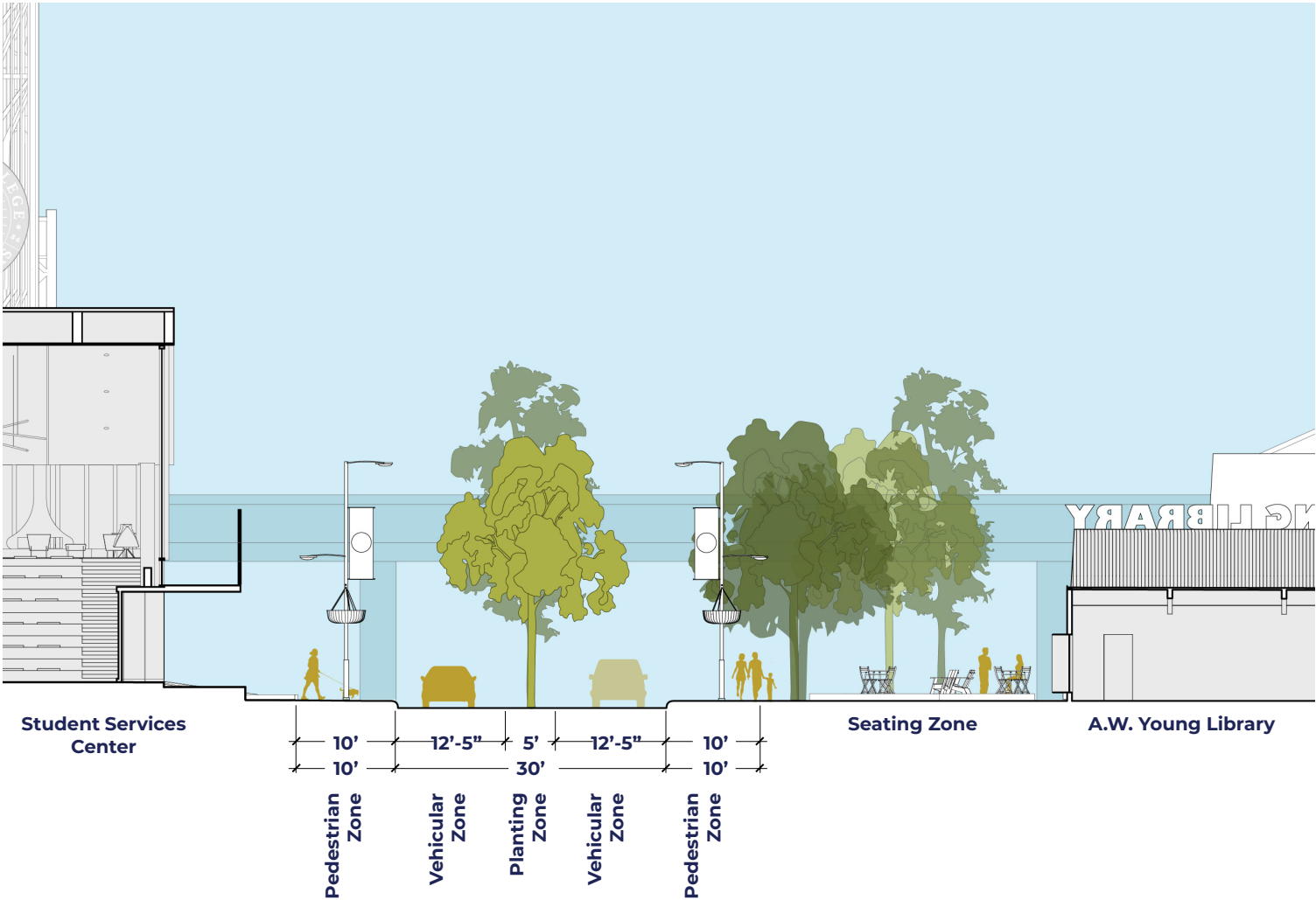
The plan transforms the campus from an automobile-oriented commuter college into a residential HBCU with a distinctive identity, welcoming character, and strong sense of purpose.



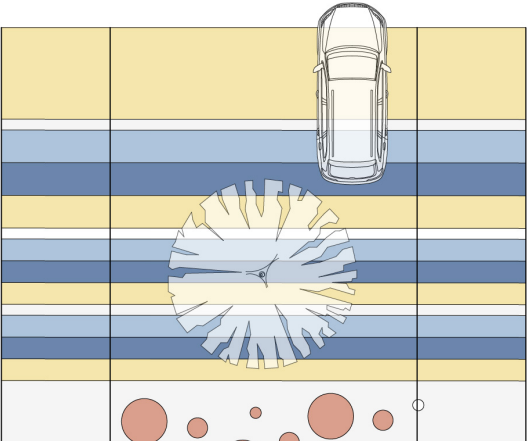


Looking west along the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza toward the Big Porch
and the Arrival Court

A street plaza is installed at Bishop Lindsey Ave. This calms traffic and creates an environment where pedestrians have the right-of-way and motorists are compelled to behave socially.



Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza





Looking east toward the Student Services Center

New Library frontage provides a screened porch for study, while displaying figures that celebrate African American legacy.



Looking east toward the A.W. Young Library



Looking southwest toward the Recreation Gym and the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza

The Athletic Gym brings a game day atmosphere to the edge of the warehouse district.



Looking northwest toward the Athletic Gym





Southeast view toward the large assembly buildings (on right) and outdoor campus spaces (on left)



Looking north toward the Conference Center from the Sixth Street
campus gateway



Looking north toward
Administration and Instruction
Complex from Sixth Street campus
gateway

**Secured gateways between
buildings along the campus
perimeter greet campus
guests, while maintaining
vitality along surrounding
streets.**



Looking northeast toward the
Administration and Instruction
Complex





Much like a hive, the stacking of mixed functions on this tight urban site ensures that buildings' upper floors sustain a social vitality equal to that expected on the ground.

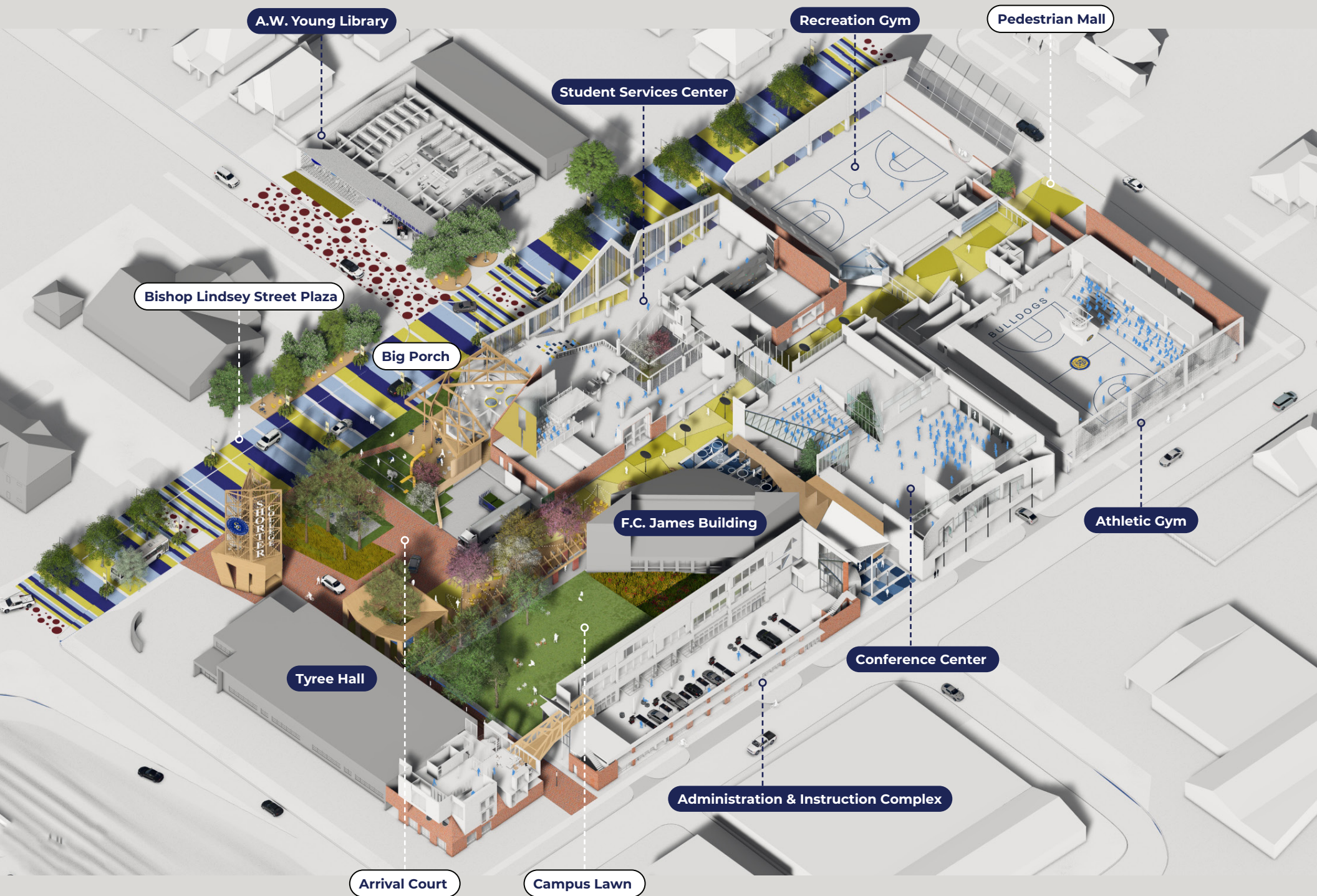


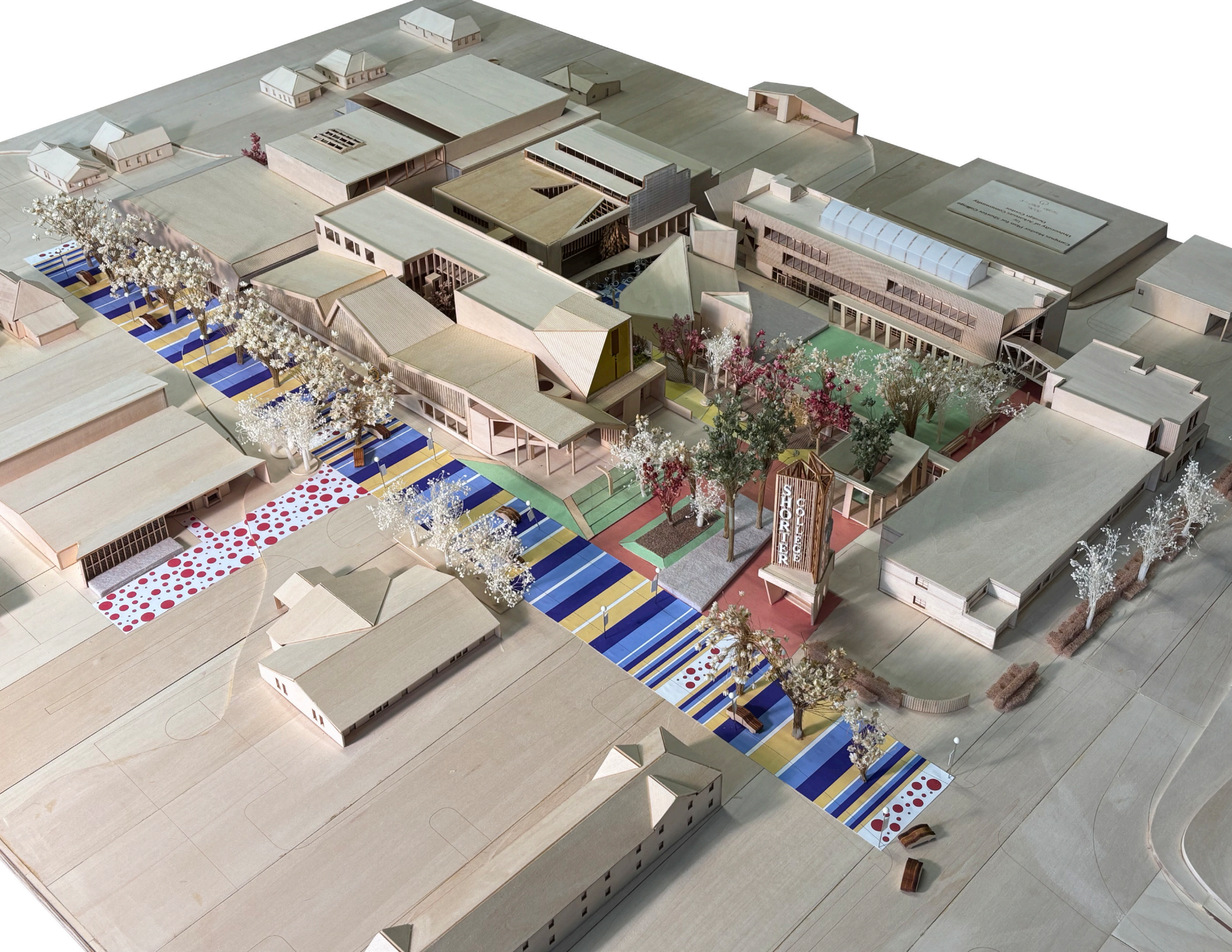
Looking south across the Campus Lawn toward one of the Sixth Street campus gateways

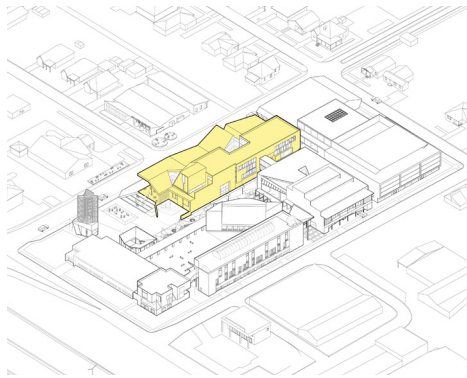


Looking east along the Pedestrian Mall, with the Boardwalk in the foreground and the Student Services Center to the left

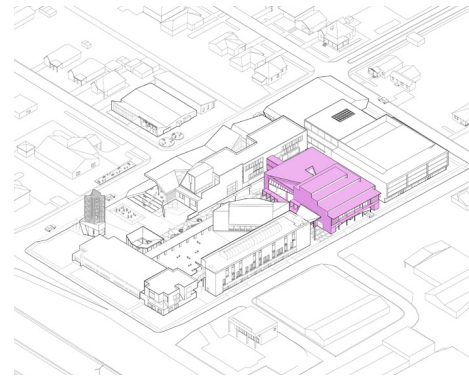




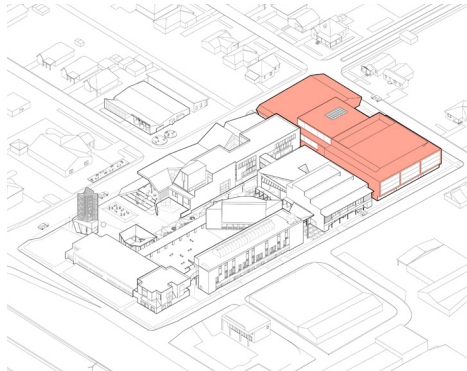




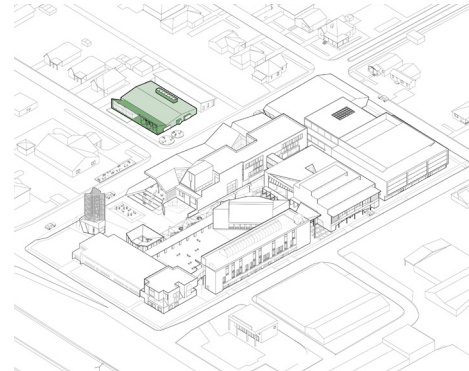
Student Services
Center



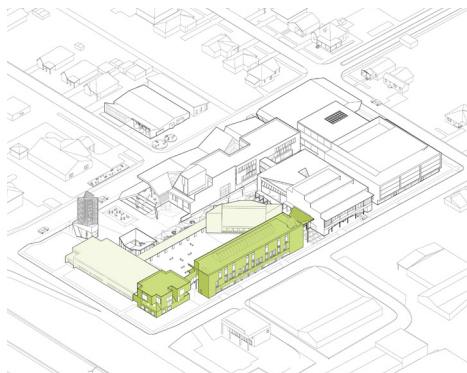
Conference
Center



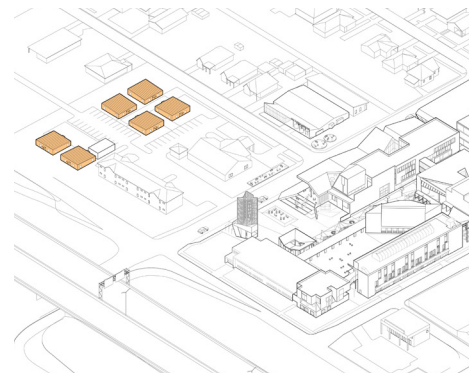
Athletic Facilities
Complex



A.W. Young Library
Extension



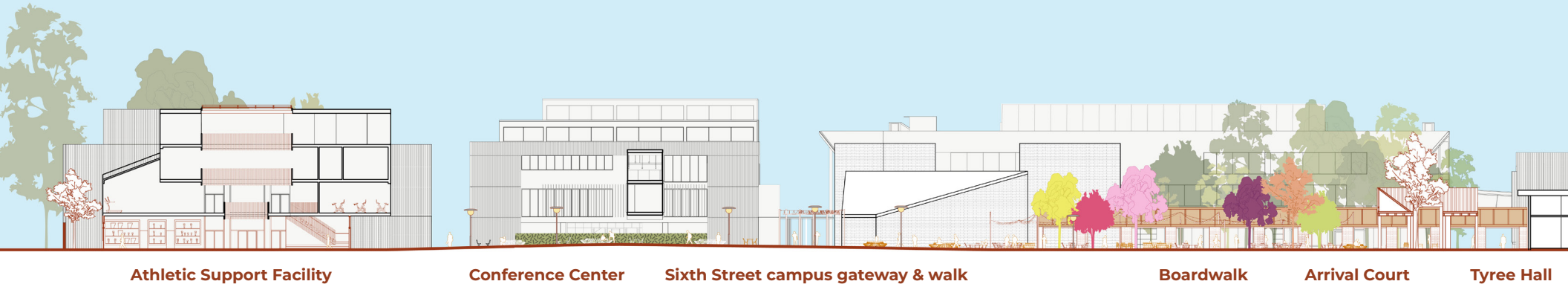
Administration and
Instruction Complex



Student Housing

Proposed Buildings

Section-AA'
Pedestrian Mall



Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza Elevation



The Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza and the Pedestrian Mall are important pedestrian spines with generous seating and landscape to support outdoor social and learning activities.

Vine Street Elevation



East Sixth Street

Athletic Gym

Recreation Center

Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza

North Locust Street Elevation



Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza

Bus Stop

Tyree Hall

Administration

East Sixth Street

AME Headquarters

East Sixth Street Elevation

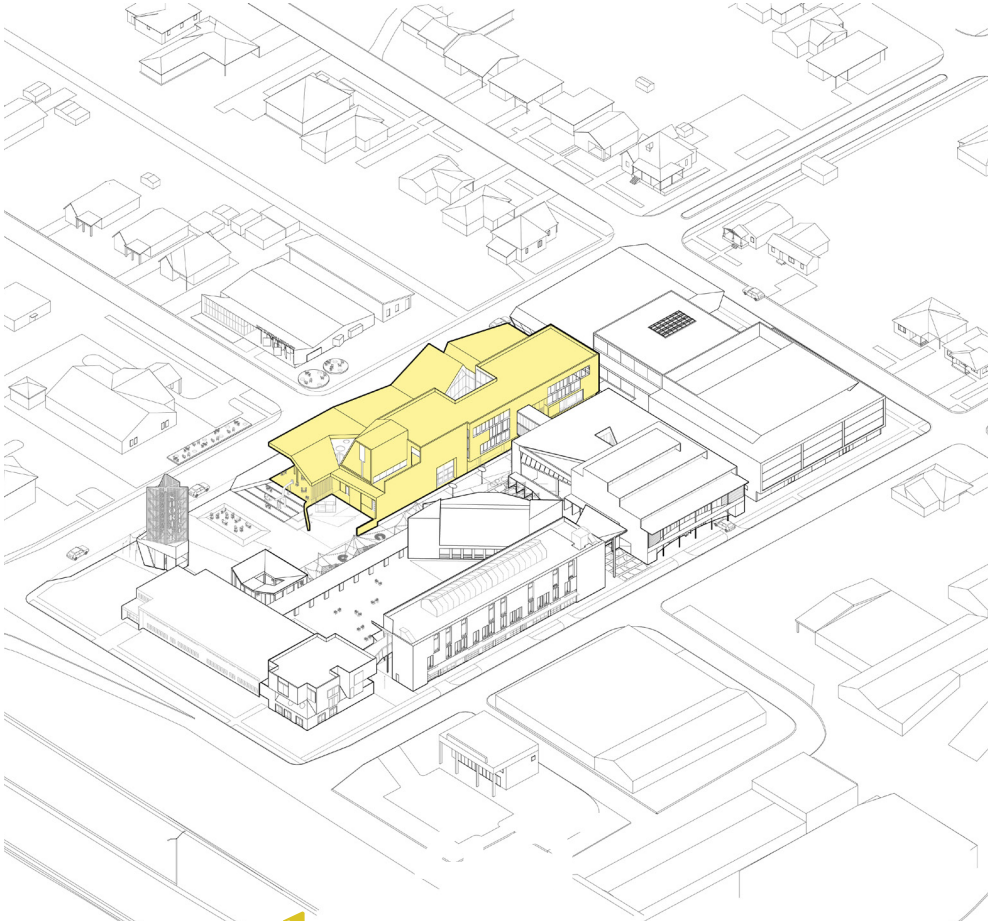


Administration and Instruction Complex

Conference Center over Parking

Athletic Gym

The plan articulates secure campus edges supported by building frontages that are both gateways and spaces for sociability, and compatible with neighborhood scale and character.



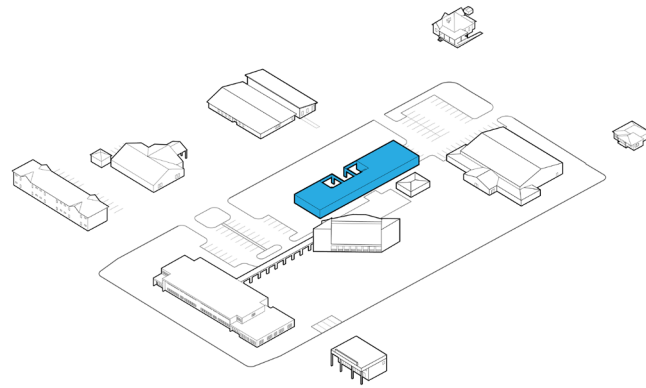
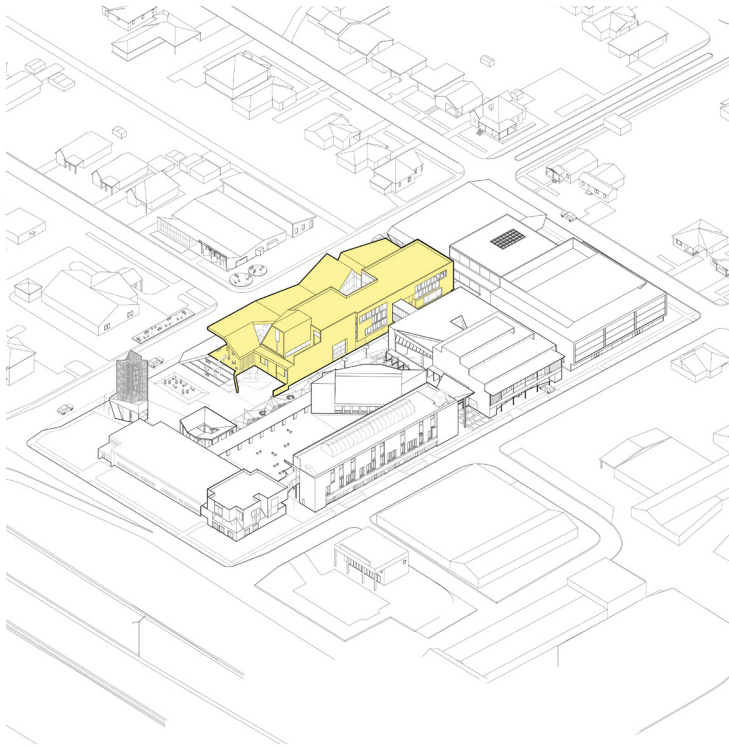
Student Services Center

Food and fellowship are central to many Black schools, where culturally relevant meals rooted in African American food traditions become daily rituals of gathering, connection, and belonging. **The new SSC is designed to allow the existing one-story dining hall and kitchen to remain operational during campus expansion. Accordingly, the SSC is organized as two linear building wings connected around an existing open U-shaped court.** The Phase I wing supports continuity. It connects the existing dining hall to the campus edge along Bishop Lindsey Avenue with improved access. The wing provides two entrances: one from Bishop Lindsey Avenue and the other from the SSC's Big Porch facing a new Arrival Court. The Phase I wing, distinguished by its folded roof form, will house a temporary dining hall and kitchen, bookstore, and study lounges. The four-story Phase II wing completes the long-term campus vision by replacing the existing dining hall and creating a vibrant edge along the campus' new Pedestrian Mall, the campus's internal spine. The courtyard will remain an outdoor space with enhanced landscaping. It serves as an ideal area for visitor orientation while bringing natural light to all four stories of the SCC.

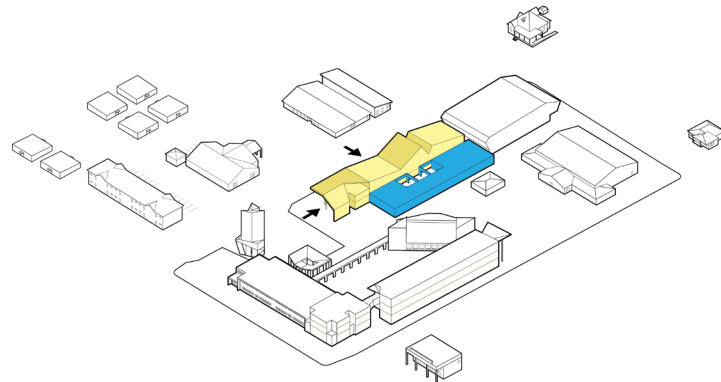
The completed SSC will house a new dining hall and kitchen, recreation spaces including climbing walls and gaming areas, chapel and interfaith space, student counseling, and faculty support spaces. Alongside the chapel, upper floors will house the Reentry program for supporting individuals returning from incarceration, expanding the College's commitment to social justice and community outreach. Together, these diverse social spaces make the Student Services Center a welcoming hub that supports the academic, social, and personal needs of today's community college students, many of whom are first-generation college attendees. **This mixed-use complex is both the heart of the campus and the soul of the neighborhood.**



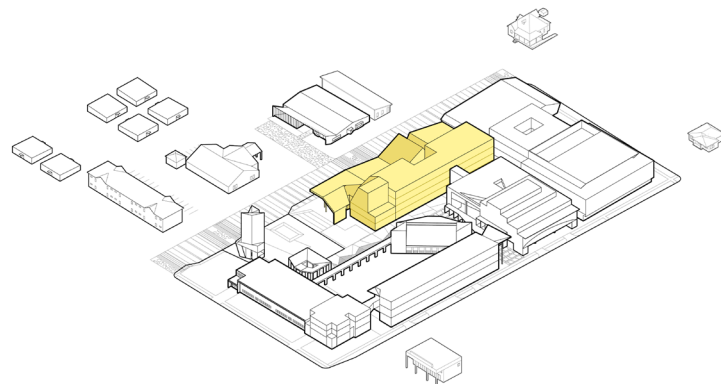
Looking east on the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza toward the campus Arrival Court, with the Big Porch and the Chapel beyond



Existing dining hall and kitchen



1 Phase I wing connects the existing dining hall to the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza



2 Phase II wing replaces the existing dining hall and completes the Pedestrian Mall frontage



Northwest view of the existing student center and dining hall

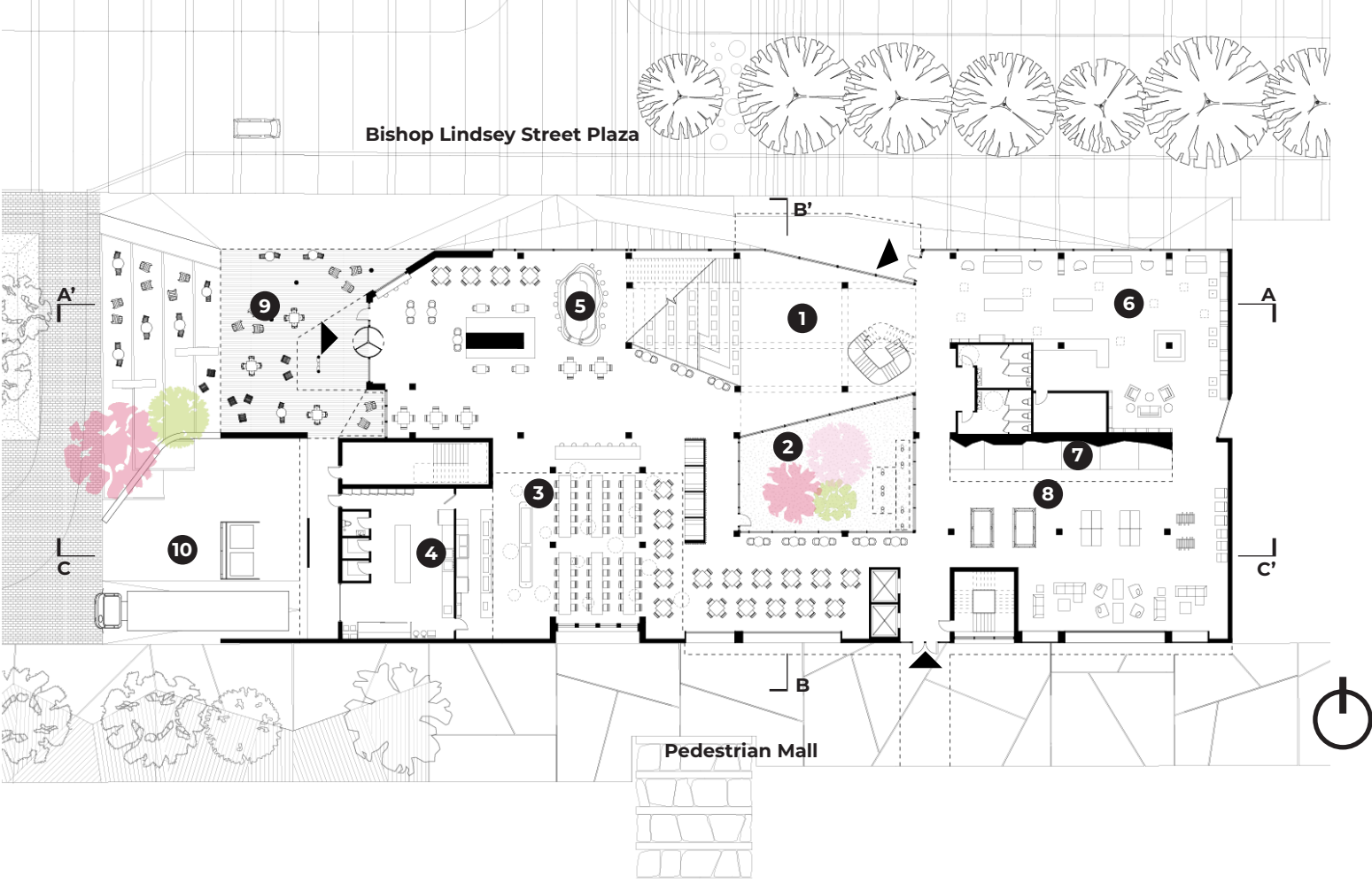


View of the complete Student Services Center



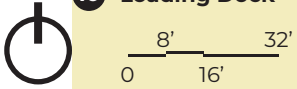
The new Student Services Center extend the campus to the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza.





Ground Floor
21,200 sqft

- 1 Lobby
1,725 sqft
- 2 Courtyard
1,325 sqft
- 3 Dining Hall
6,345 sqft, 400 people
- 4 Kitchen
1,600 sqft
- 5 Coffee Bar
650 sqft
- 6 Bookstore
3,840 sq ft
- 7 Rock Climbing Wall
700 sqft
- 8 Game Room
3,796 sqft
- 9 Big Porch
- 10 Loading Dock





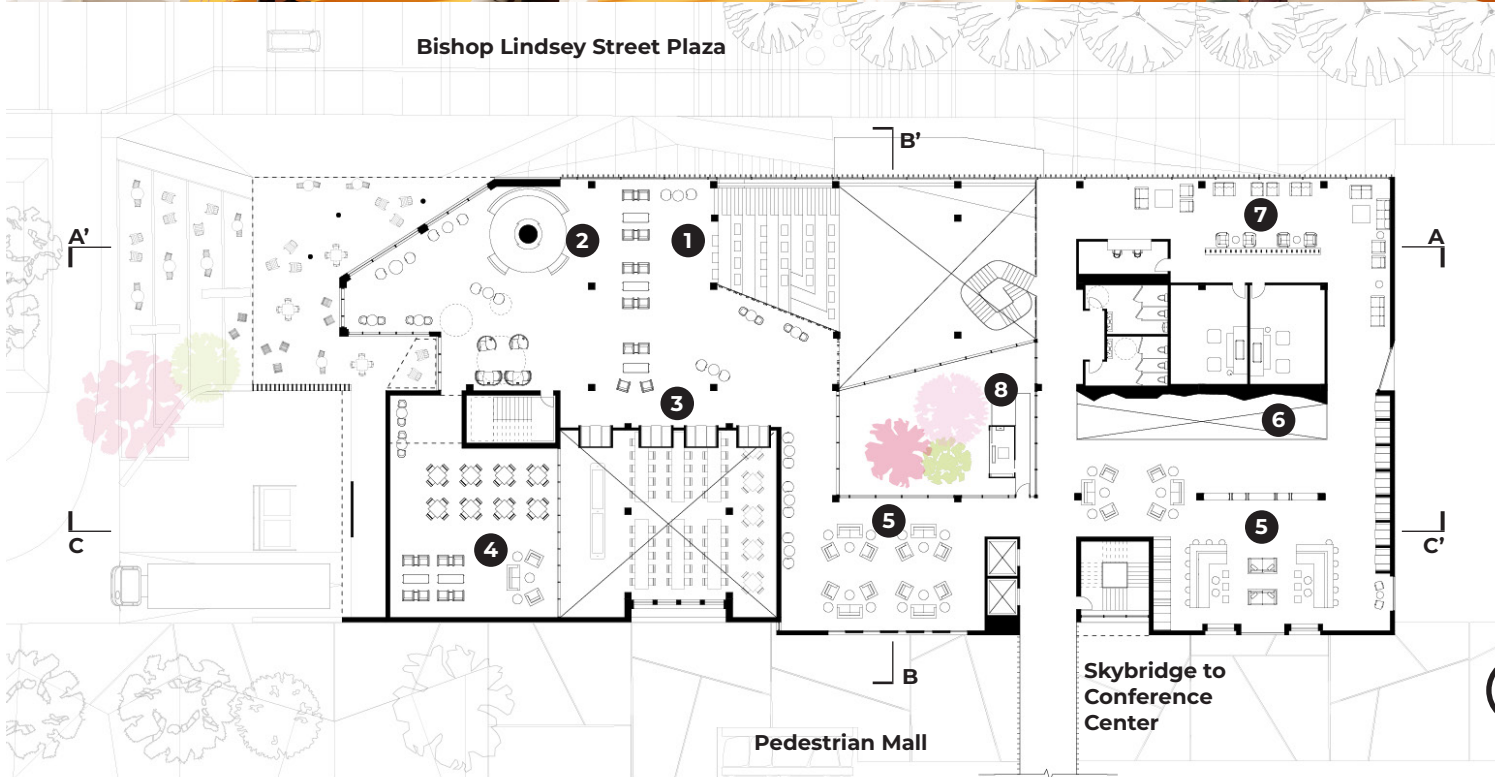
Looking south across the dining hall toward the F.C. James Building



Looking south from the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza entry into the courtyard, with the dining hall on the right



Looking east across the student lounge to lobby and courtyard



Second Floor

17,600 sqft

- 1 Lounge Stairs
790 sqft
- 2 Conversation Pit
360 sqft
- 3 Dining Carrels
220 sqft
- 4 Study Room
1,700 sqft
- 5 Flex Space
1,400 sqft
- 6 Rock Climbing Wall
700 sqft
- 7 Mental Health Clinic
3,700 sqft
- 8 Zen Room
70 sqft

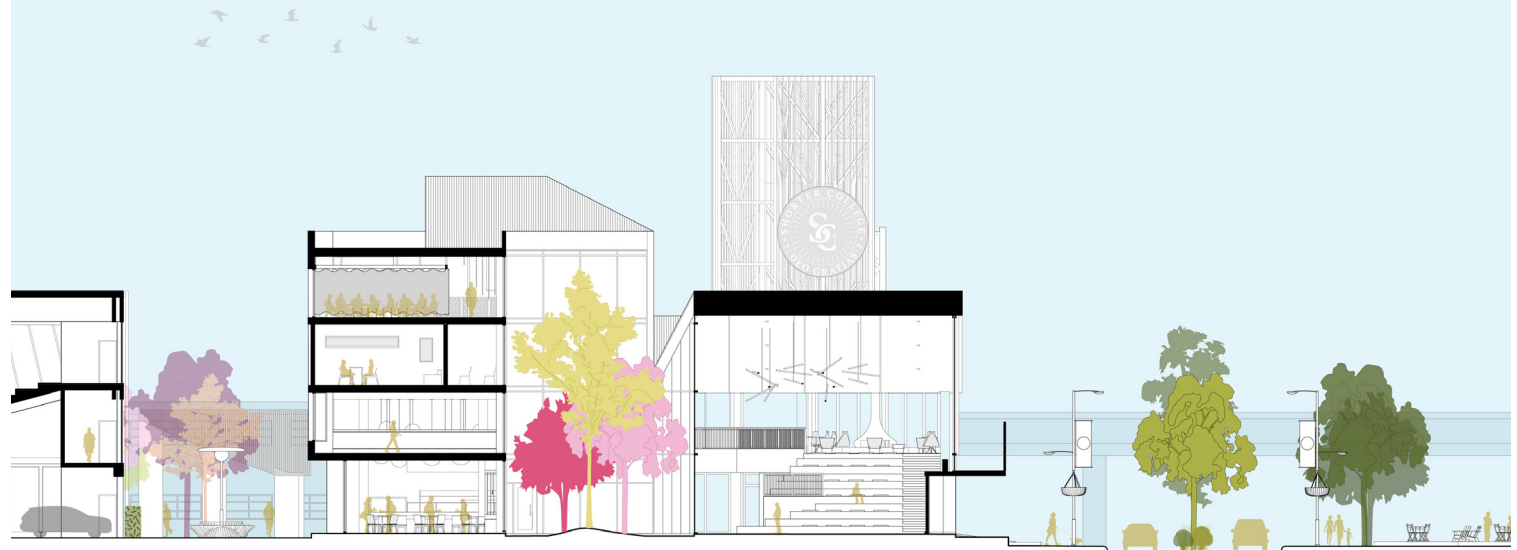


0 8' 16' 32'



Looking west from the second-level student lounge toward the Big Porch and Arrival Court

Section-BB'



Pedestrian Mall

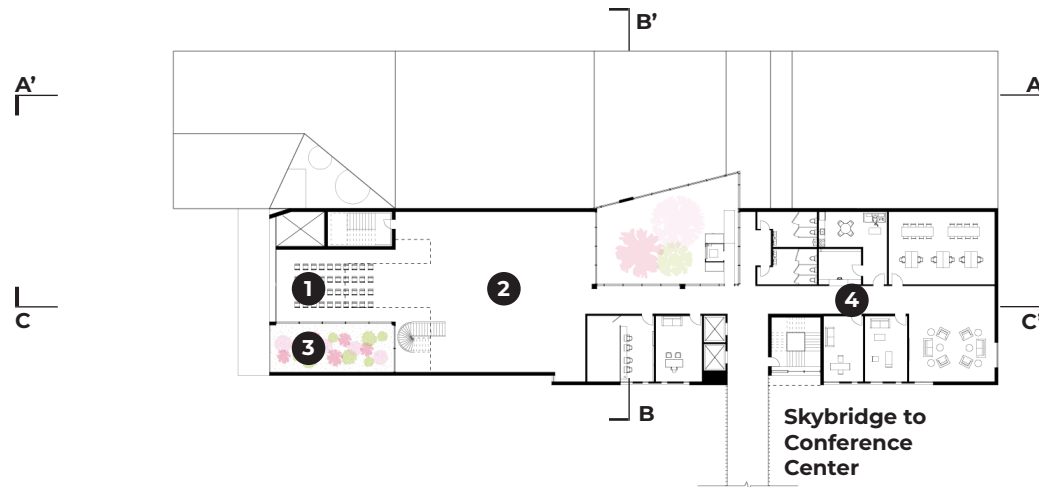
Student Services Center

Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza



A courtyard and lobby connect both wings and entrances from the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza and the Pedestrian Mall.

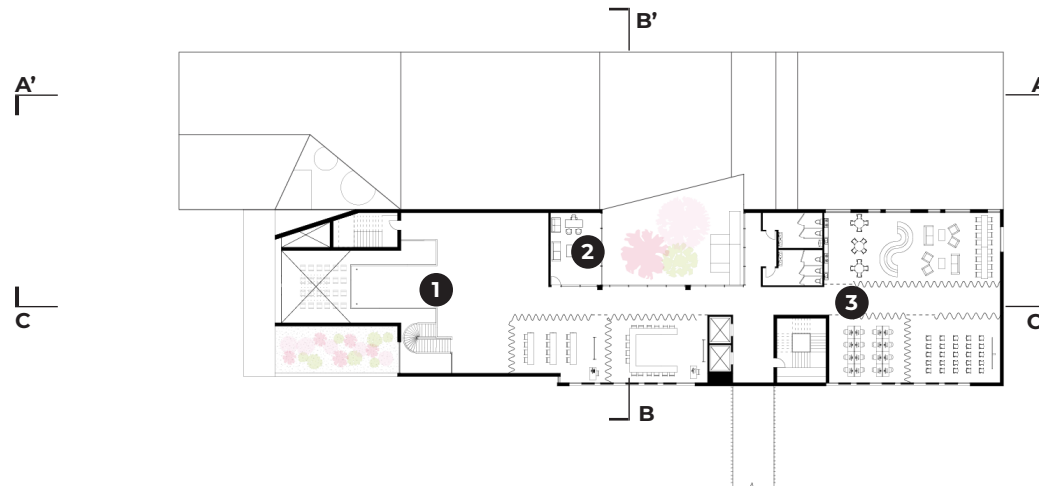
Looking north toward the lobby and student lounge, with courtyard on the left



Third Floor

10,050 sqft

- 1 Chapel**
870 sqft, 70 people
- 2 Interfaith Space**
3,190 sqft, 270 people
- 3 Flower Garden**
590 sqft
- 4 Reentry Program**
5,780 sqft



Fourth Floor

9,090 sqft

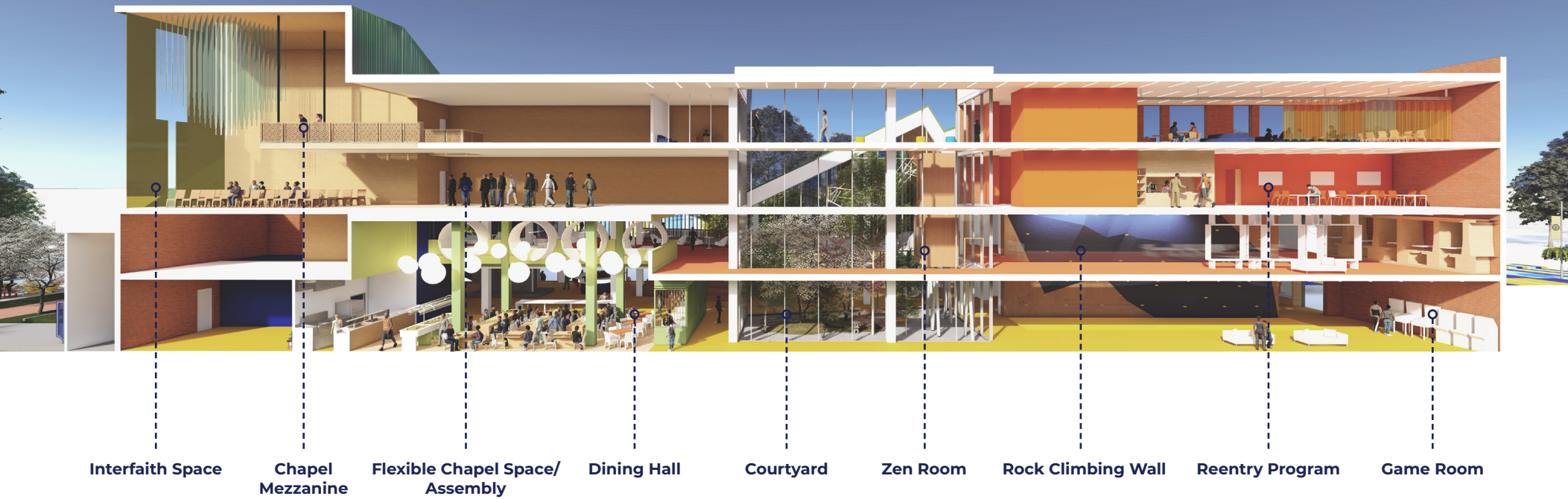
- 1 Chapel Mezzanine**
1,860 sqft
- 2 Chaplain Office**
360 sqft
- 3 Reentry Program**
5,780 sqft



0 8' 16' 32'



Looking northwest from the Reentry Program toward the courtyard and surrounding neighborhood



An Interfaith Space with Chapel above overlooks a third-story roof garden. The Interfaith Space and its overflow area can accommodate different seating orientations.





Looking southwest toward the Student Services Center along the Bishop
Lindsey Street Plaza, with elevated highway beyond



Looking northeast along the Pedestrian Mall toward the Student Services Center

The Student Services Center creates an edge to the Pedestrian Mall, an internal spine connecting all campus buildings.





Looking northwest from the Pedestrian Mall into the dining hall and courtyard of the Student Services Center



Looking west toward the Arrival Court, with the elevated highway beyond



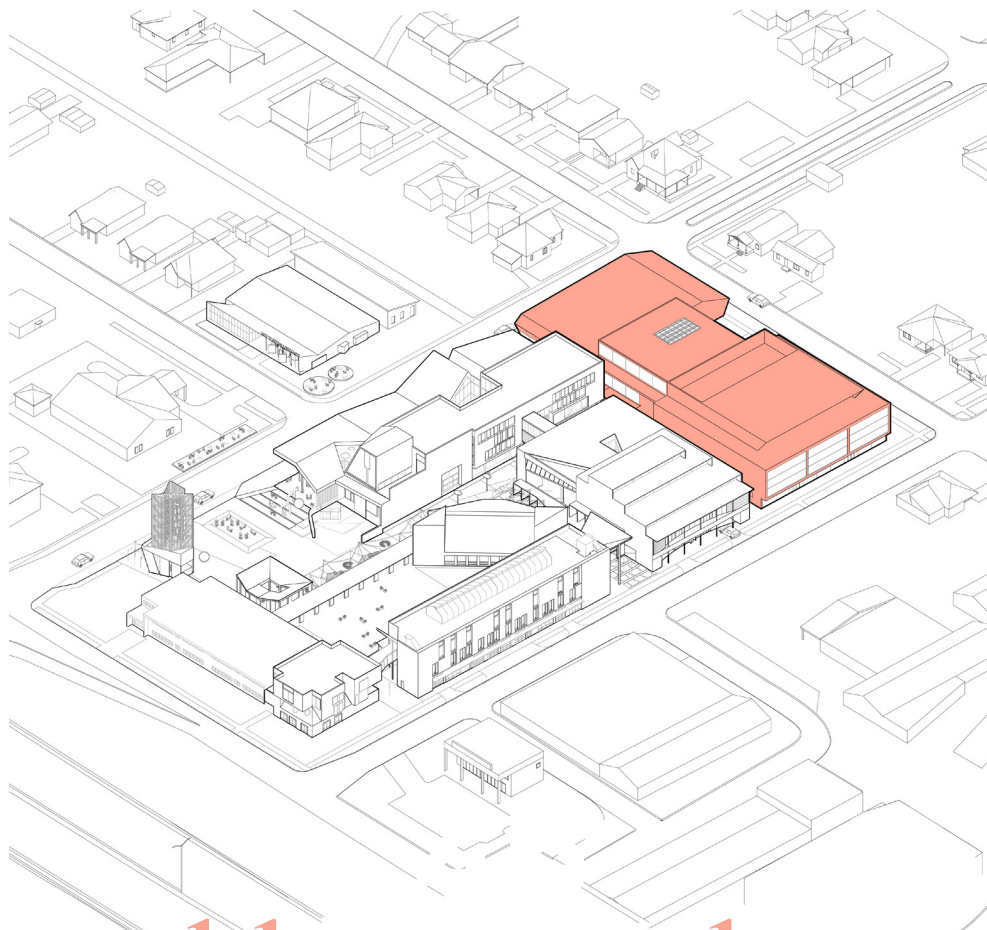
Looking west from the Big Porch to the Arrival Court



Looking northeast from the Arrival Court toward the Big Porch and Chapel



The Student Services Center connects a campus—otherwise ringed by car parking—to the street, becoming a neighborhood asset compatible with the character of the historic neighborhood.



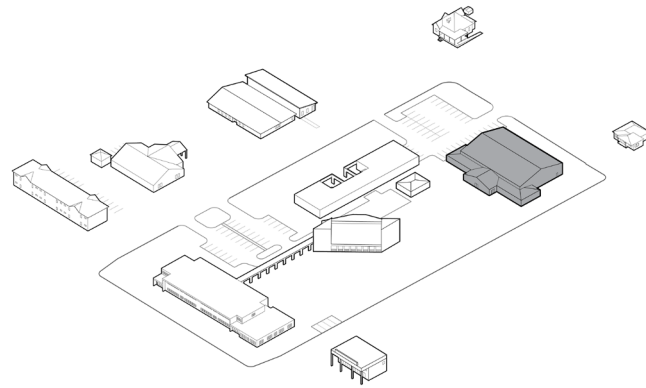
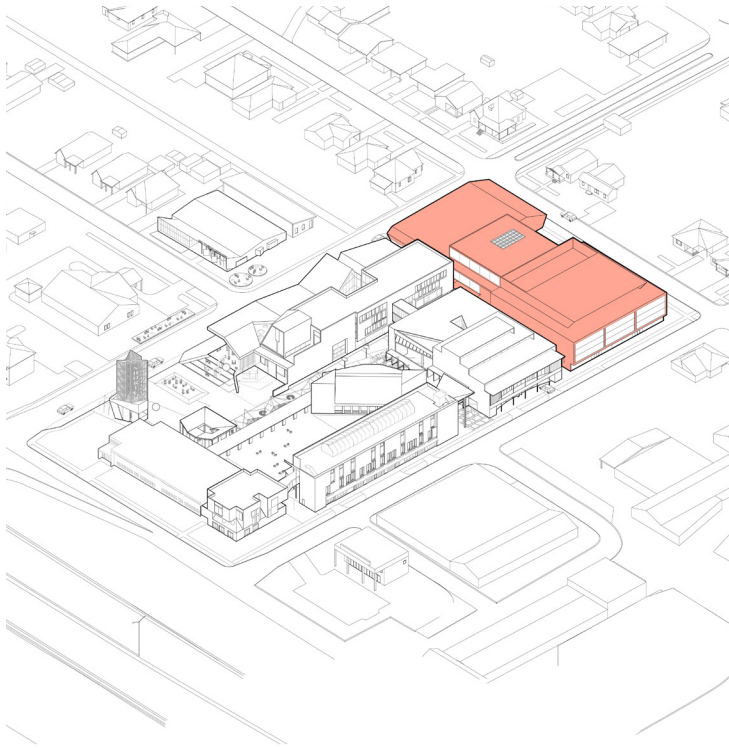
Athletic Facilities Complex

Sports events and recreational activities complement academic excellence by supporting well-rounded student development. **Yet it is difficult to fit large multipurpose gymnasiums into a neighborhood of modest houses. To mitigate the perceived scale of contemporary gymnasiums within the neighborhood, the Athletic Facilities Complex is organized into three primary building volumes.** Each volume, which can be implemented in phases, expresses one of the complex's major functions: 1) an Athletic Gym for official college competitions with seating for 800 spectators; 2) a Recreation Gym with a running track for the broader College community; and 3) Support Facilities for athletic training and community fitness.

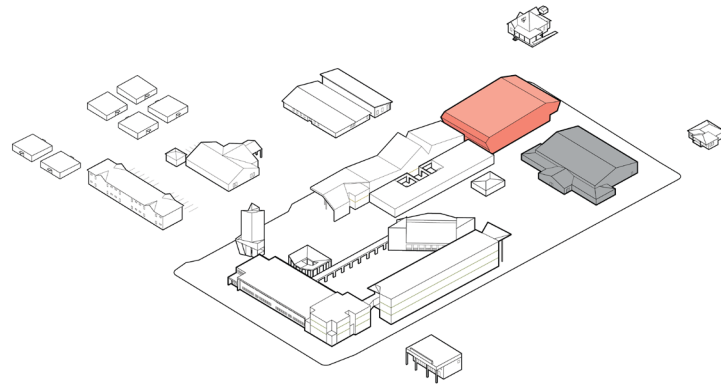
The Support Facilities building is positioned between the two gyms and set back from Vine Street by a courtyard. The building frames the College's eastern gateway onto the Pedestrian Mall, which passes through the building. **Extensive glazing reveals athletic activity to the street, strengthening the relationship between campus and neighborhood. The two gym volumes rotate 90 degrees to establish active frontages along all three streets.** The lower-profile Recreation Gym features a transparent wall that opens views to the north. Its second-level running track offers views to the east and west. Meanwhile, the larger Athletic Gym enlivens Sixth Street with game-day events and celebrations. Gym interiors frame views of the city while bringing natural light deep into the building, responding to requests from coaches and athletes. A shared brick wrapper unifies the three volumes while expressing their distinct functions, scales, and spatial qualities. Together, these strategies create a civic athletic complex that strengthens both campus identity and neighborhood life.



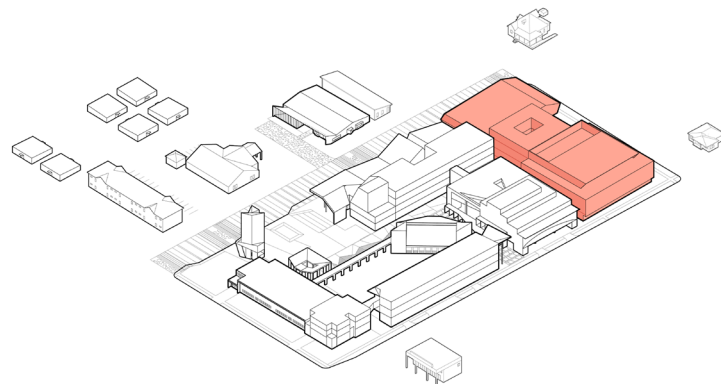
Looking south on Vine Street toward the Athletic Facilities Complex



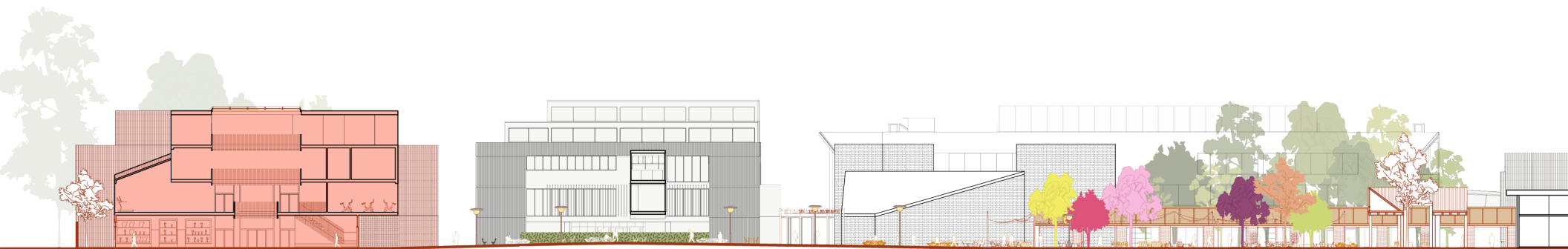
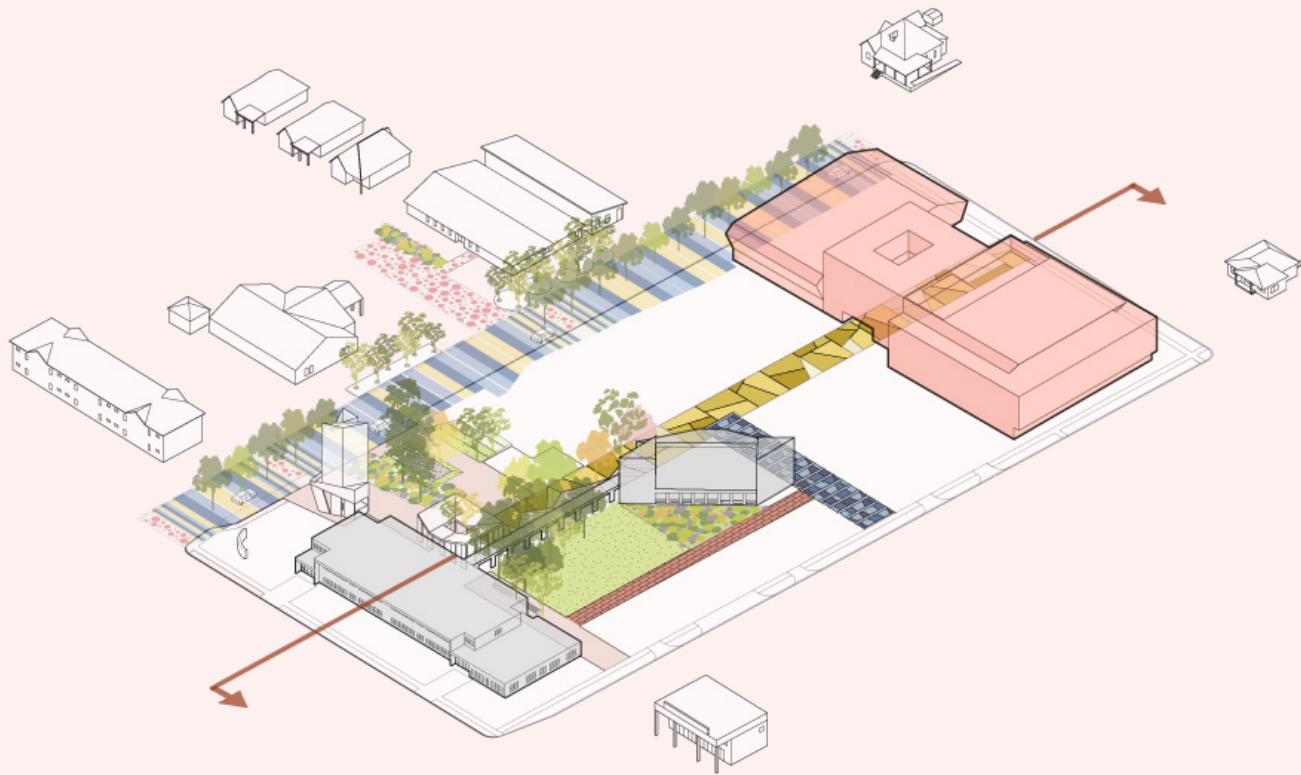
Existing gym



1 Preserve the existing gym while introducing a new Recreation Gym for students and staff



2 Add the Athletic Gym and Support Facilities for athletic training and community fitness



Athletic Support Facility

Conference Center

Sixth Street campus gateway & walk

Boardwalk

Arrival Court

Tyree Hall

The Athletic Facilities Complex frames the College's eastern gateway onto the Pedestrian Mall, which passes through the building.



Northeast view of the existing gym

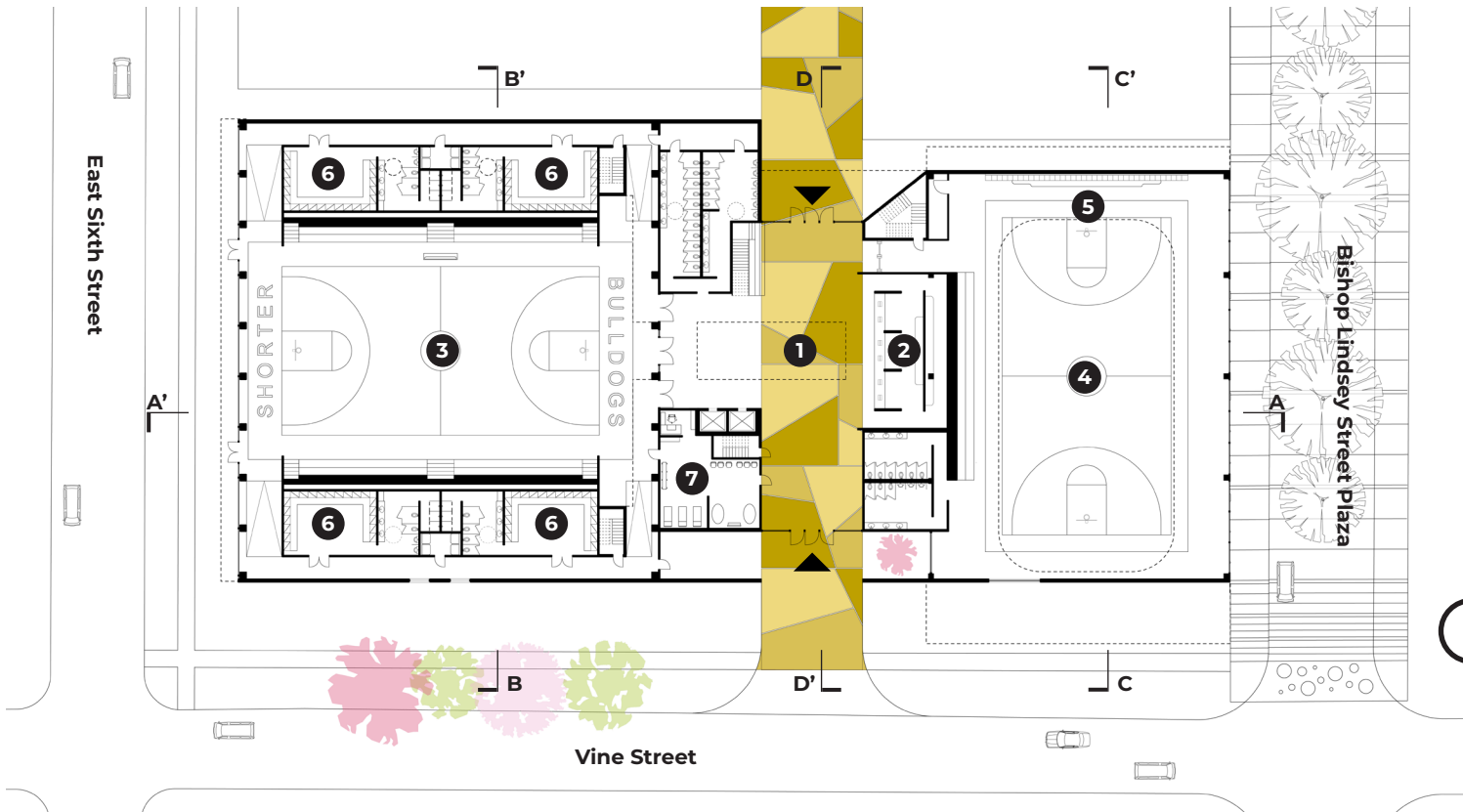


View of the new Athletic Facilities Complex



The new Athletics Facilities Complex brings a game day atmosphere to the neighborhood.

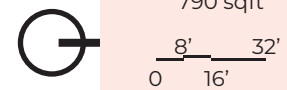




Ground Floor

35,950 sqft

- 1 Lobby 3,720 sqft
- 2 Concessions 1,210 sqft
- 3 Main Arena 7,345 sqft
- 4 Practice Court 9,805 sqft
- 5 Practice Lockers 480 sqft
- 6 Athletic Lockers 2,160 sqft
- 7 Sports Medicine 790 sqft





Section-BB'



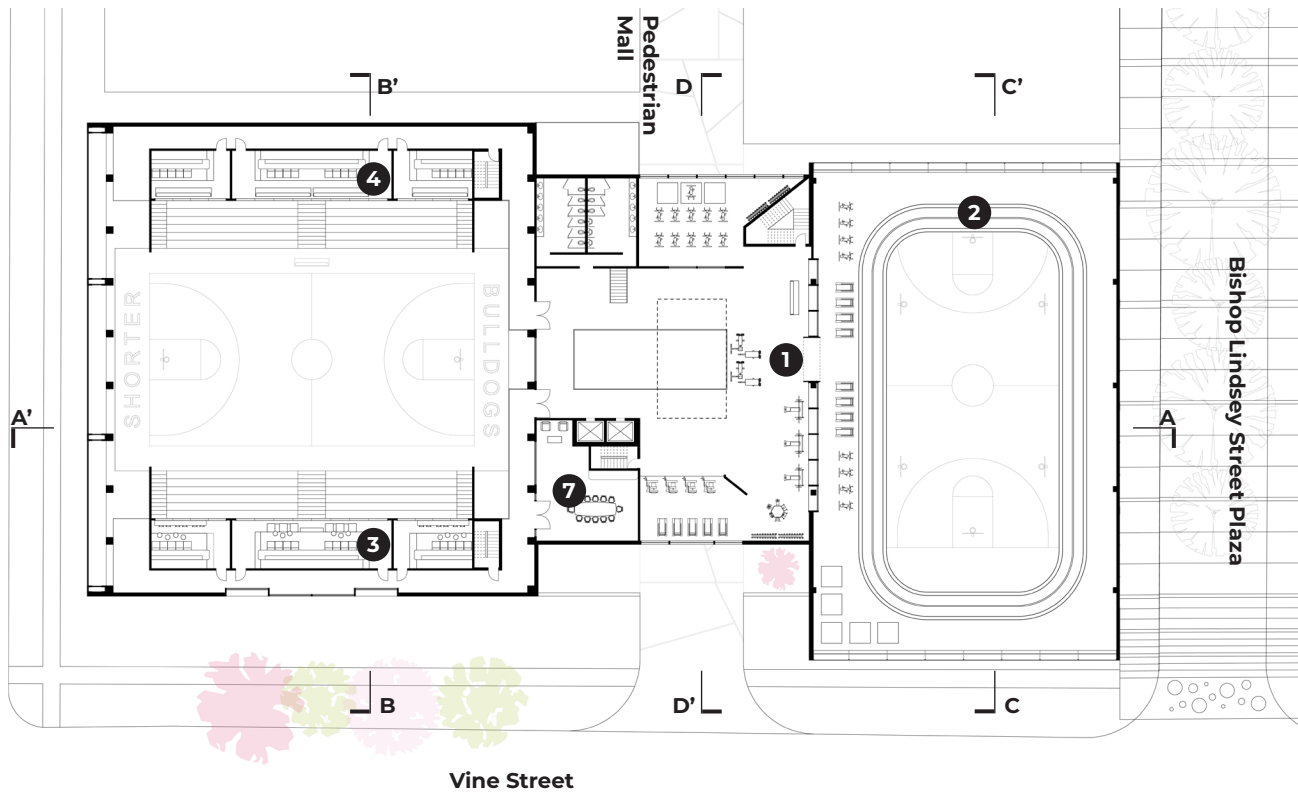
Neighborhood

Vine Street

Athletic Gym

Looking south from within the Athletic Gym toward Sixth Street

East Sixth Street



Second Floor

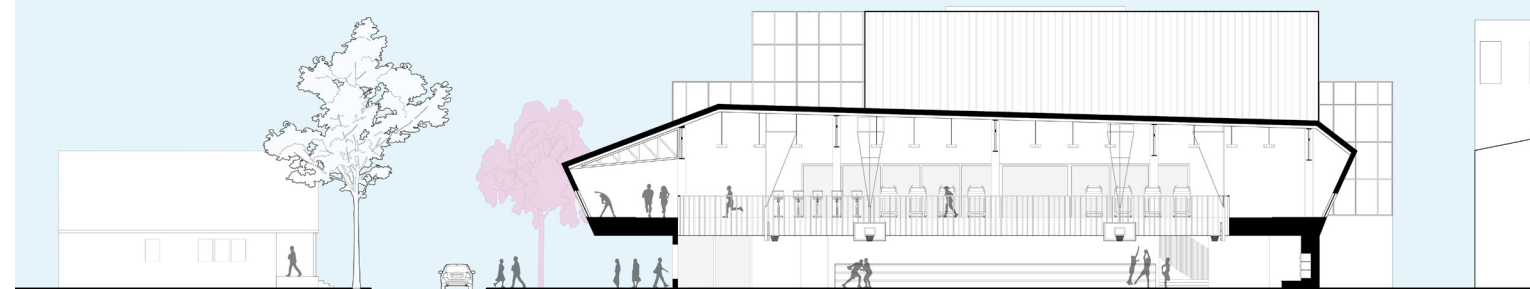
20,000 sqft

- 1 **Fitness Center**
10,250 sqft
- 2 **Indoor Running Track**
1/16 mile
- 3 **Press Boxes**
1,300 sqft
- 4 **Media Boxes**
1,300 sqft

0 8' 16' 32'



Section-CC'



Neighborhood

Vine Street

Recreation Gym

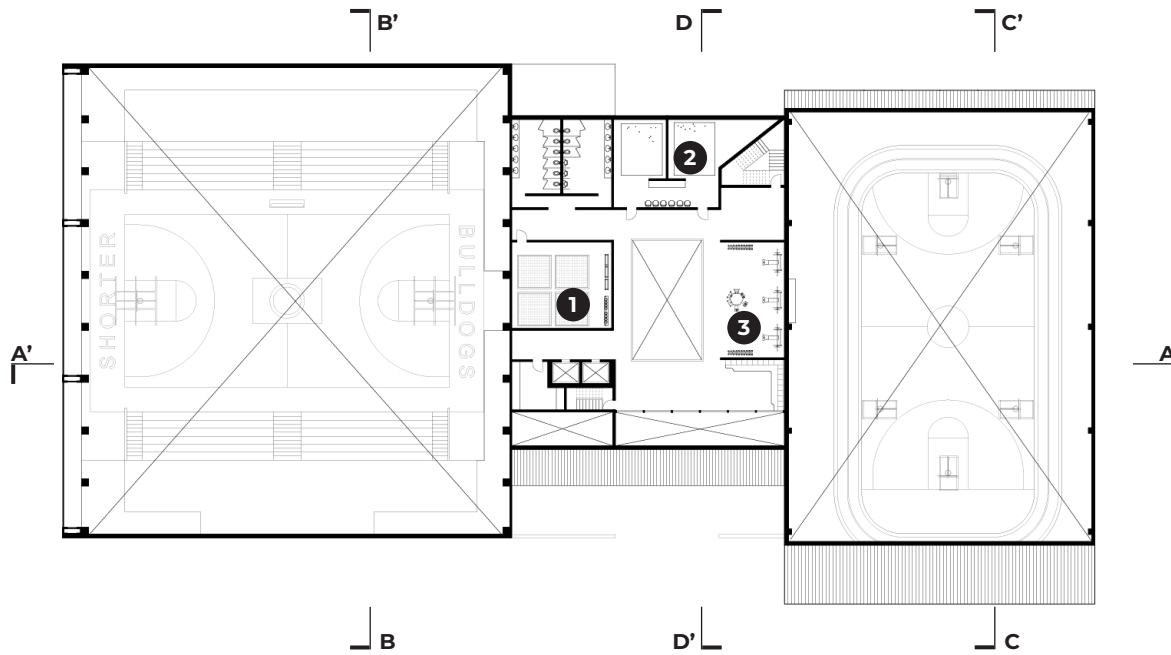
Looking north from within the Recreation Gym toward the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza and the surrounding neighborhood

Looking west toward the Recreation Gym with the Student Services Center beyond



Looking north from the running track toward the surrounding neighborhood

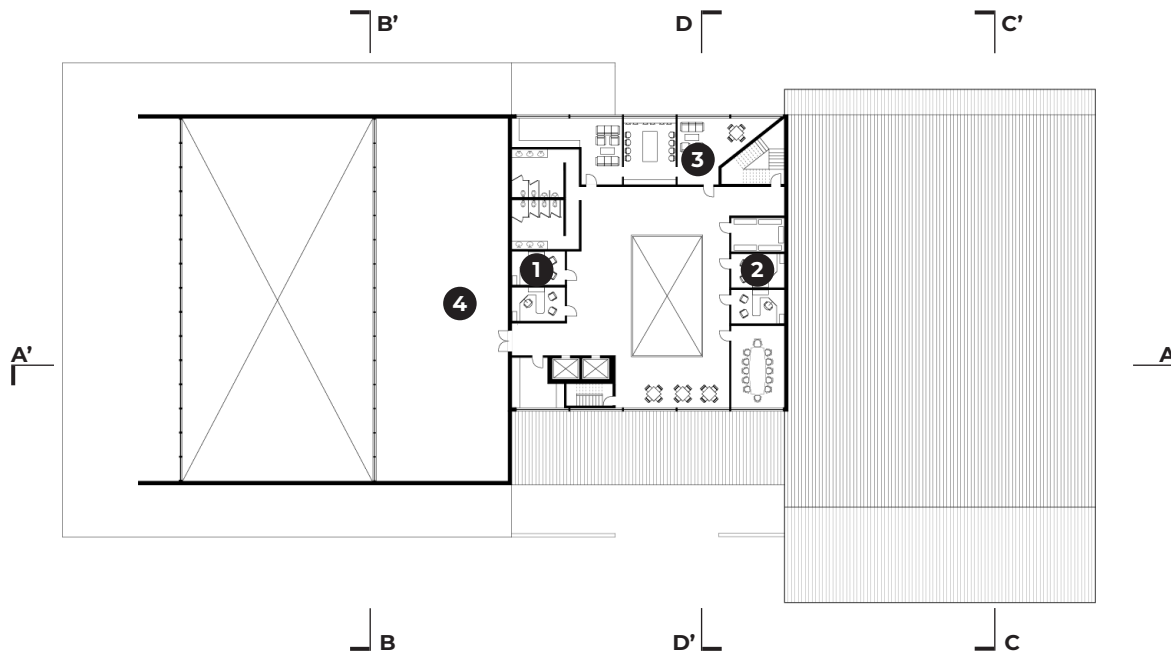




Third Floor

7,770 sqft

- 1 **Wrestling**
725 sqft
- 2 **Golf Simulator**
900 sqft
- 3 **Athletic Weight Room**
620 sqft



Fourth Floor

5,930 sqft

- 1 **Administration Offices**
320 sqft
- 2 **Coaches Offices**
480 sqft
- 3 **Players Lounge**
1,060 sqft
- 4 **Mechanical Space**
4,000 sqft



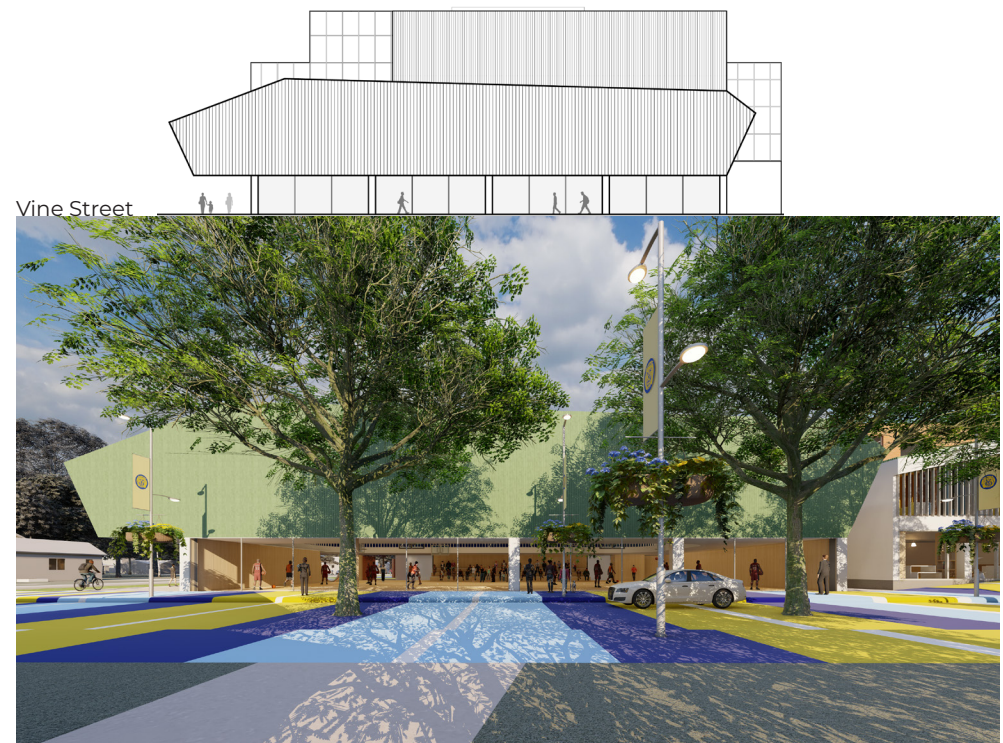
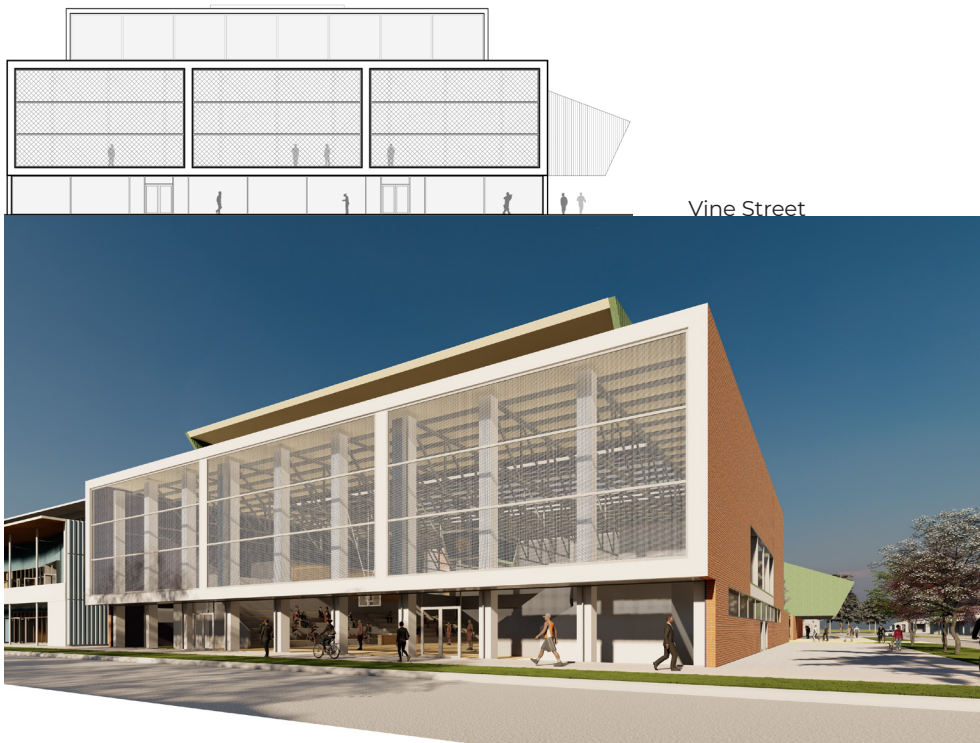
0 8' 16' 32'



Cross-section looking north through the Fitness/Training Center and Pedestrian Mall (Vine Street entrance at right)



Looking west from the Fitness/Training Center toward the Pedestrian Mall

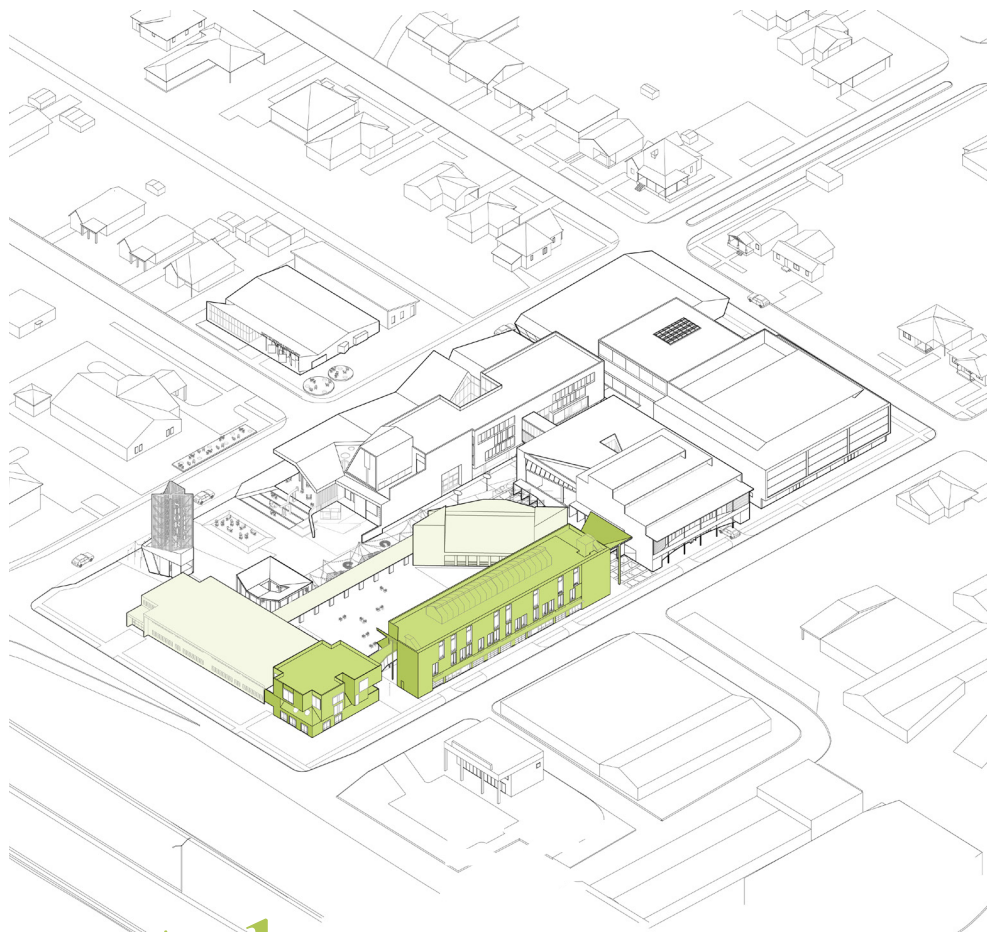




Extensive glazing reveals athletic activity to the street, strengthening the relationship between campus and neighborhood. The two gymnasium volumes rotate 90 degrees to establish active frontages along all three streets.



A shared brick wrapper unifies the three volumes while expressing their distinct functions, scales, and spatial qualities, creating a civic athletic complex that strengthens both campus identity and neighborhood life.



Administration and Instruction Complex

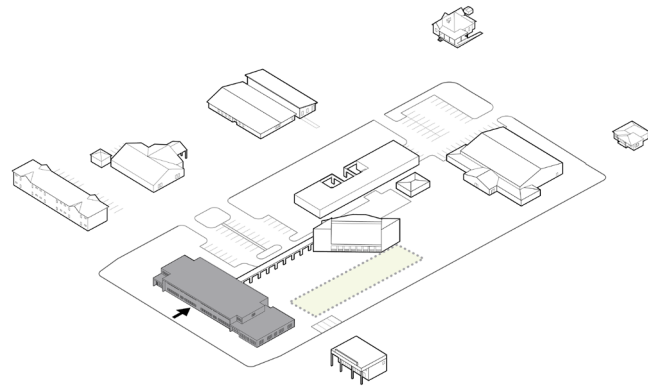
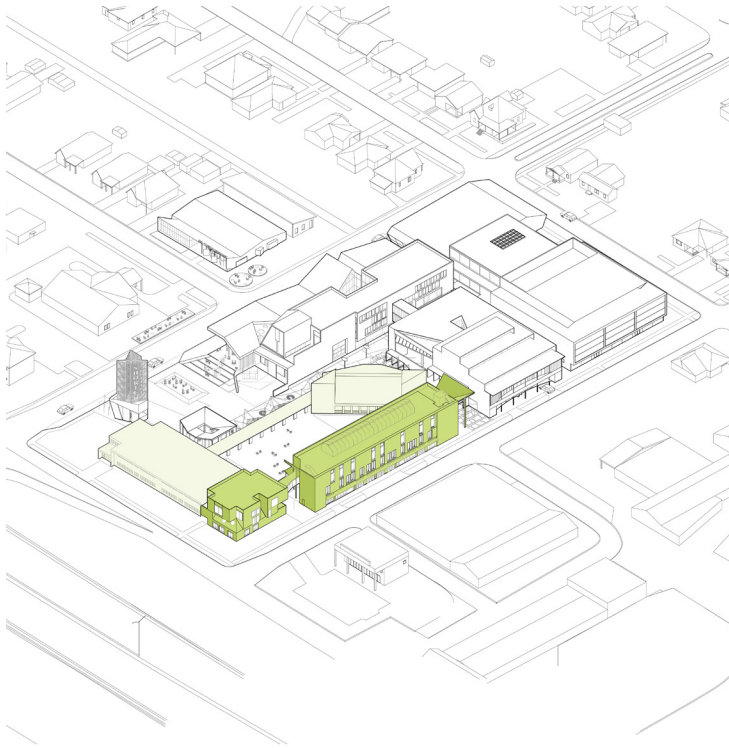
The A&I Complex creates an instructional core around a new campus quad. The complex connects two existing buildings and their shared covered walkway to define a shaded campus lawn. Along Sixth Street, two new buildings—one for administration and one for instruction—are linked by a timber bridge. The three-story Instruction Building accommodates technology-based learning in the health sciences, natural sciences, and heavy industry. The ground floor features garage doors on both the street and quad sides, allowing spaces to open directly outdoors. These flexible spaces can function as industrial laboratories or accommodate a cooperative grocery store and café supporting the College's focus on local food systems. A brick-clad facade on Sixth Street reflects the vertical organization of loft-like flexible learning spaces through its window design. The green metal building facade facing the quad complements the lawn and reveals circulation and study spaces that reinforce its active social character. The quad-side elevation also reveals the building's entrances at both ends along the campus walks. The Instruction Building supports a rooftop community garden and greenhouse, extending the College's commitment to local food systems.

The Administration Building is designed as a prominent corner building, linking Tyree Hall and the Instruction Building. Its three active facades, including one overlooking the quad, reinforce the campus's civic presence. The A&I complex creates welcoming gateways to campus while securing campus entrances from Sixth Street, the industrial edge of the neighborhood. Both buildings create a dignified yet active street edge along Sixth Street. Brick cladding along the street recalls the College's historic brick architecture, reinforcing continuity between the existing campus and its future expansion.

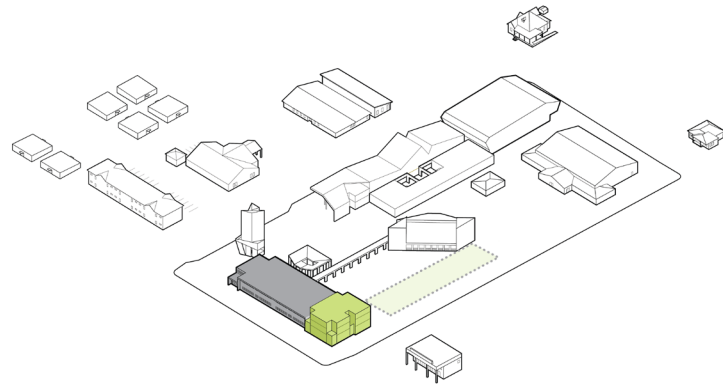


The A&I Complex strengthens the campus edge with clear gateways and building edges, encouraging walking throughout the neighborhood.

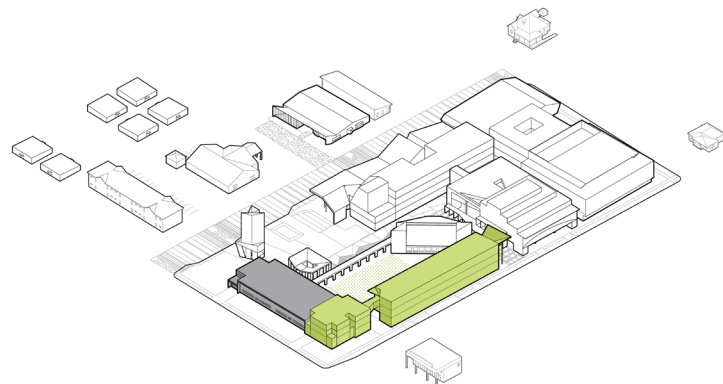




Existing Tyree Hall and
Administration and
Instruction Complex Site



1
Renovate Tyree Hall and
add a new Administration
Building



2
Construct the Instruction
Building and connect to
Tyree Hall with a Skybridge
and plant the Campus Lawn



Northeast view of the existing Tyree Hall and site on Sixth Street

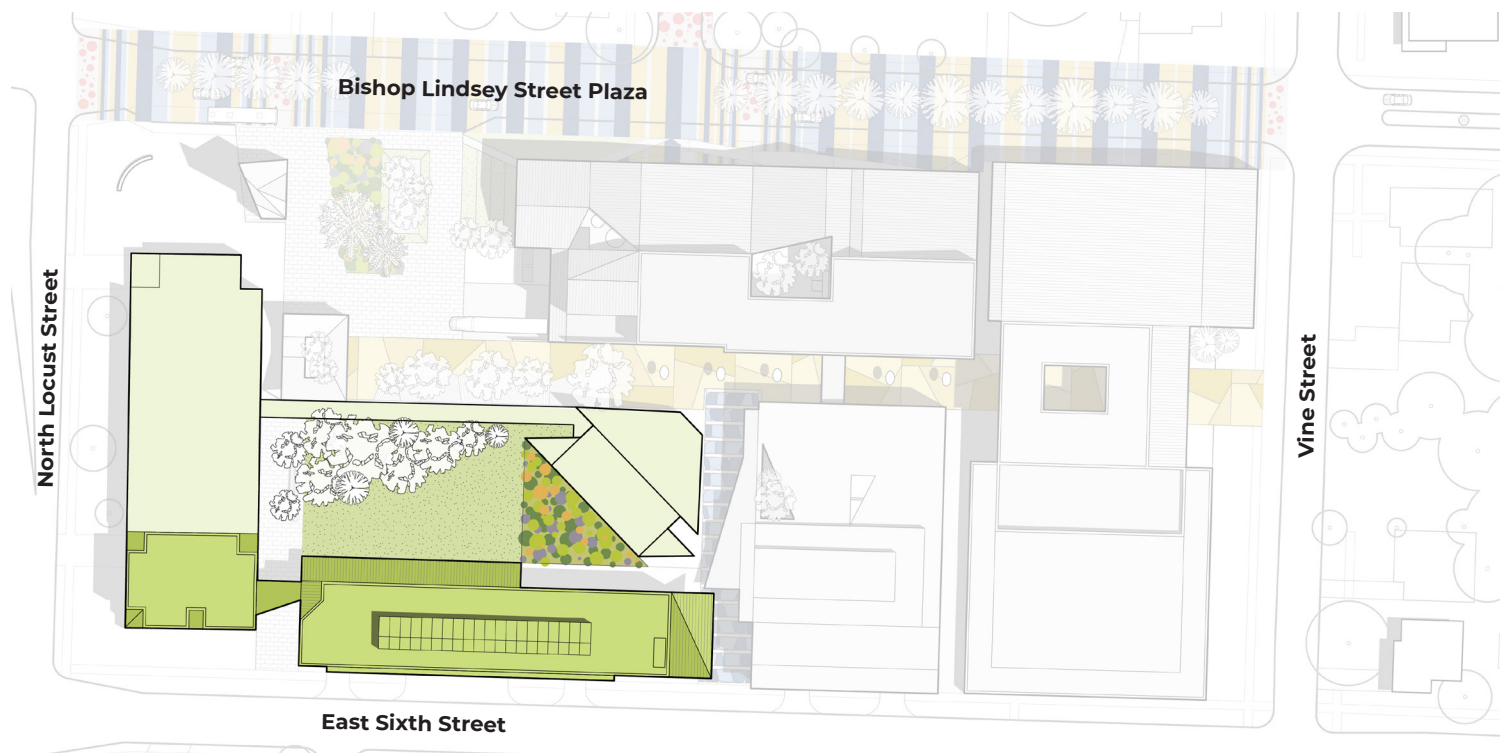


Looking northeast toward the new Administration and Instruction Complex and Campus Lawn



The new A&I Complex connects two existing buildings and their shared covered walkway to define the instructional core of campus around a new quad.

Looking east at the Administration Building toward the Campus Lawn



Administration and Instruction Complex within new campus master plan

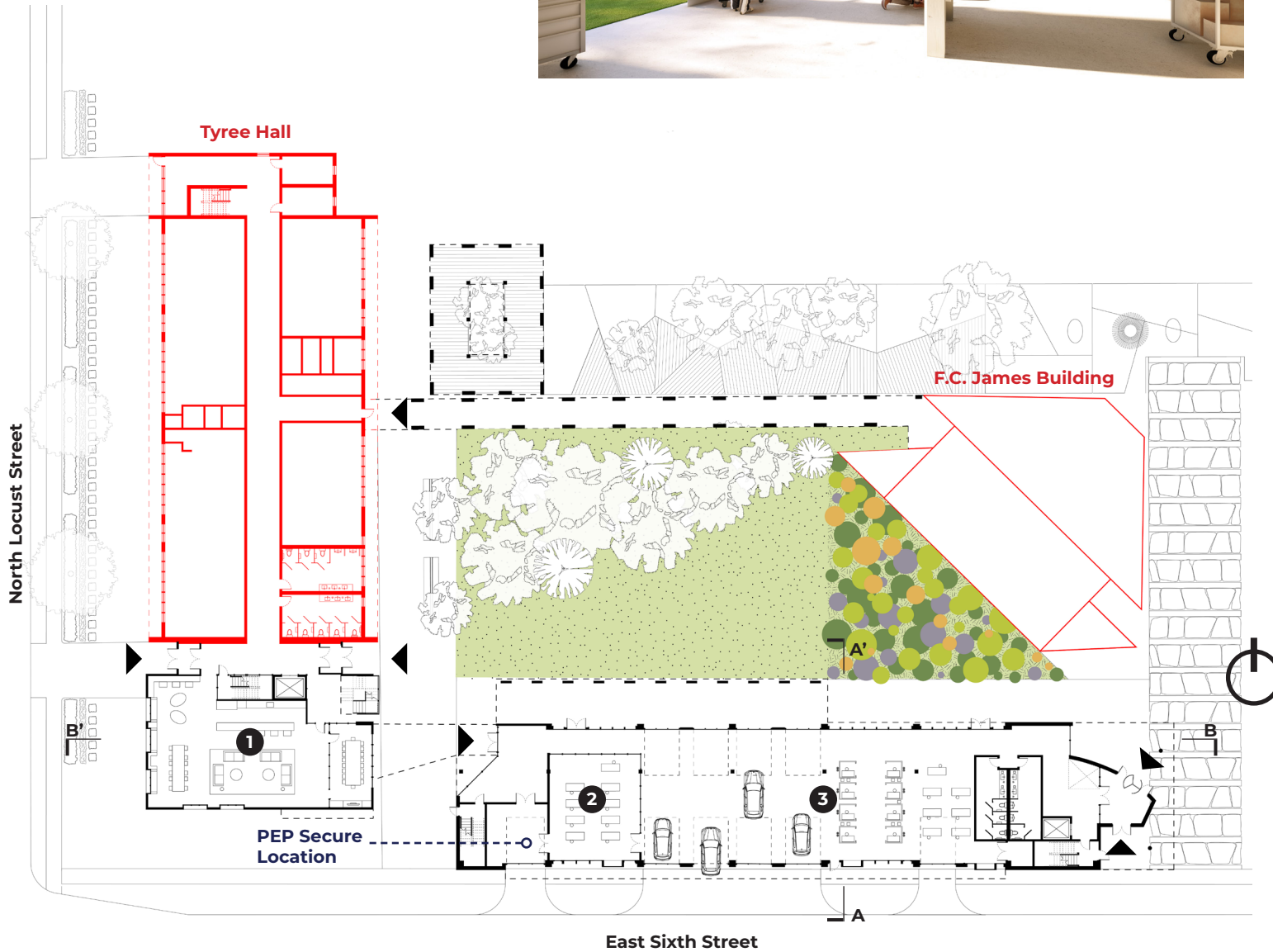


The ground floor is equipped with garage doors on both the street side and quad side, serving as swing space between industrial labs or a cooperative grocery store and a café to serve the College's new focus on local food systems.

Looking northeast from the industrial shop classrooms toward the Campus Lawn



Looking east from within industrial shop classrooms at the ground level of the Instruction Building



F.C. James Building and Tyree Hall to be programmed and planned per meetings with architect.

Ground Floor

13,650 sqft

- 1 Staff Lounge and/or Faculty Offices**
2,550 sqft
- 2 PEP Secure Workroom**
1,250 sqft
- 3 Industrial Classrooms**
4,725 sqft

5' 45'
0 20'

red indicates existing building

Section-AA'



East Sixth Street

Instruction Building

Campus Lawn

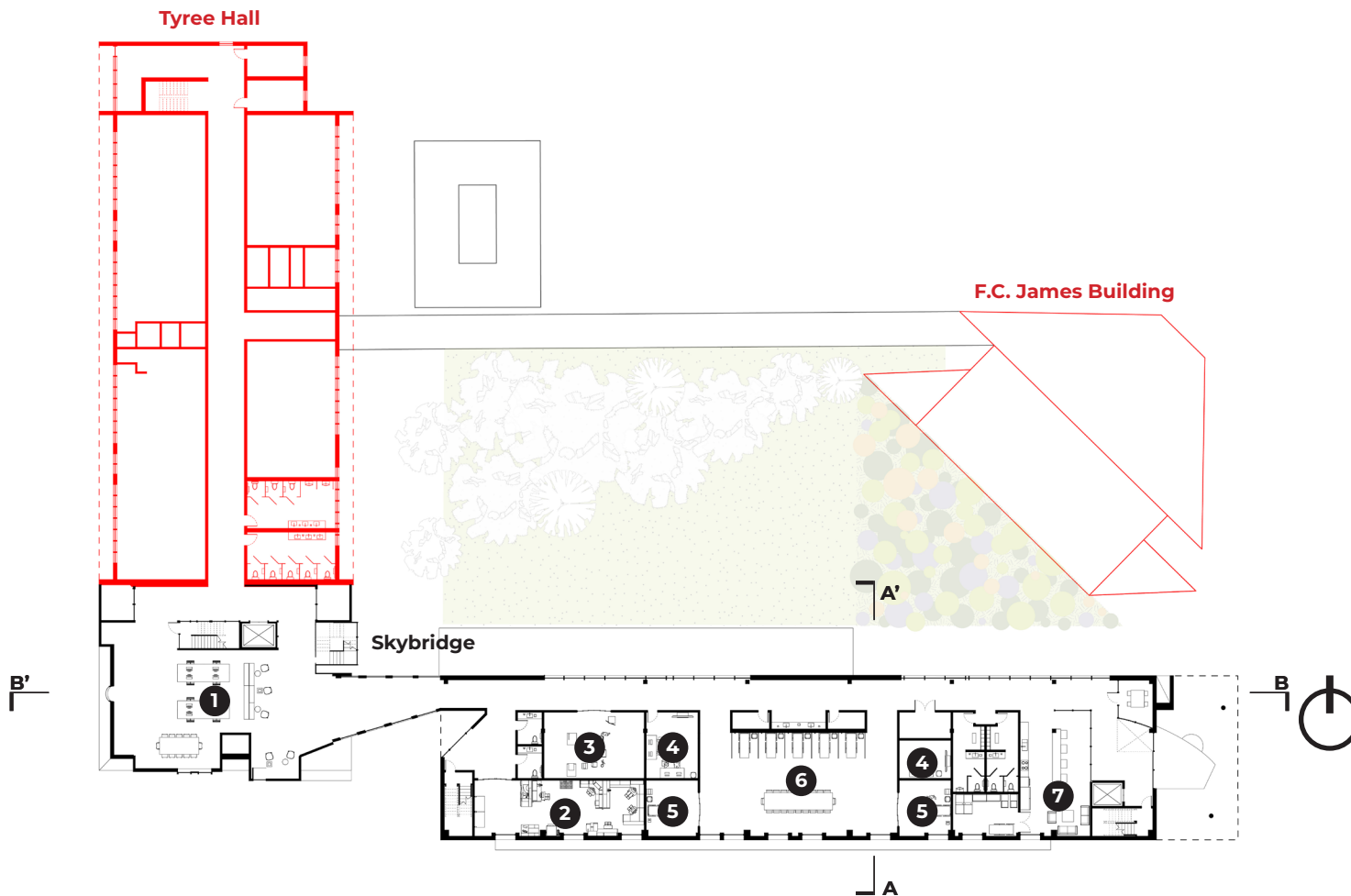
Cross-section through the Instruction Building and Campus Lawn,
looking west toward Tyree Hall



The Instruction Building at the Sixth Street campus gateway and walk
looking toward the Student Services Center



Section through Levels 1 and 2 looking toward the Sixth Street campus gateway and walk



Second Floor

13,000 sqft

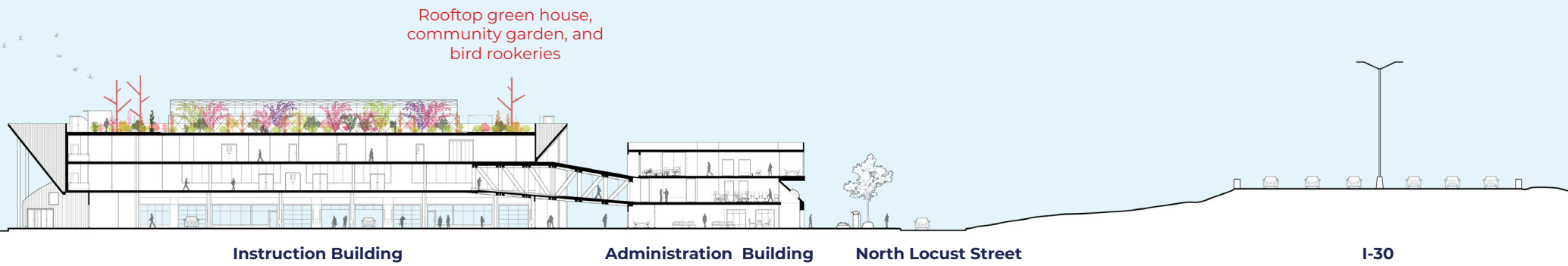
- 1 Staff Workspace or Faculty Offices**
1,830 sqft
- 2 Faculty Offices**
825 sqft
- 3 Operating Room Simulation Suite**
580 sqft
- 4 Control Room**
295 sqft
- 5 Intensive Care Unit Lab**
250 sqft
- 6 Skills Lab**
1,755 sqft
- 7 Student Lounge**
764 sqft

5' 45'
0 20'

red indicates existing building



The green metal building facade facing the quad complements the lawn and exposes circulation and study spaces that reveal its active social character.



A new quad created by the Administration and Instruction Complex defining the Campus Lawn



Looking south from the Campus Lawn toward the Sixth Street campus gateway with the Administration Building at right



Tyree Hall

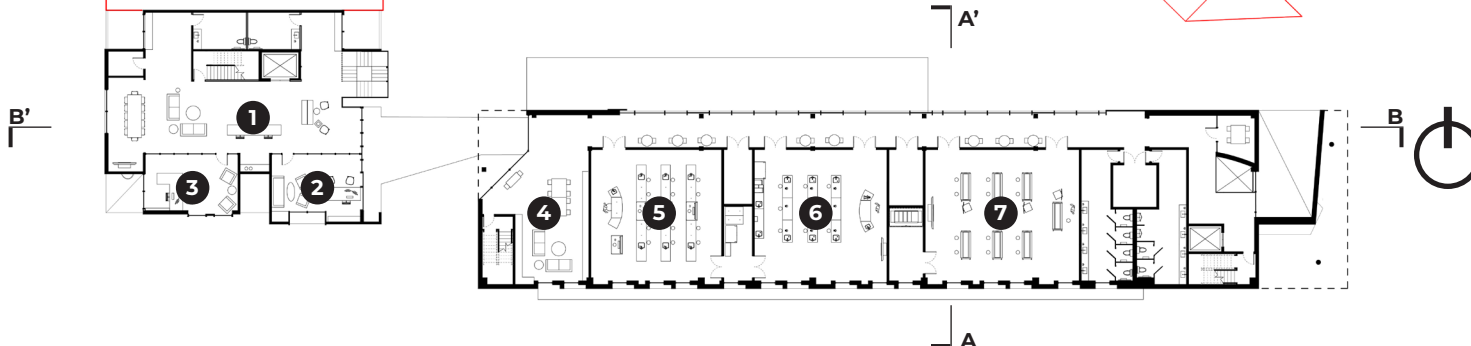
Looking east from the Executive Reception in the Administration Building toward the Campus Lawn

F.C. James Building

Third Floor

12,770 sqft

- 1 Executive Reception**
1,030 sqft
- 2 President's Office**
440 sqft
- 3 Vice President's Office**
395 sqft
- 4 Reading Room**
605 sqft
- 5 Chemistry Classroom**
1,270 sqft
- 6 Biology Classroom**
1,300 sqft
- 7 Cadaver Lab**
1,495 sqft



red indicates existing building



Looking south from the Pedestrian Mall toward the Campus Lawn

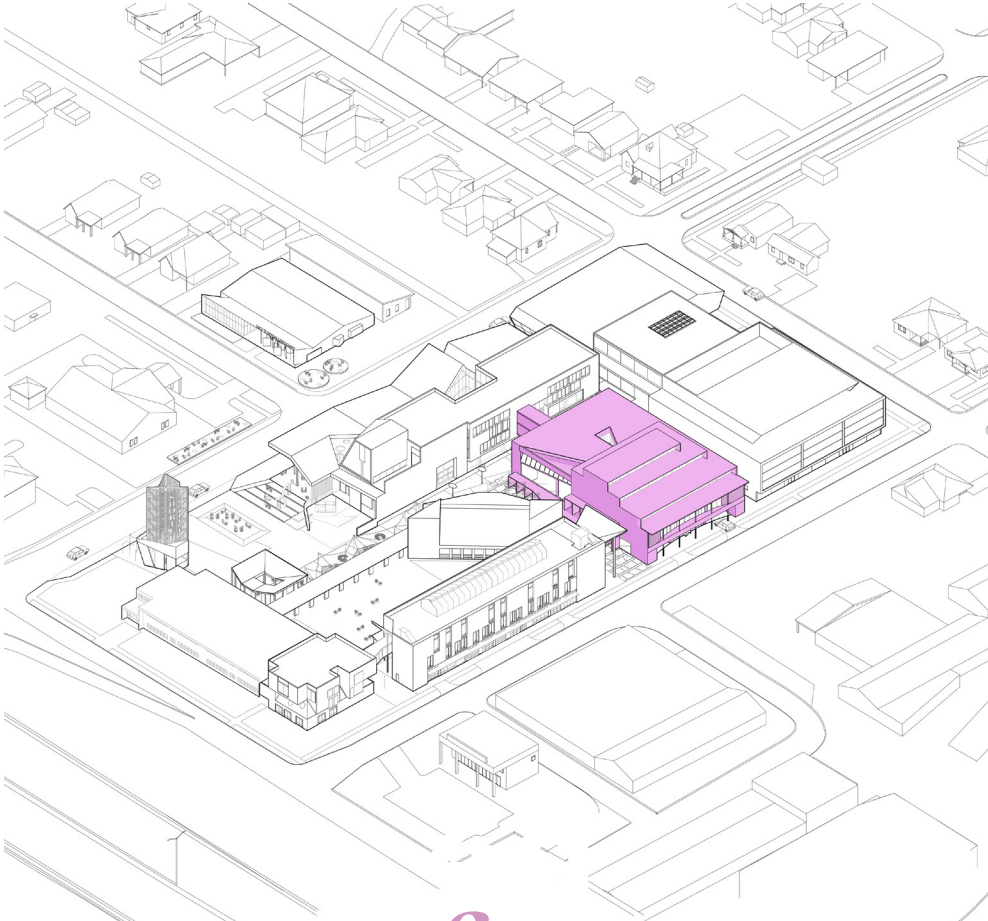


Looking west toward the quad of the A&I Complex



Looking west to Administration and Instruction Complex within the campus master plan





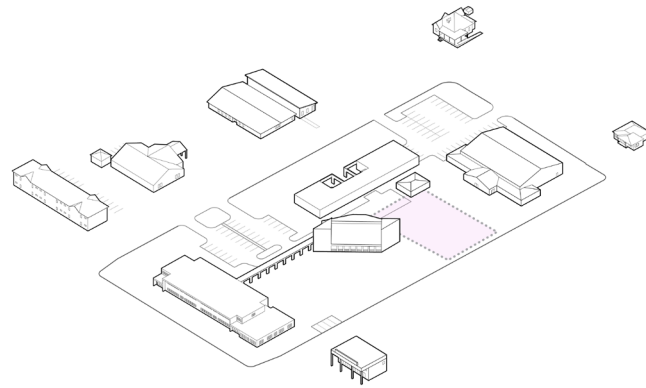
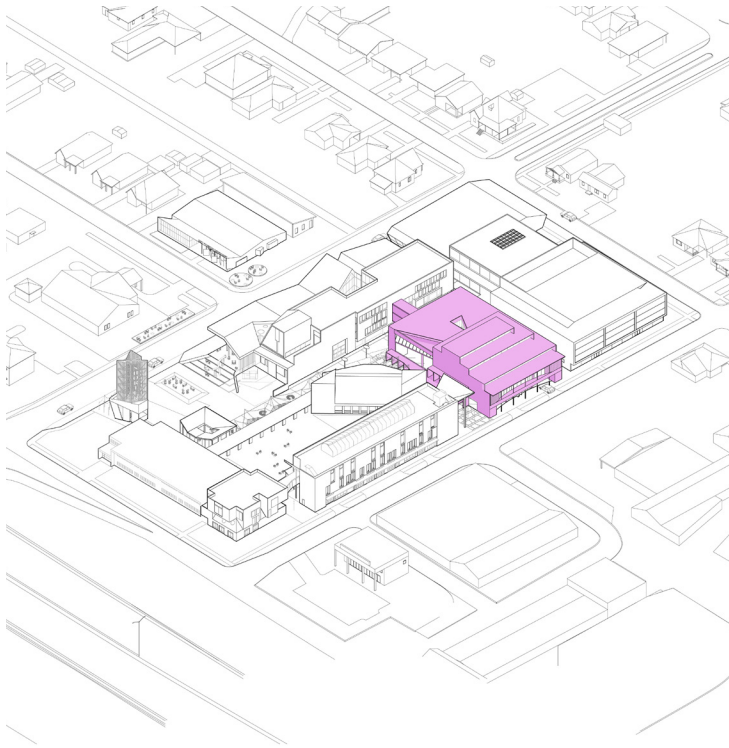
Conference Center

The Conference Center is an important forum for community learning, fellowship, and engagement central to the College's mission. Shorter College was founded in 1886 by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, long associated with Black liberation and civil rights movements. AME churches traditionally did not have fellowship space beyond their small sanctuaries, so Sunday dinners were commonly held in community spaces—in this case, the Conference Center. At many HBCUs, church and school life are closely intertwined, and the Conference Center supports the College's expanded community outreach and research mission. The ballroom and adjoining gathering spaces are designed to accommodate everything from Sunday dinners and community celebrations to conferences, performances, and public lectures.

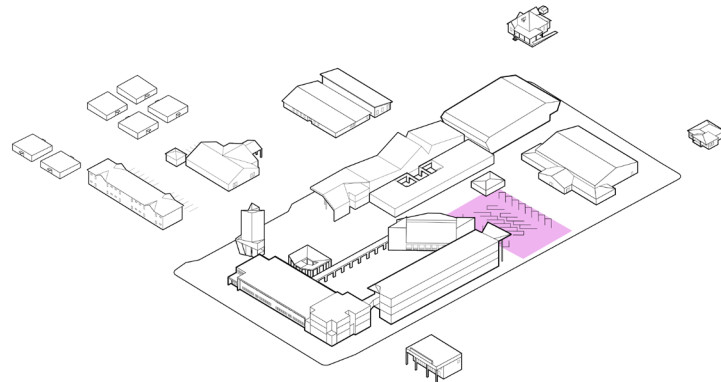
Two major building volumes are elevated above ground-level parking, allowing the Conference Center to maximize its compact site. **A “ziggurat” or stepped structure of glulam wood beams defines the main ballroom volume, bringing natural light and views into a space that is often enclosed and inward-looking—an important feature for attracting community events and outside rentals.** The ballroom volume fronts Sixth Street and frames a southern gateway into campus. Facing the campus's Pedestrian Mall, a sloped Lecture Theater spans the Mall with a skybridge to the Student Services Center. Together, the two buildings share kitchen facilities and flexible gathering spaces, allowing activities to spill between the Student Services Center and the Conference Center during large community events. Stacked clerestory windows and light wells bring natural light deep into the Conference Center while illuminating the Lecture Theater and its surrounding spaces. South- and west-facing porches connect the Conference Center to both the surrounding neighborhood and the campus, extending its activities outdoors.



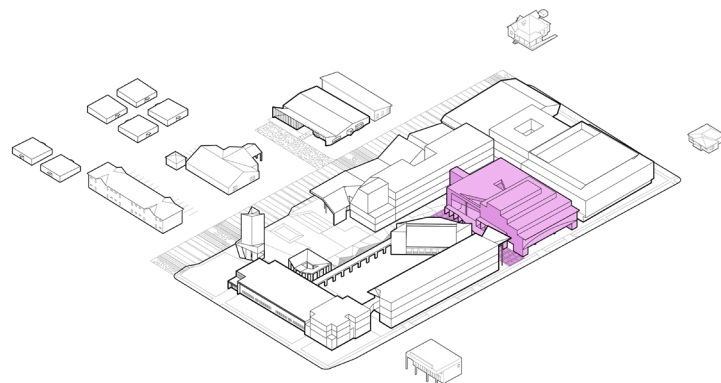
The Conference Center creates a campus edge, featuring human-centered building frontages despite housing large assembly spaces.



Existing Conference Center site



1 Construct surface parking over which the Conference Center will be constructed



2 Add the Conference Center with ballroom and lecture theater connected to Student Services Center via a Skybridge



Northwest view of the Conference Center site on Sixth Street



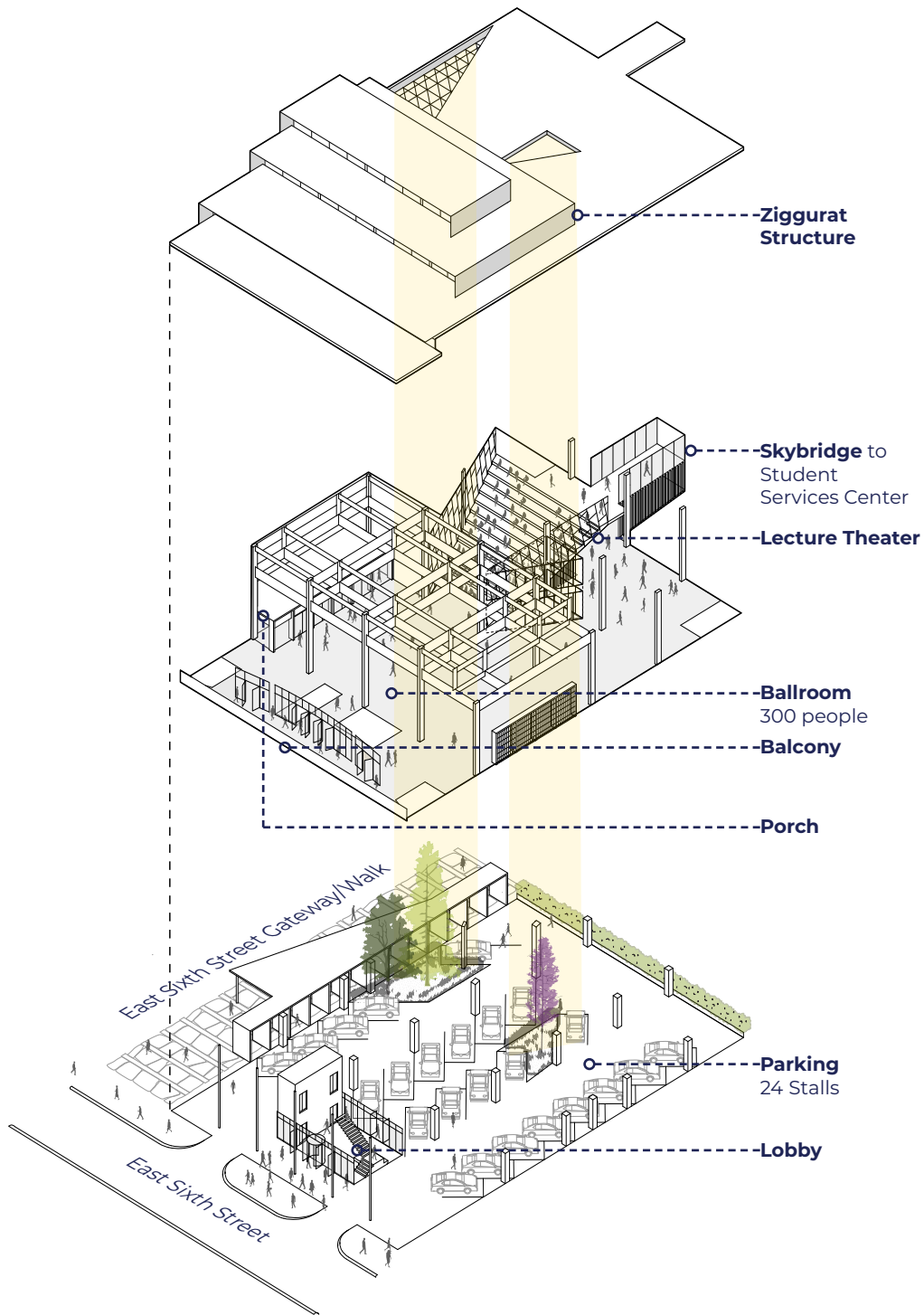
Looking northwest toward the new Conference Center



The Conference Center is an important forum for learning, fellowship, and community engagement central to the College's mission.

Looking north toward the Conference Center site at Sixth Street

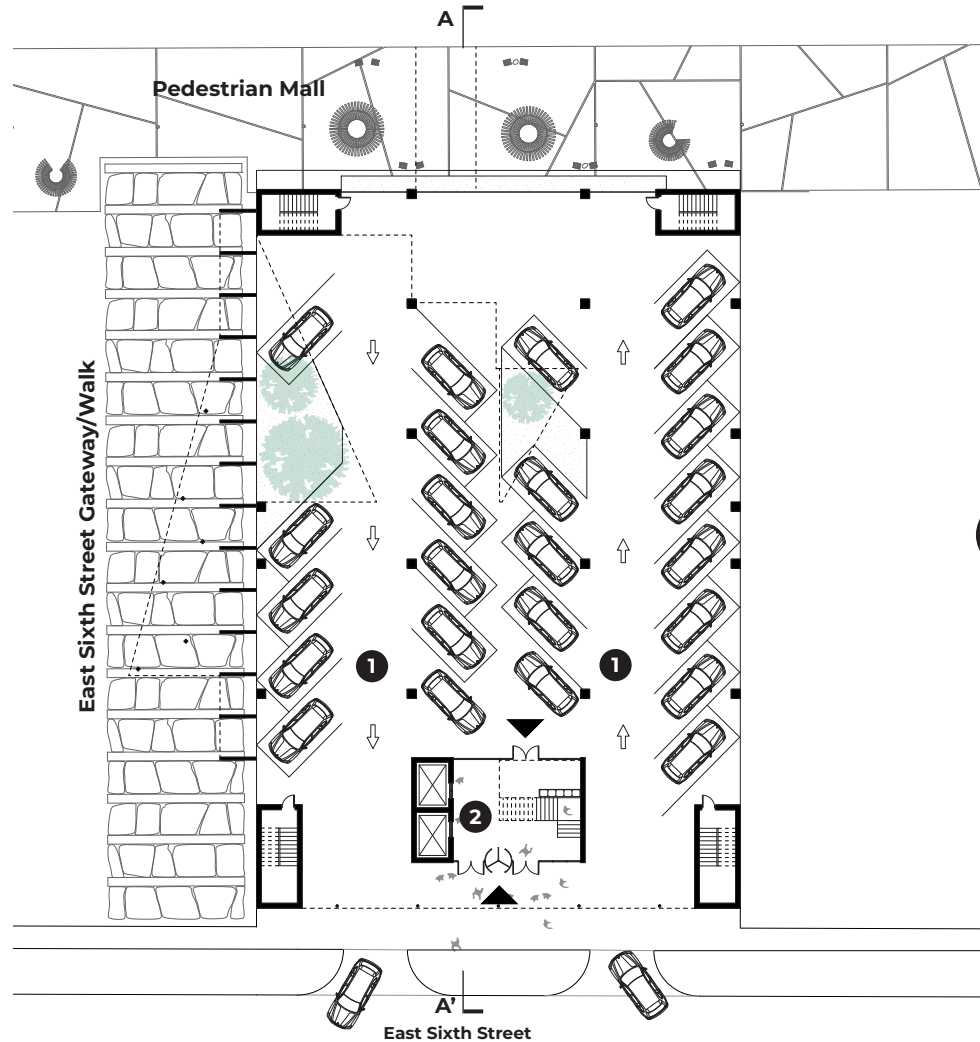




Looking north from the main entrance to the Ballroom



Looking west from the parking level towards the light well and the Lecture Theater above



Ground Floor

16,770 sqft

- 1 Parking**
14,350 sqft, 24 parking stalls
- 2 Lobby**
850 sqft



0 8' 16' 32'

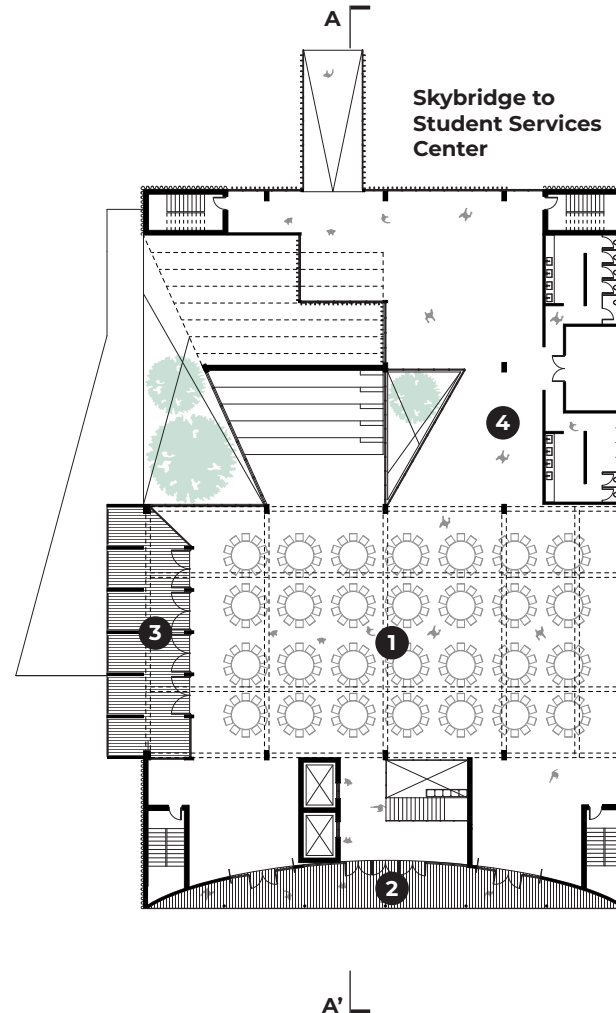
Section-AA'



Two major volumes are suspended above ground-level parking via transfer beams. A ziggurat structure of mass timber defines the main ballroom volume, which fronts Sixth Street, while framing a south entrance into campus.



Looking west from the Ballroom spillover to the Lecture Theater



Second Floor

13,635 sqft

- 1 Ballroom**
5,450 sqft, 300 people
- 2 Balcony**
750 sqft
- 3 Porch**
1,060 sqft
- 4 Conference Support Space**
2,100 sqft



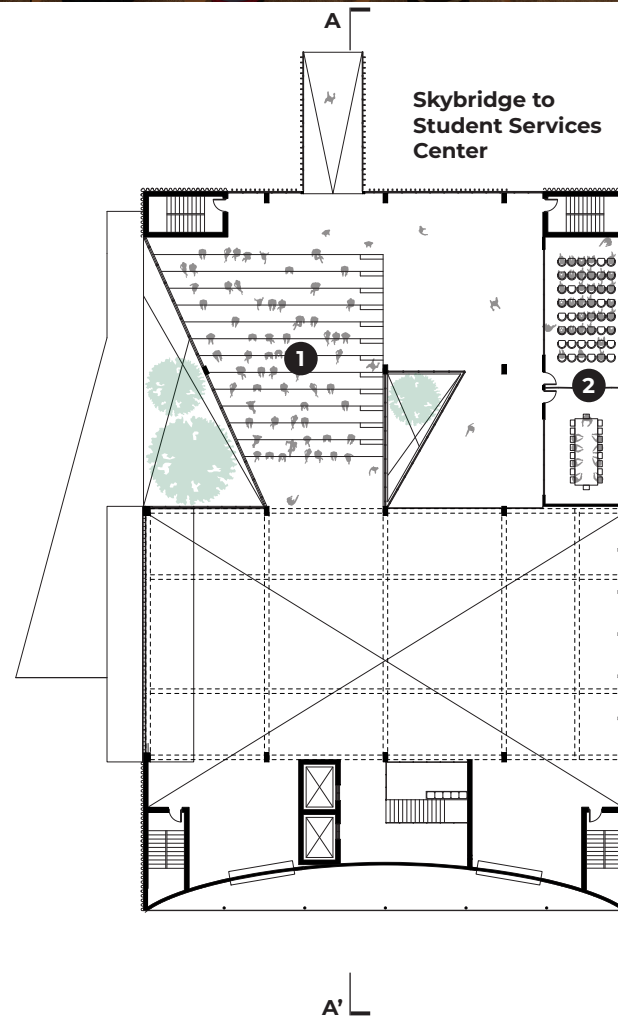
0 8' 16' 32'



A “ziggurat” or stepped structure of glulam wood beams defines the main ballroom volume, bringing natural light and views into a space that is often enclosed and inward-looking—an important feature for attracting community events and outside rentals.



Looking south from the Lecture Theater to the Ballroom



Third Floor

6,240 square feet

- 1 **Lecture Theater**
2,330 sqft
- 2 **Flex Room**
1,100 sqft



0 8' 16' 32'

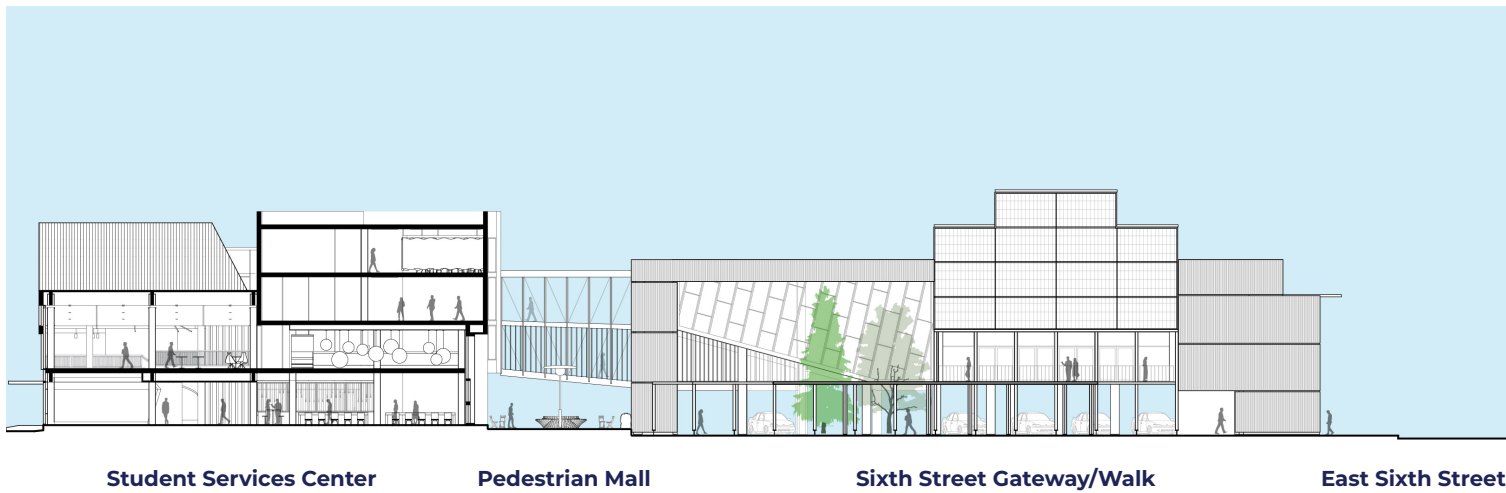


Stacked clerestory windows and light wells bring natural light deep into the Conference Center while illuminating the Lecture Theater and its surrounding spaces.



South- and west-facing porches connect the Conference Center to both the surrounding neighborhood and the campus, extending its activities outdoors.

Sixth Street Elevation



Student Services Center

Pedestrian Mall

Sixth Street Gateway/Walk

East Sixth Street



The Lecture Theater is sloped and carved to admit natural light and landscape planting at the parking level.

Looking southeast from the Pedestrian Mall toward the Lecture Theater



Looking southwest from the Pedestrian Mall toward the Skybridge

The Conference Center helps redefine the former commuter campus through pedestrian-focused, human-scaled design.



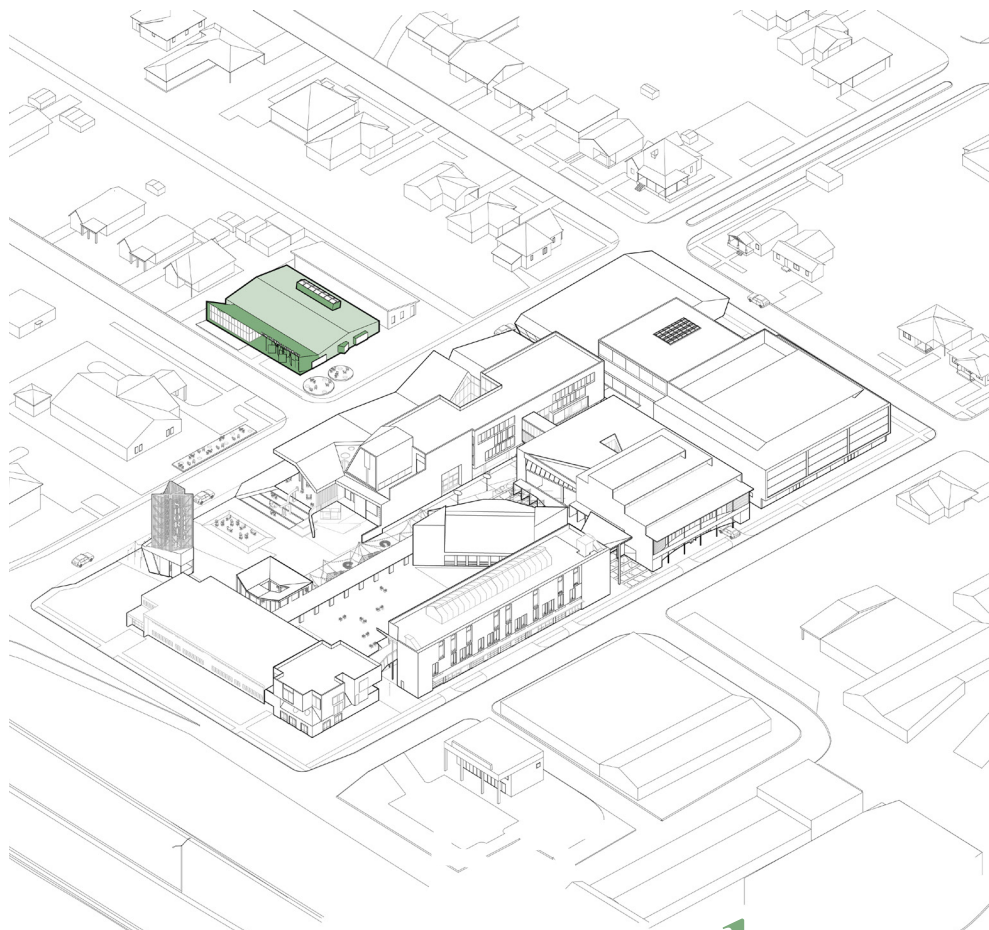
Looking southeast at the zigurat form of the Conference Center roof



South- and west-facing porches connect the Conference Center to both the surrounding neighborhood and the campus, extending its activities outdoors.



Sixth Street campus gateway and walk



A.W. Young Library Extension

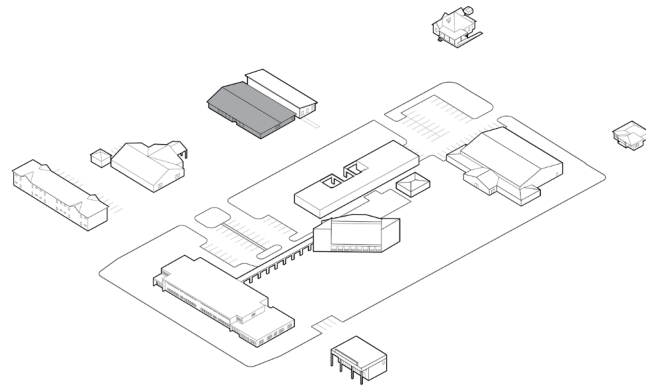
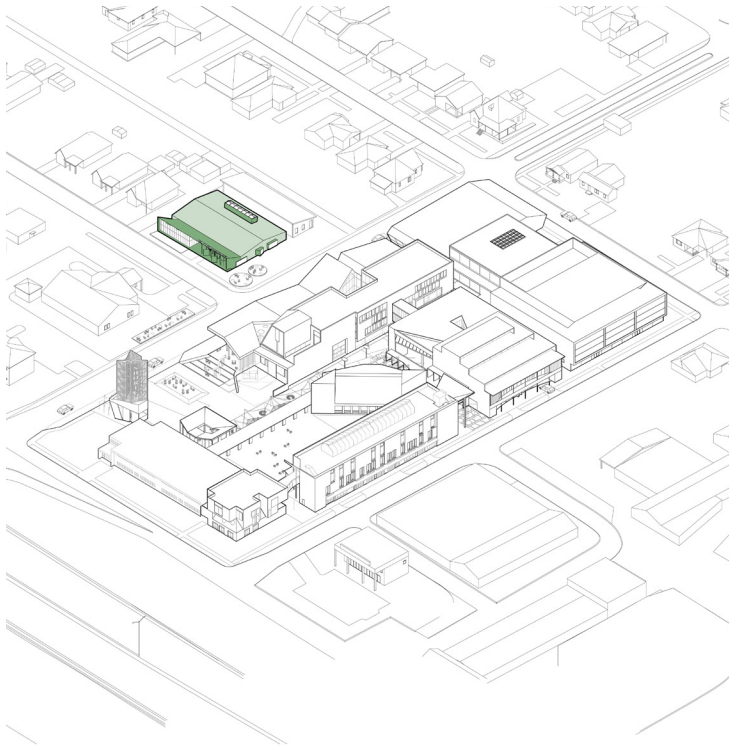
Beyond providing books, campus libraries are important learning spaces for the transmission of heritage and cultural understanding. The A.W. Young Library occupies a nondescript metal systems building at the edge of campus. Yet it contains a remarkable but invisible collection of African artifacts and a local photographic archive. **A new building frontage and entrance expands the library, providing a better streetscape in the historic neighborhood through a generous study porch and exhibits honoring African American achievement and cultural heritage.** Inspired by the large poster displays, marquees, and pageantry of sidewalk-fronting theaters in small- and mid-sized towns, the new frontage converts the library into an active cultural destination.

The renovation increases the library's capacity by adding a study porch and conference room, while interior renovations introduce new learning and social spaces with exhibition-grade display of the College's artifact collection. Together with the new Student Services Center, the Library creates a welcoming gateway for students and visitors. **A generous porch, window seats, and a screened outdoor study space activate the Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza, reconnecting the library to the main campus block.**

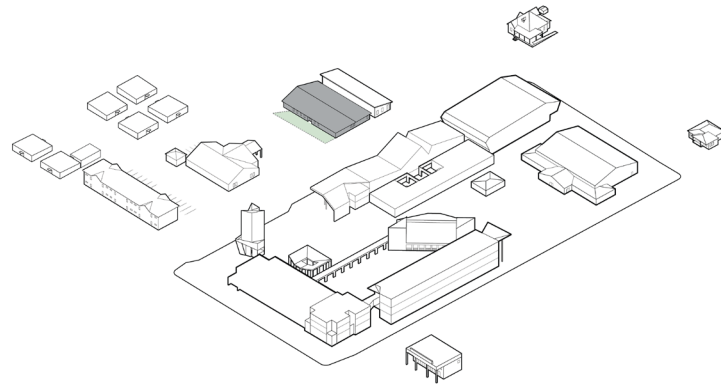
Inside, renovated spaces bring the library's unique collections—including African artifacts and a regional photographic archive—into the daily experience of students and faculty. Group study areas, illuminated by a new central skylight, provide flexible spaces for collaboration and learning. Together, these interventions establish the A.W. Young Library as both a vibrant academic resource and a lasting celebration of the College's rich cultural heritage.



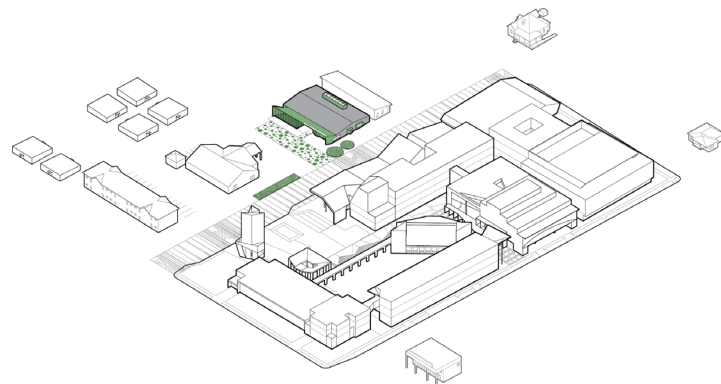
The A.W. Young Library screened porch echoes the residential pattern language of the surrounding historic neighborhood.



Existing A.W. Young Library



1 Preserve the existing Library while introducing new interior furnishings for students and staff



2 Add building frontage system with porch and window seating to create welcoming street frontage

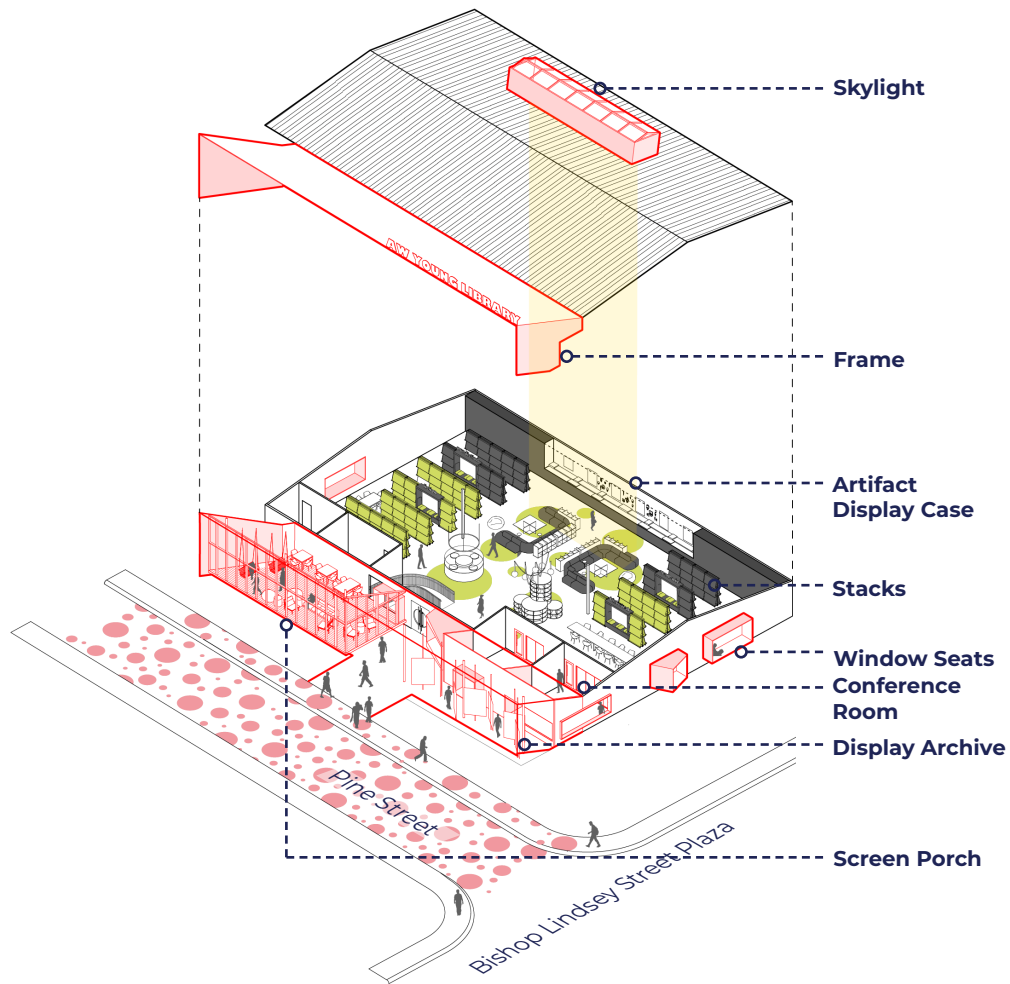


Southeast view of the existing
A.W. Young Library

Together with the new
Student Services Center,
the Library creates a
welcoming gateway for
students and visitors.



Looking southeast toward the new
A.W. Young Library frontage



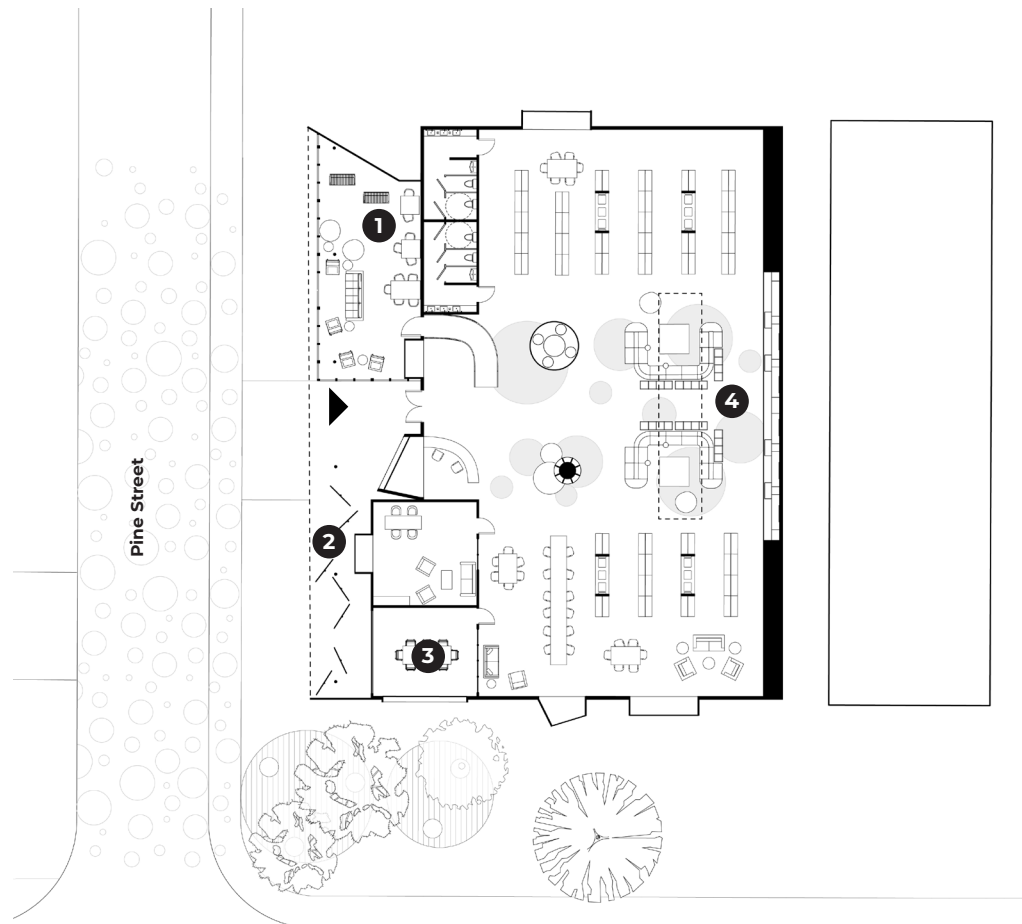
red indicates new building



Looking east toward the screen porch and display archive from Pine Street



Looking southwest from the screen porch toward the Arrival Court



Bishop Lindsey Street Plaza

Ground Floor

9,250 sqft

- 1 Screen Porch
785 sqft
- 2 Display Archive
700 sqft
- 3 Conference Room
340 sqft
- 4 Artifact Display Case



5' 20' 45'



Looking east from the Library entrance toward the artifact display case with new skylight above

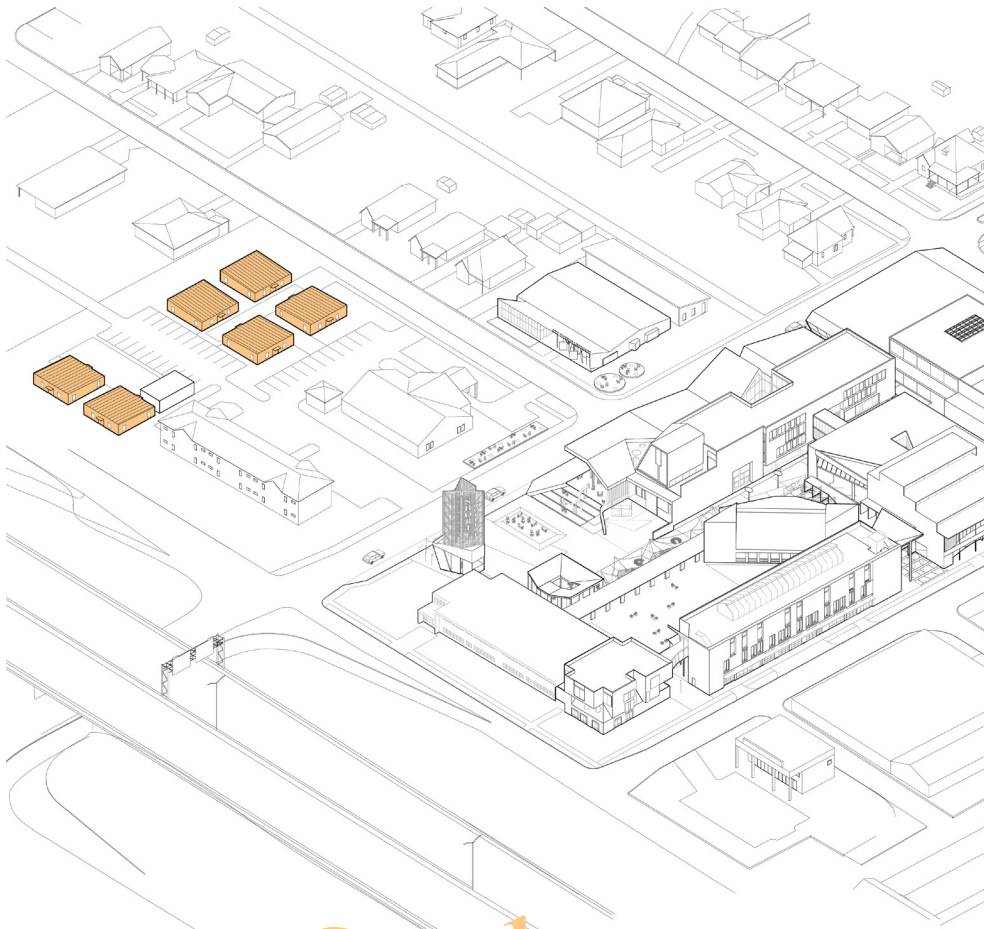
Renovations, including removal of ceiling, bring the Library's unique collections—including African artifacts and a regional photographic archive—into the daily experience of students and faculty.

Looking south from the group study area



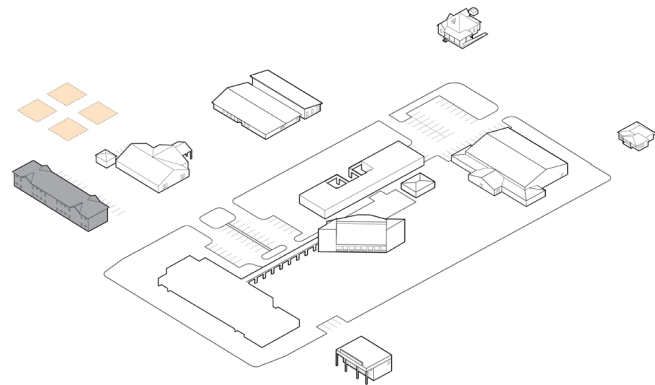
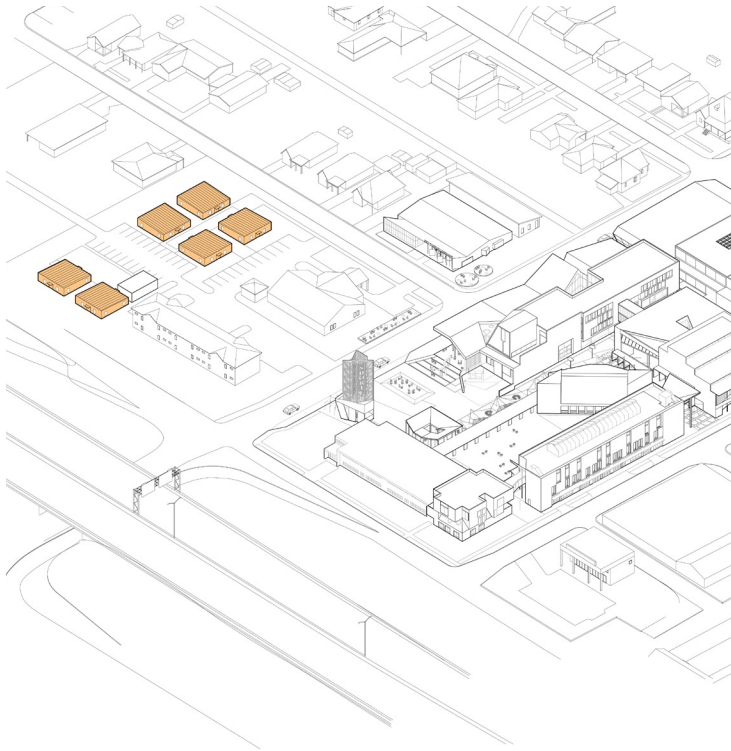
AW YOUNG LIBRARY

Inspired by the large poster displays, marquees, and pageantry of sidewalk-fronting theaters in small- and mid-sized towns, the new frontage converts the Library into an active cultural destination.

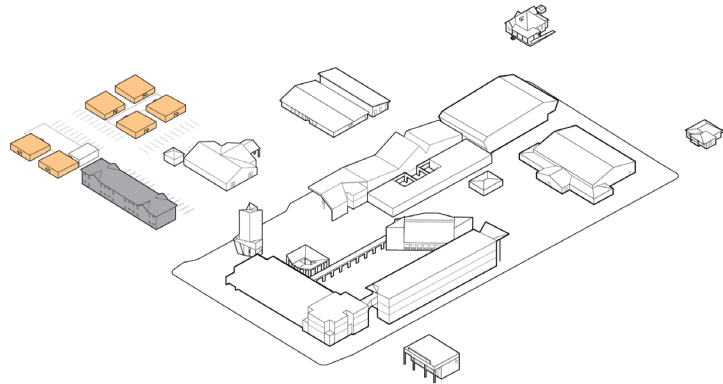


Student Housing

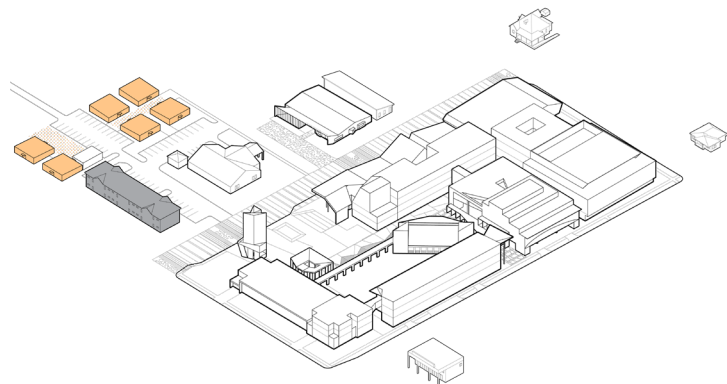
As Shorter College transitions from a commuter institution to a residential campus, new housing will play a vital role in supporting student life. Responding to the College's commitment to shipping container construction, six modular housing units are arranged as a pocket neighborhood that encourages daily interaction and shared community. Landscaping establishes continuity between containers as an alien aesthetic and the historic neighborhood character. The development balances a vibrant residential environment with a scale and character that complement the adjacent low-density neighborhood.



Existing Student Housing



1 Introduce a pocket neighborhood to organize container housing



2 Extend current parking to occupy the back of site and new landscaping



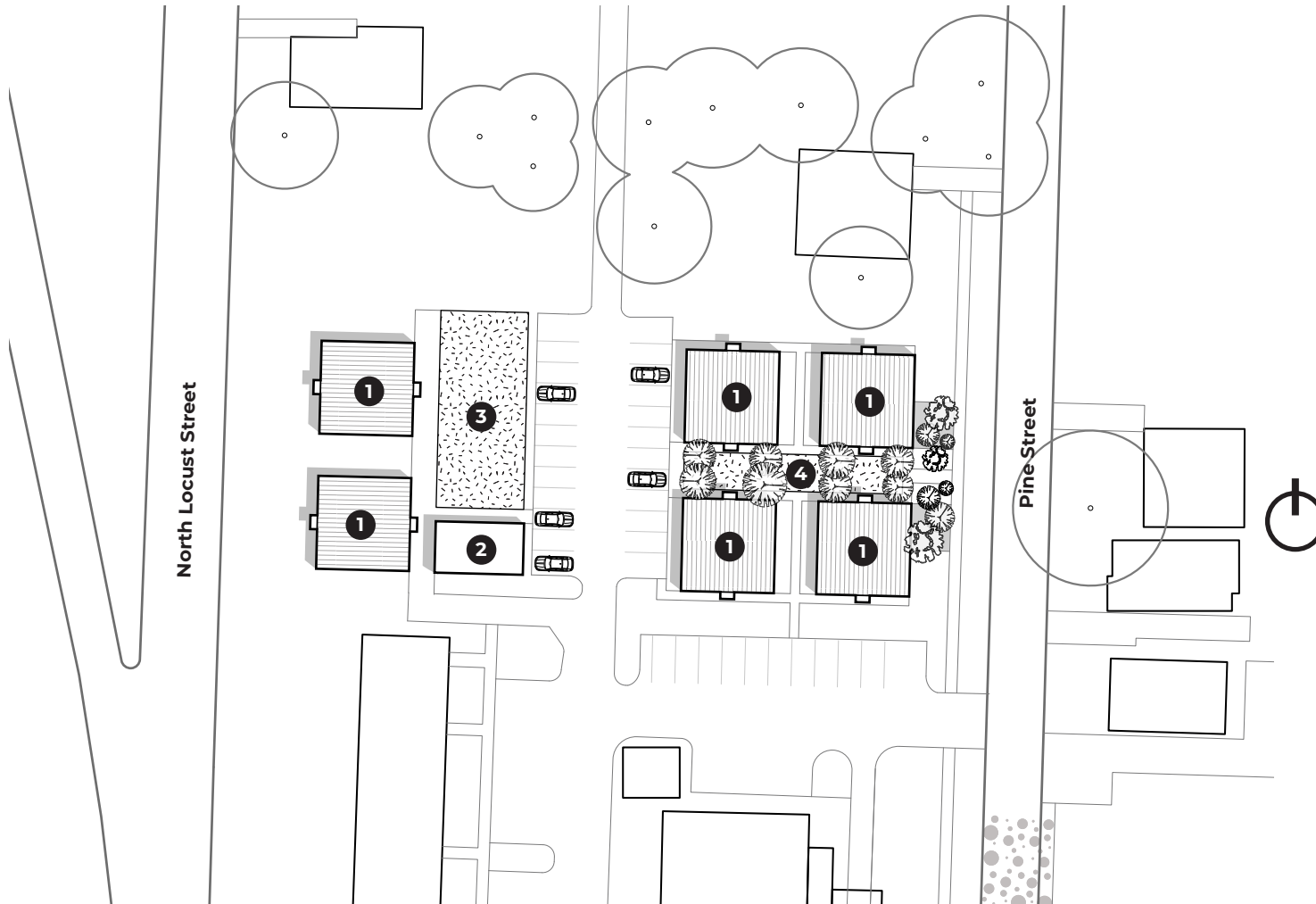
Southwest view of the Student Housing site



Looking southwest toward the new Student Housing pocket neighborhood



Looking west from Pine Street toward the pocket neighborhood green



Site Plan

- 1** Future Container Dormitory
- 2** Student Hub
- 3** Front Lawn
- 4** Pocket Neighborhood Green

0 10' 25' 50'



**Pocket neighborhoods,
where housing is organized
around a shared green,
promotes compatibility
with the neighborhood.**



Looking west from Pine Street
toward the pocket neighborhood
green



“The Campus Master Plan developed by the partnership between Shorter College and the University of Arkansas Community Design Center is one that speaks to the past, present, and future of higher education. The plan demonstrates the complexity of growth of the institution, the responsibility of the institution to be a valuable neighbor, and to drive economic development in North Little Rock. Through several discussions from all stakeholders, this plan ensures the sustainability and impact of Shorter College for another 140 years.”

Dr. Charles Prince, VP Academic Affairs





SCHOOL
PORTER





University of Arkansas Community Design Center (UACDC), a Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design Outreach Center

Stephen Luoni,
Director and Steven L. Anderson Chair in Architecture and Urban Studies
Shail Patel, Project Designer
Victor Hugo Cardozo Hernandez, Project Designer
Caleb Rothell, Project Designer
Rylee Ball, Project Designer
Linda Komlos, Executive Assistant

UACDC Students

Isai Deloera-Sanchez
Aaron Edward Gust
Meleri Herman
Alan Ramos
Gabriel Schlesing
Ashlyn M. Umphres
Javier Vidales Jr.
Ethan Boyd Webster



Shorter College Credits

Jeffery W. Norfleet, II, Ed.D.

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