

ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

2023 Pacific Northwest Region Conference

VITA - Learning Happens Everywhere From Learning Lab to Magnet School

Whitney Henion, ALEP

Capital Projects Lead - Facilities Planning
Vancouver Public Schools

Tim Cowan

Director of Education
Hyphn



HYPHN

Land Acknowledgement

Vancouver, BC is the unceded and ancestral territory of the **hə́łqəmíḱə́m** and **Sḵwáxwú7mesh** speaking peoples, the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (*Musqueam*), **Sḵwáxwú7mesh** (*Squamish*), and **səlilwətał** (*Tsleil-Waututh*) Nations, and has been stewarded by them since time immemorial.

Vancouver is located on territory that was never ceded, or given up to the Crown by the Musqueam, Squamish, or Tsleil-Waututh peoples. The term unceded acknowledges the dispossession of the land and the inherent rights that Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh hold to the territory. The term serves as a reminder that Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh have never left their territories and will always retain their jurisdiction and relationships with the territory.

Presenters



Whitney Henion, (she/her) ALEP
Capital Projects Lead - Facilities Planning
Vancouver Public Schools

whitney.henion@vansd.org
+1 360.313.1070



Tim Cowan (he/him)
Director of Education
Hyphn

tim.cowan@hyphn.com
+1 503.793.7832

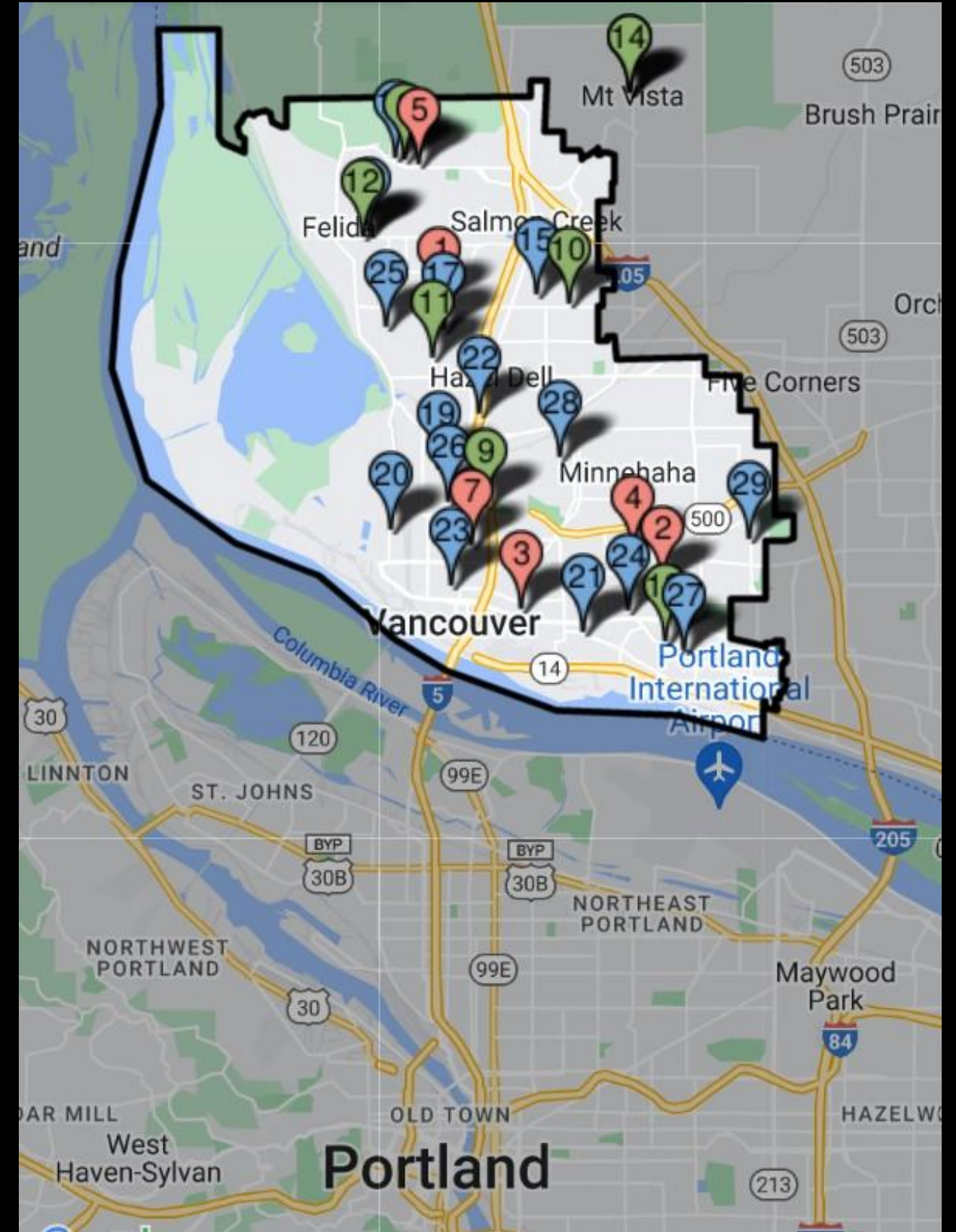


Founded as a School District in 1852

Mission: Excellence in Education

In partnership with home and community, Vancouver Public Schools provides an innovative learning environment that engages and empowers each student to develop the knowledge and skills to become a competent, responsible and compassionate citizen.

- 22,000 Students
- 3,300 Employees
- 23 Elementary schools,
- 6 Middle schools,
- 5 High schools,
- 1 Arts school (6-12)
- 1 STEM school (6-12) and
- 3 additional programs





We're One Team
We've Got You
We Never Settle
We Love To Laugh
We Build Community
IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility)

We're Better Together

Our best results are not created by a lone team member, but by a well-practiced and aligned team - one team, one dream! When we're inspired to seek a fresh perspective or view our task through a teammate's lens, everyone wins. We harness the power of team to push each other to grow, to hold each other accountable, and to pick each other up, reminding each other that **we're better together.**



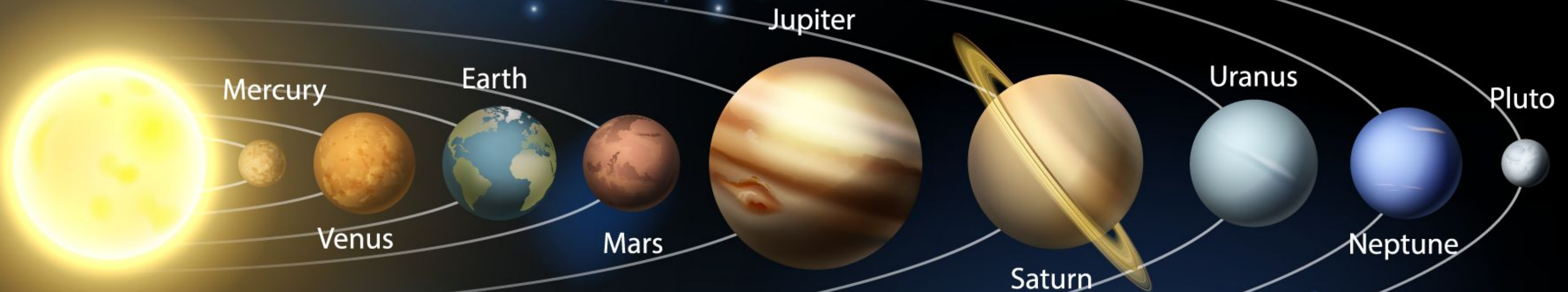
Vancouver Innovation, Technology & Arts Elementary School

VITA = *Latin for Life*

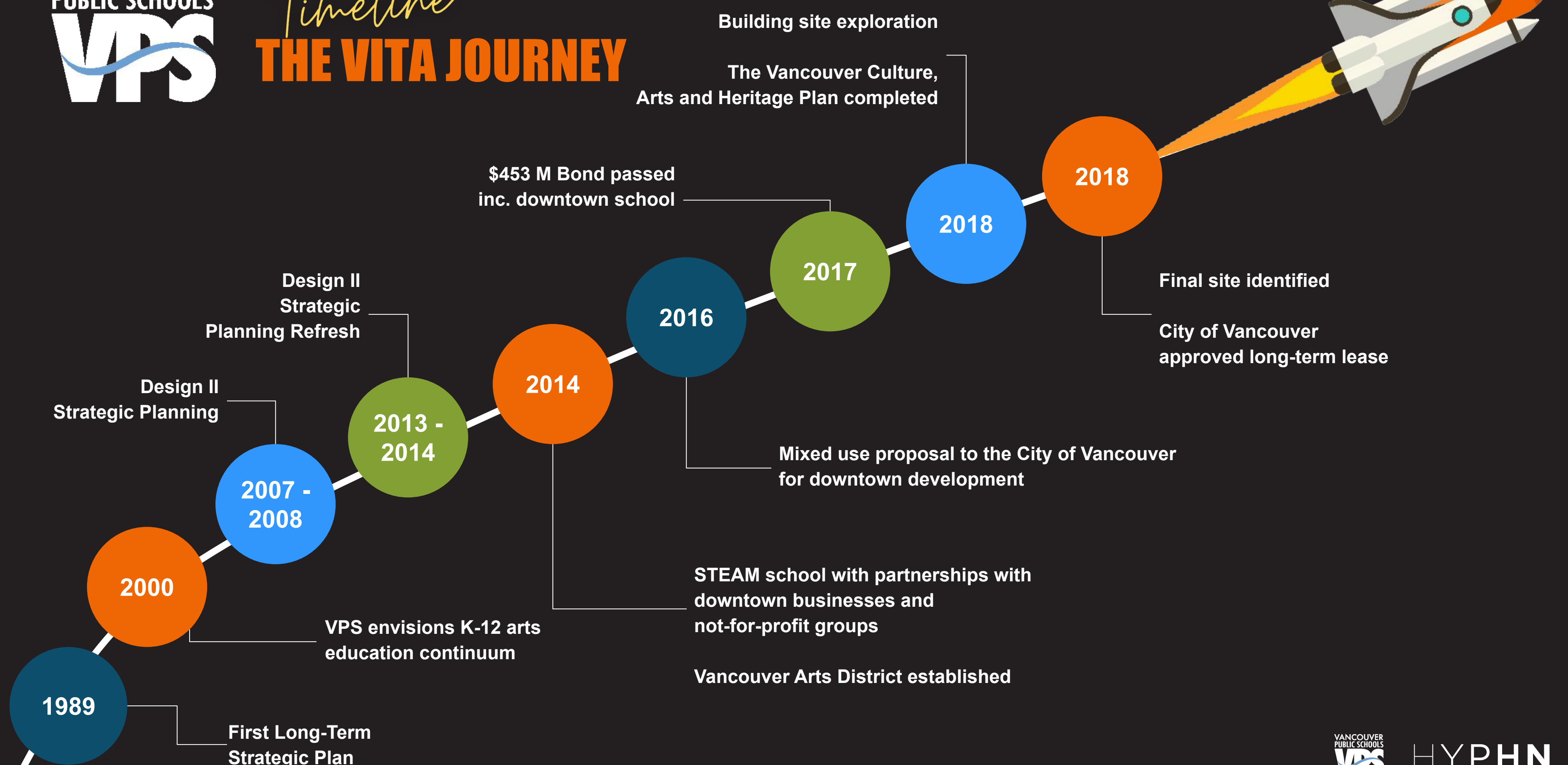
School name was suggested by student Senica Christie

Motto: "Learning Happens Everywhere"

Thematic Inspiration: Solar System



Timeline
THE VITA JOURNEY



1989

First Long-Term Strategic Plan

2000

VPS envisions K-12 arts education continuum

2007 - 2008

Design II Strategic Planning

2013 - 2014

Design II Strategic Planning Refresh

2014

STEAM school with partnerships with downtown businesses and not-for-profit groups

2016

Mixed use proposal to the City of Vancouver for downtown development

2017

\$453 M Bond passed inc. downtown school

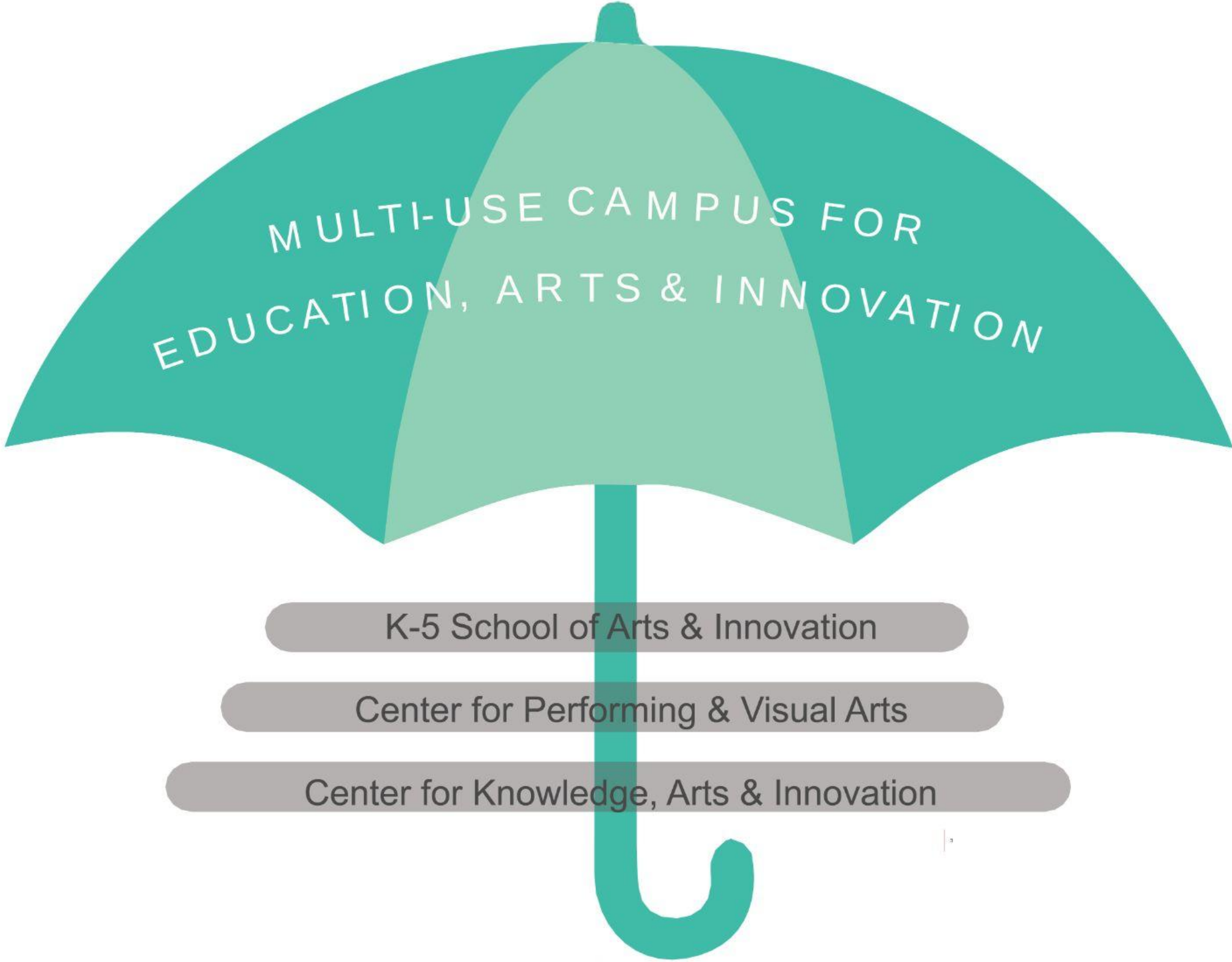
2018

Building site exploration
The Vancouver Culture, Arts and Heritage Plan completed

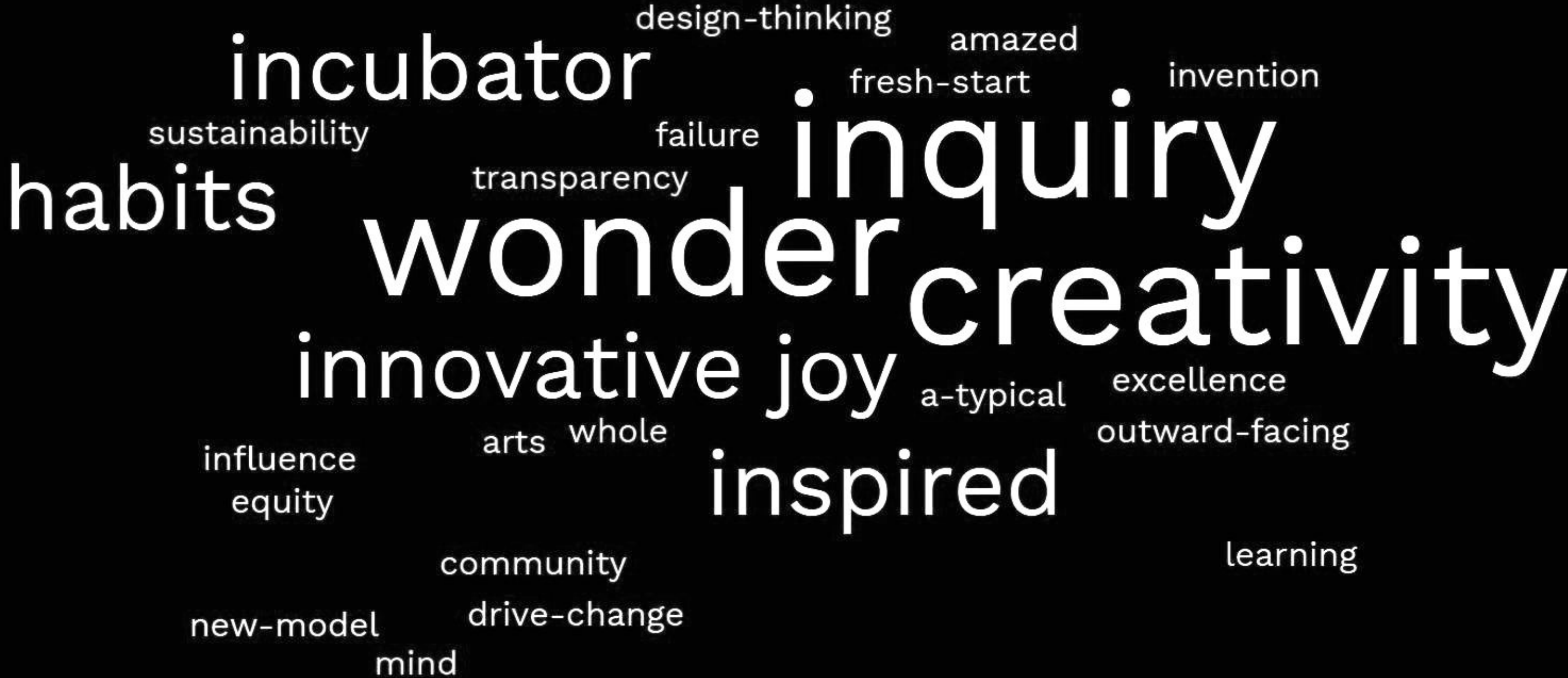
2018

Final site identified
City of Vancouver approved long-term lease

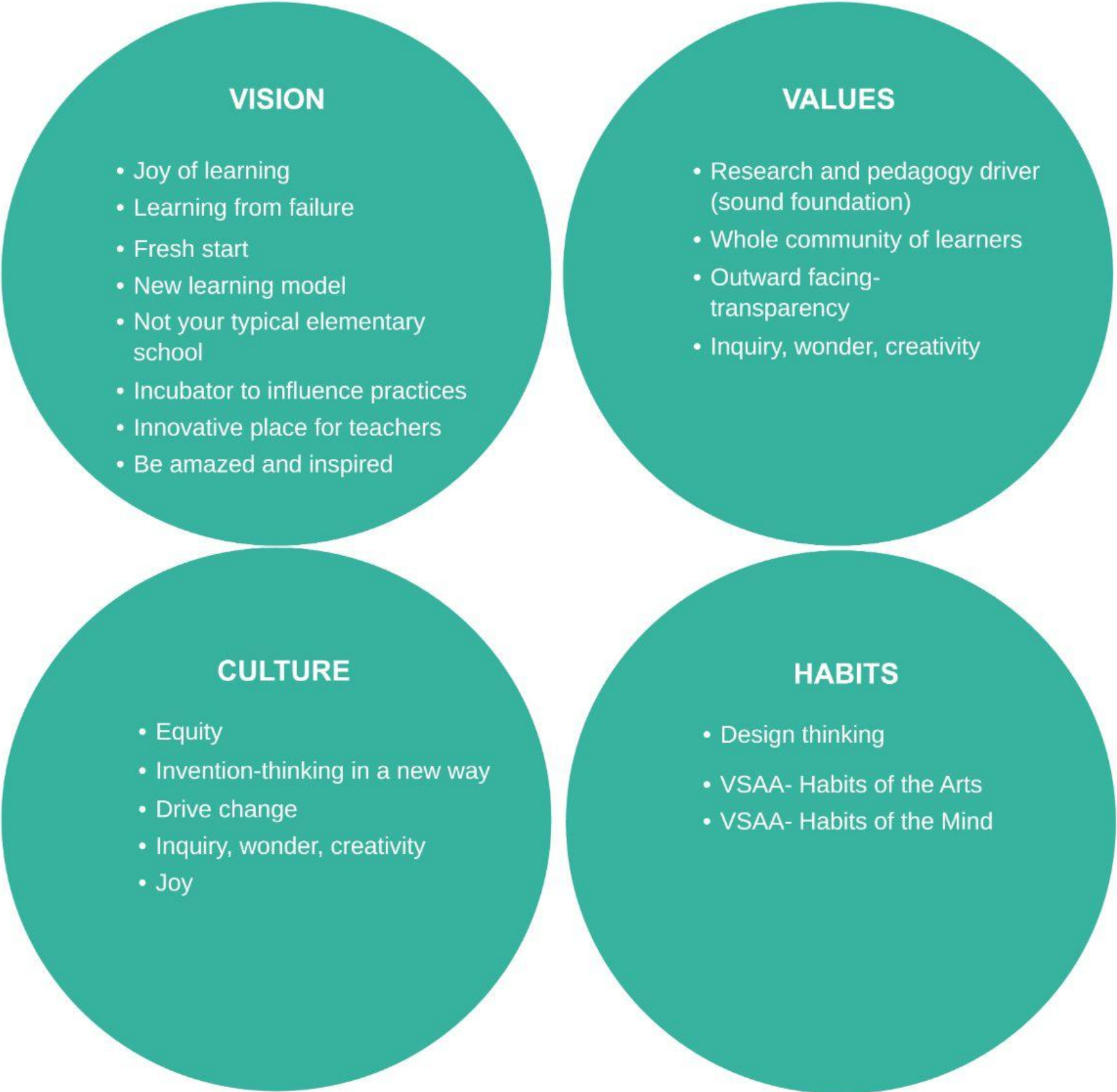
Pre-Design Values & Goals



Pre-Design Values & Goals

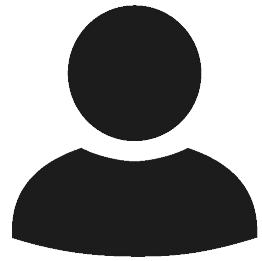


Pre-Design Values & Goals

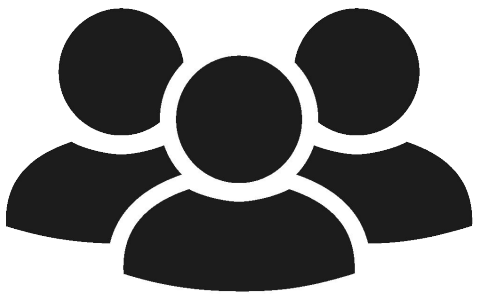


Pre-Design Values & Goals

Activity Relationship Diagrams



INDIVIDUAL



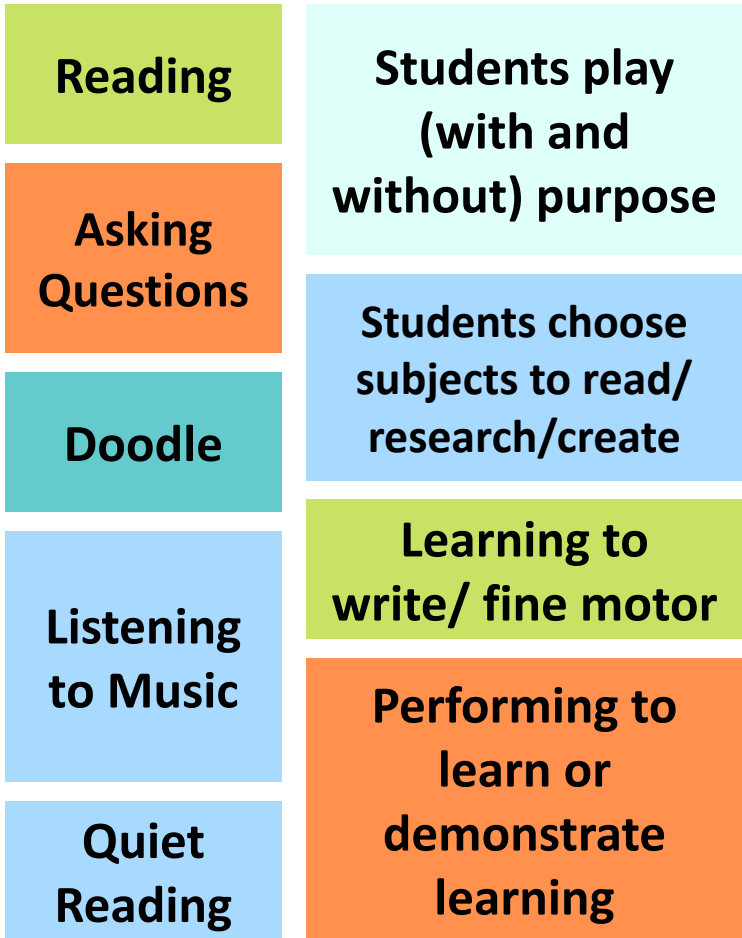
SMALL BLENDED GROUP
(3–5 Kids)



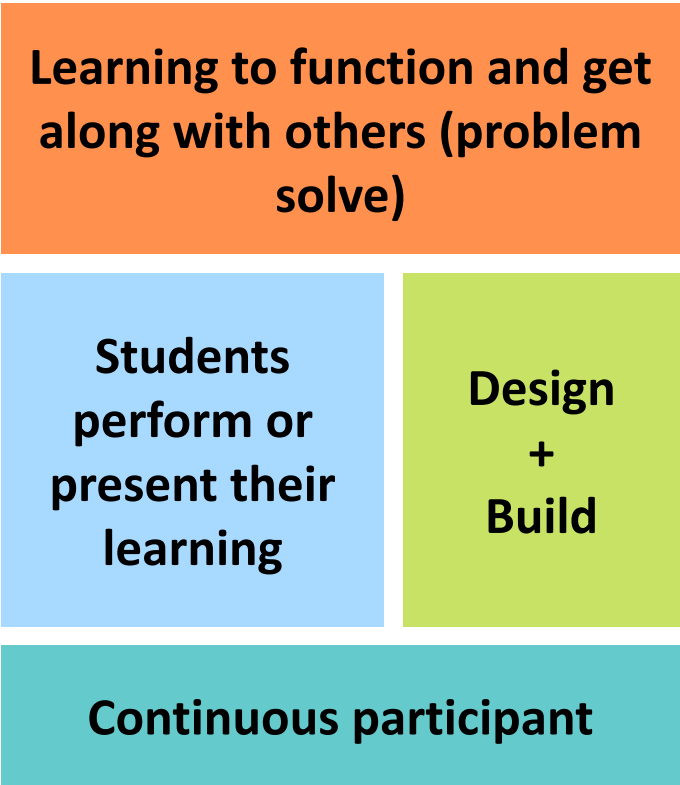
MEDIUM BLENDED GROUP
(16–35 Kids)



LARGE BLENDED GROUP
(36–99 Kids)



Build with natural materials



What kind of school is

V I T A ?

The project-based learning school will focus on innovation, technology & arts and the development of downtown community partnerships that enhance student learning.



Imagine

What We Will Learn!



HYPHN

What kind of school is

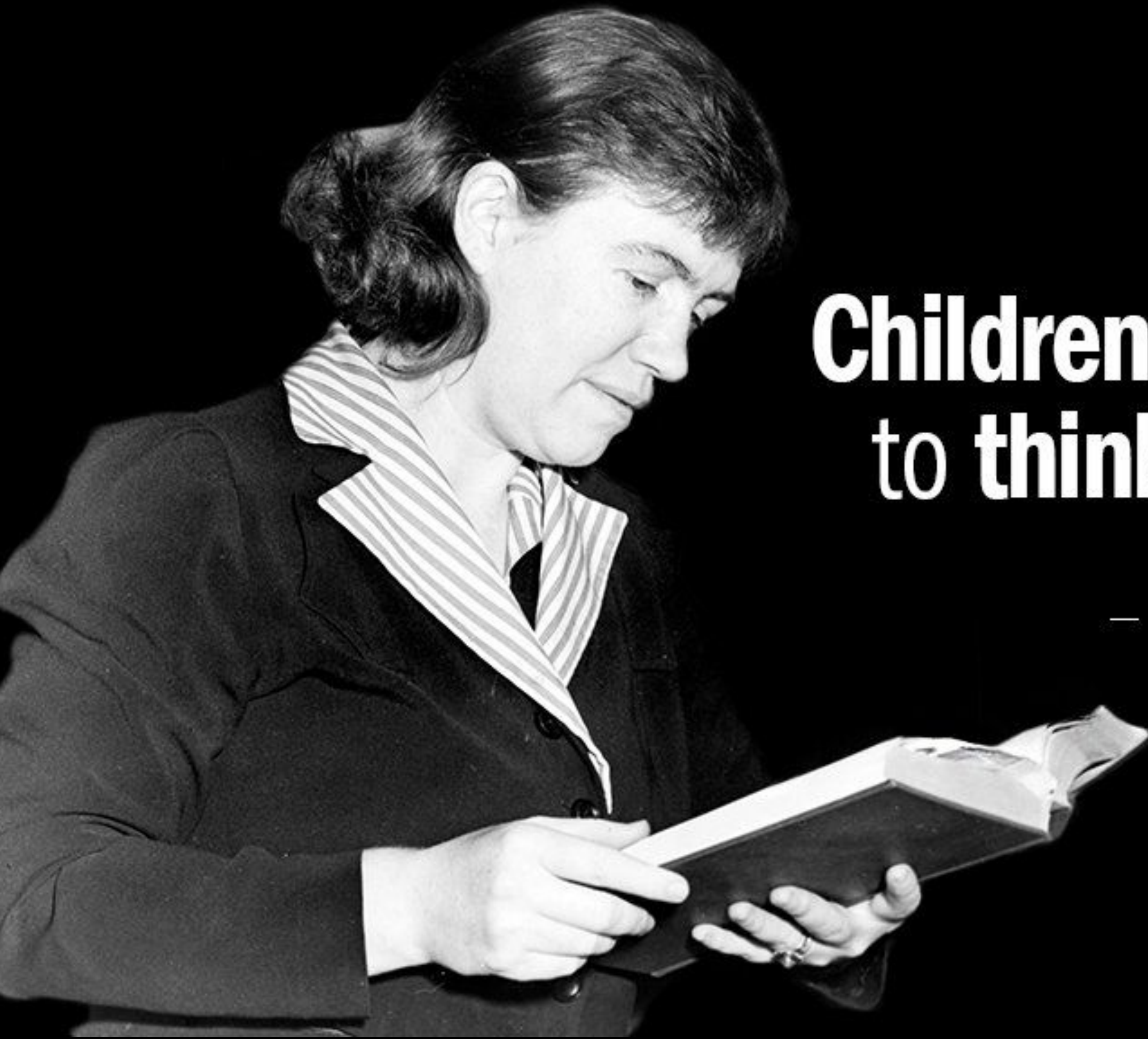
V I T A ?

We develop 21st century learning skills...

Critical Thinking
Collaboration
Creativity
Innovation
Communication



Imagine What We Will Learn!



**Children must be taught how
to think, not what to think.**

— *Margaret Mead*

THEATER



STEM



VITA

Project Based learning

CORE Grade Level curriculum

Grade Level Standards

INNOVATION



ART



Magic Happens here!

K-2 Reggio Emilia

DANCE



MUSIC



PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Significant Content

Driving Question

Student Voice and Choice

Develop 21st Century Skills

Inquiry and Innovation

Feedback and Revision

Publicly Presented Product

- Content Standards
- Significant Academic Relevance

- Establish Learning Goals
- Start with the end in Mind
- No Distinct Course of Learning

- Students choose the direction of their learning
- Responsible Autonomous Learning
- Student Centered Learning Inquiry
- Discovery

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Technology Rich
- Presentation Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Knowledge Management
- Intelligent Thinking

- Instructor Facilitated
- Meaningful Learning
- Defined Concepts
- Project Takes Shapes

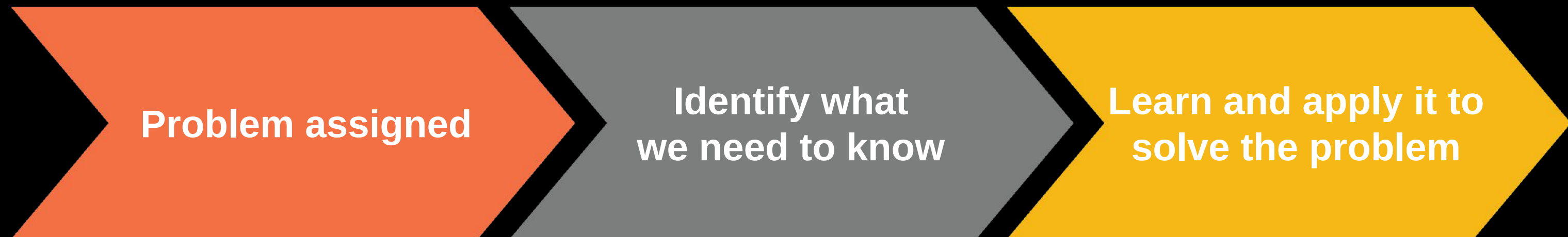
- Assess
- Redirect
- Rethink
- Enforce Success

- Real-world Competence
- Demonstrate Outcomes
- Learning Ownership

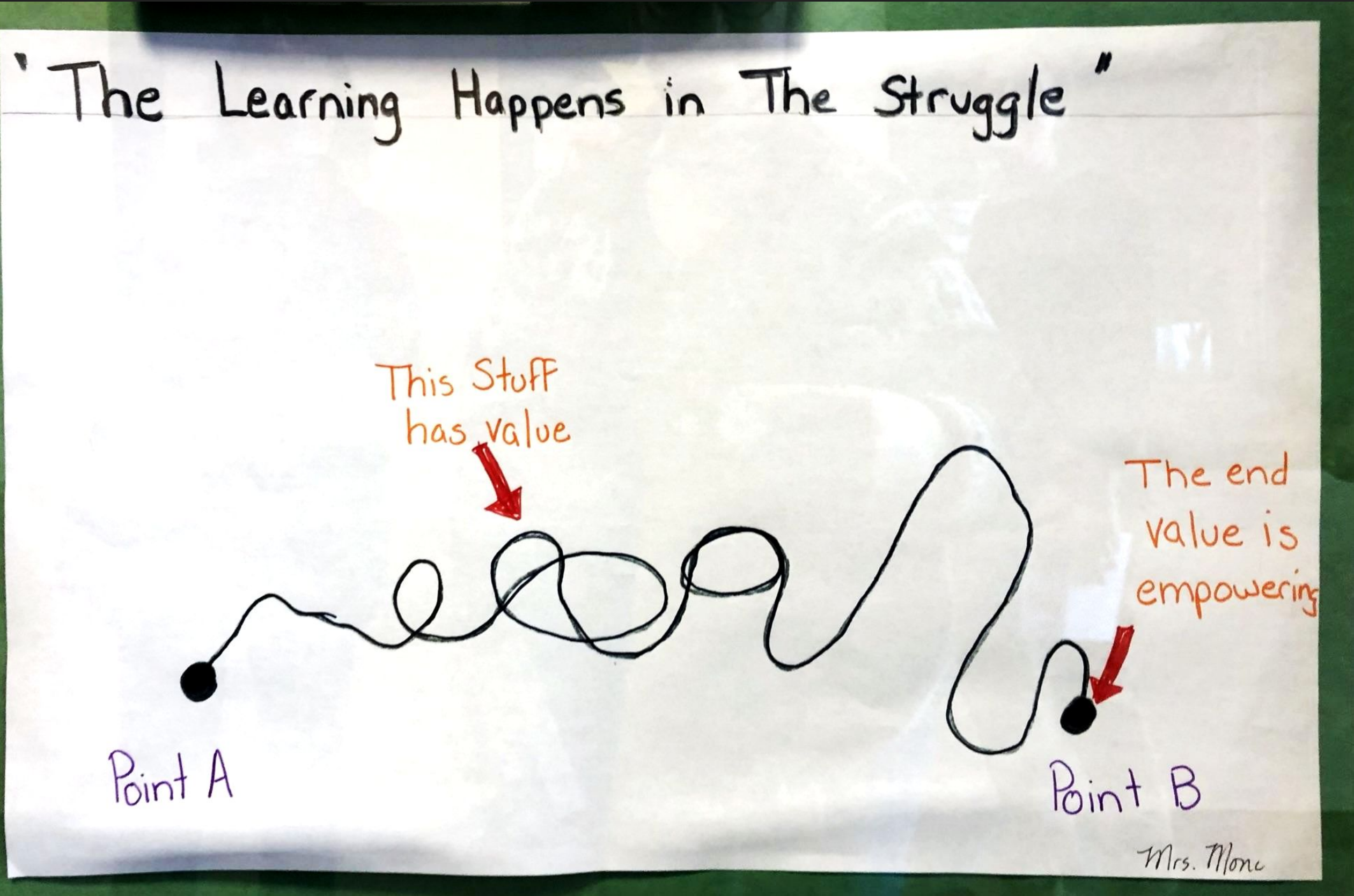
Traditional Learning



Project Based Learning (PBL)



PBL Diagram

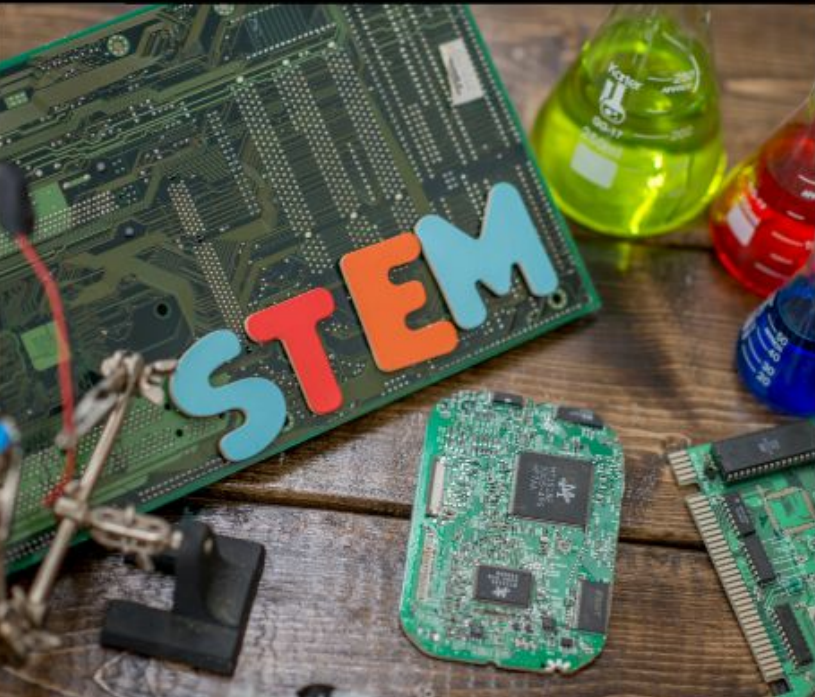


What is a Learning Lab?

- 6,200 students served (2022-2023)
- 2nd through 5th grades
- Professional Development for Teachers (25 STEM hrs)

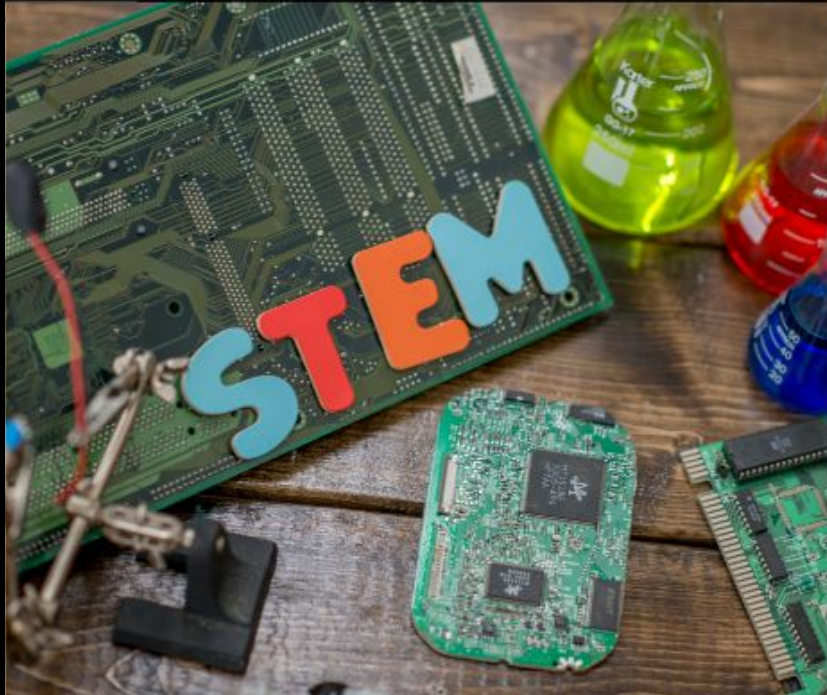


What Does Year-One Look Like at VITA Elementary School?



What is a Learning Lab?

Peer Learning Labs create a forum for the authentic learning that teachers need to experience in order to grow their instructional practice.



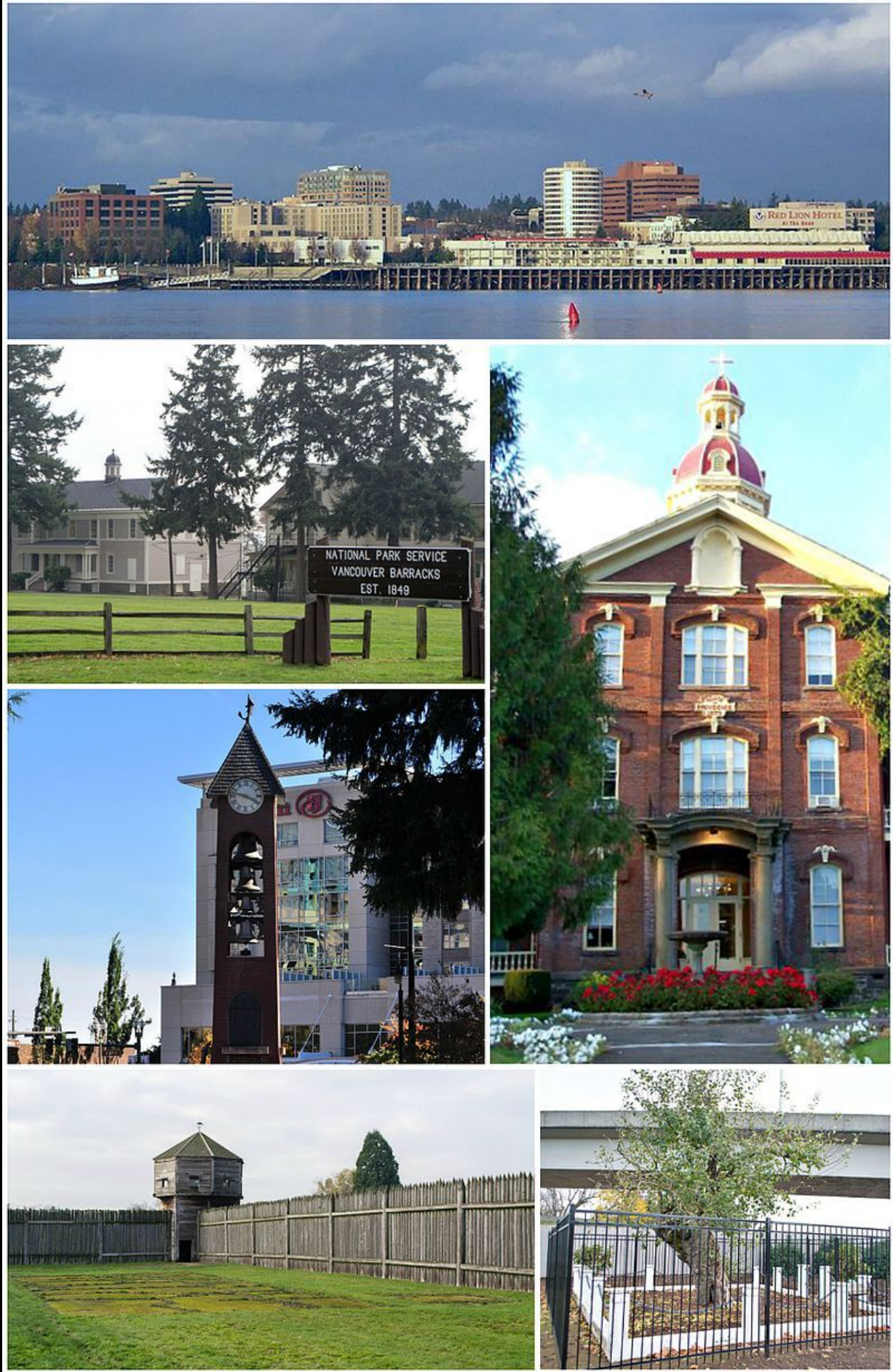
What is a Learning Lab?



LABS:

- Support teachers' professional growth
- Facilitate collaboration
- Inspire all to improve their practice

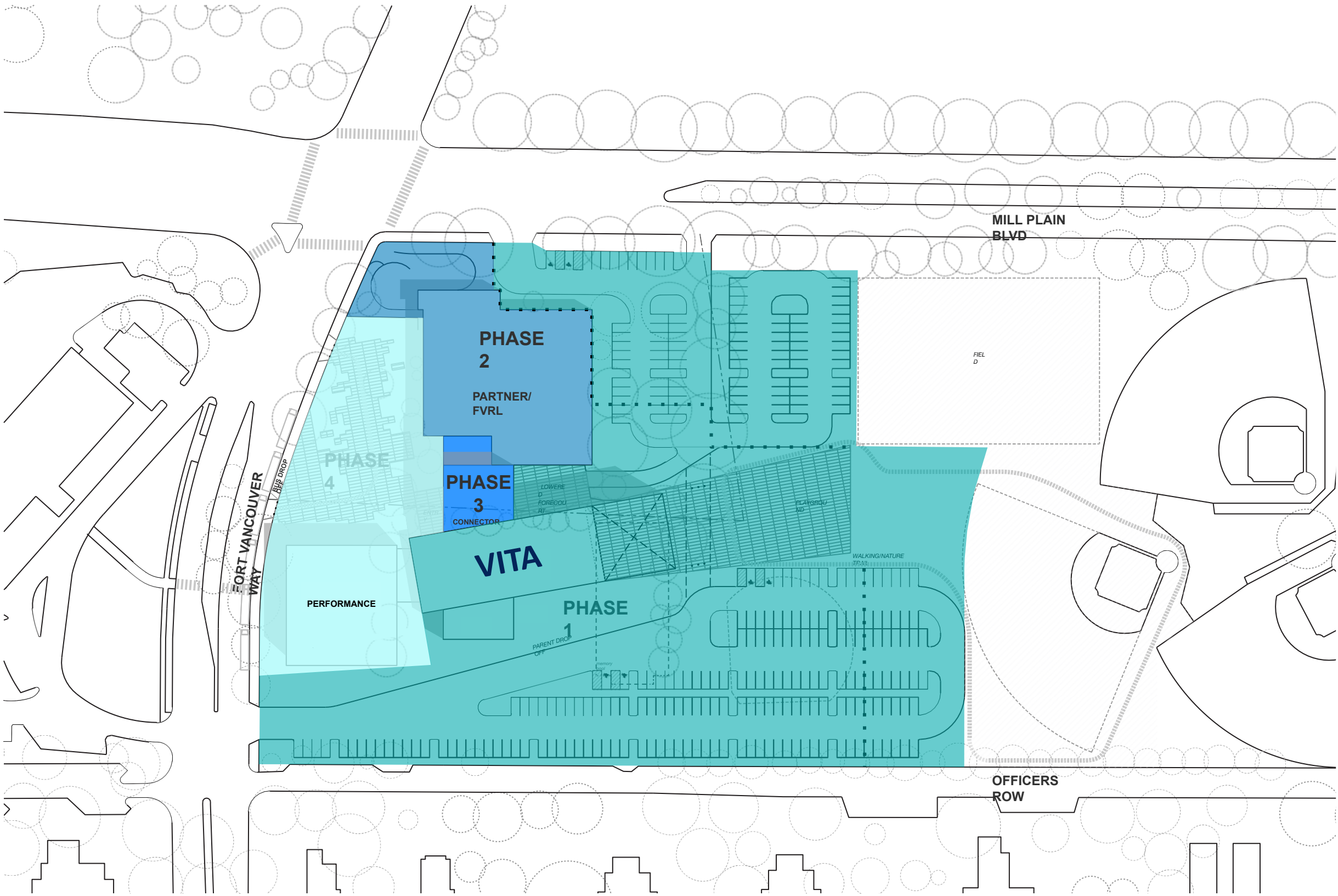
What Does Year-Two and Beyond Look Like?



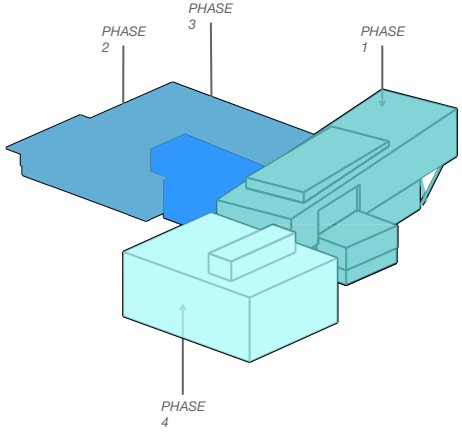
School Of Choice

- Serves 320 Students
- K-5th Grades
- Yearlong Attendance
- Long Term Projects Focus
- Outreach and Collaboration to Community Partners

Schematic Site Plan - Master Phasing



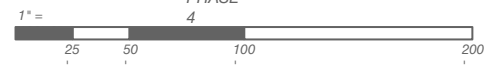
BUILDING AXON



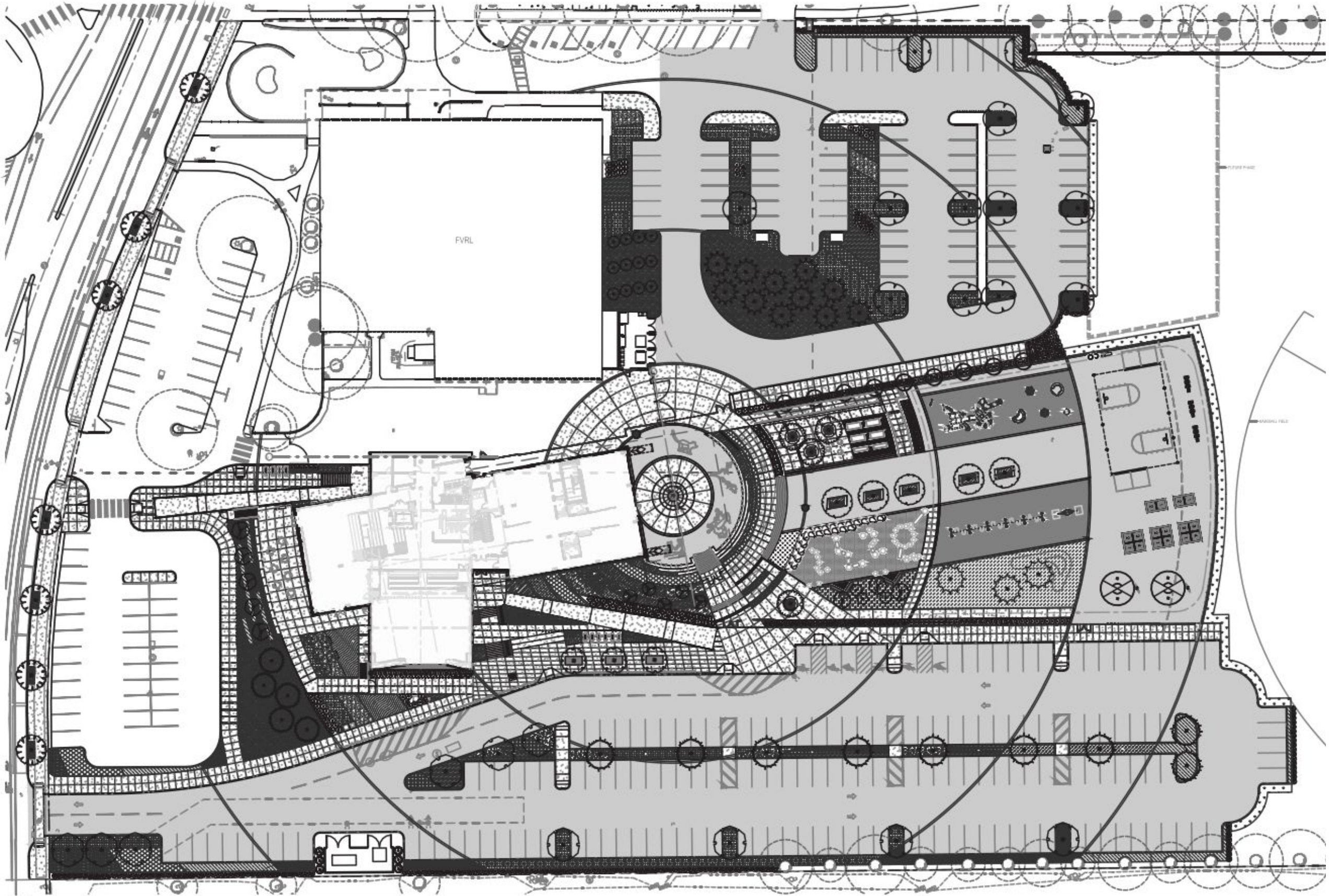
280 Parking Spots Shown

LEGEND

- EXISTING TREES
- PHASE 1
- PHASE 2
- PHASE 3
- PHASE 4



Site Plan



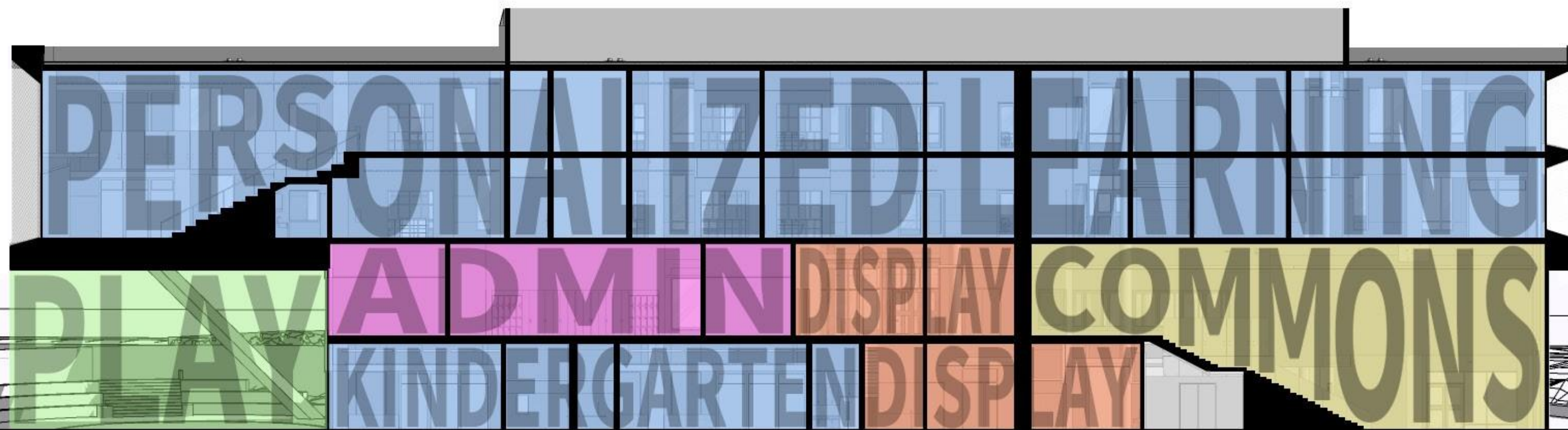










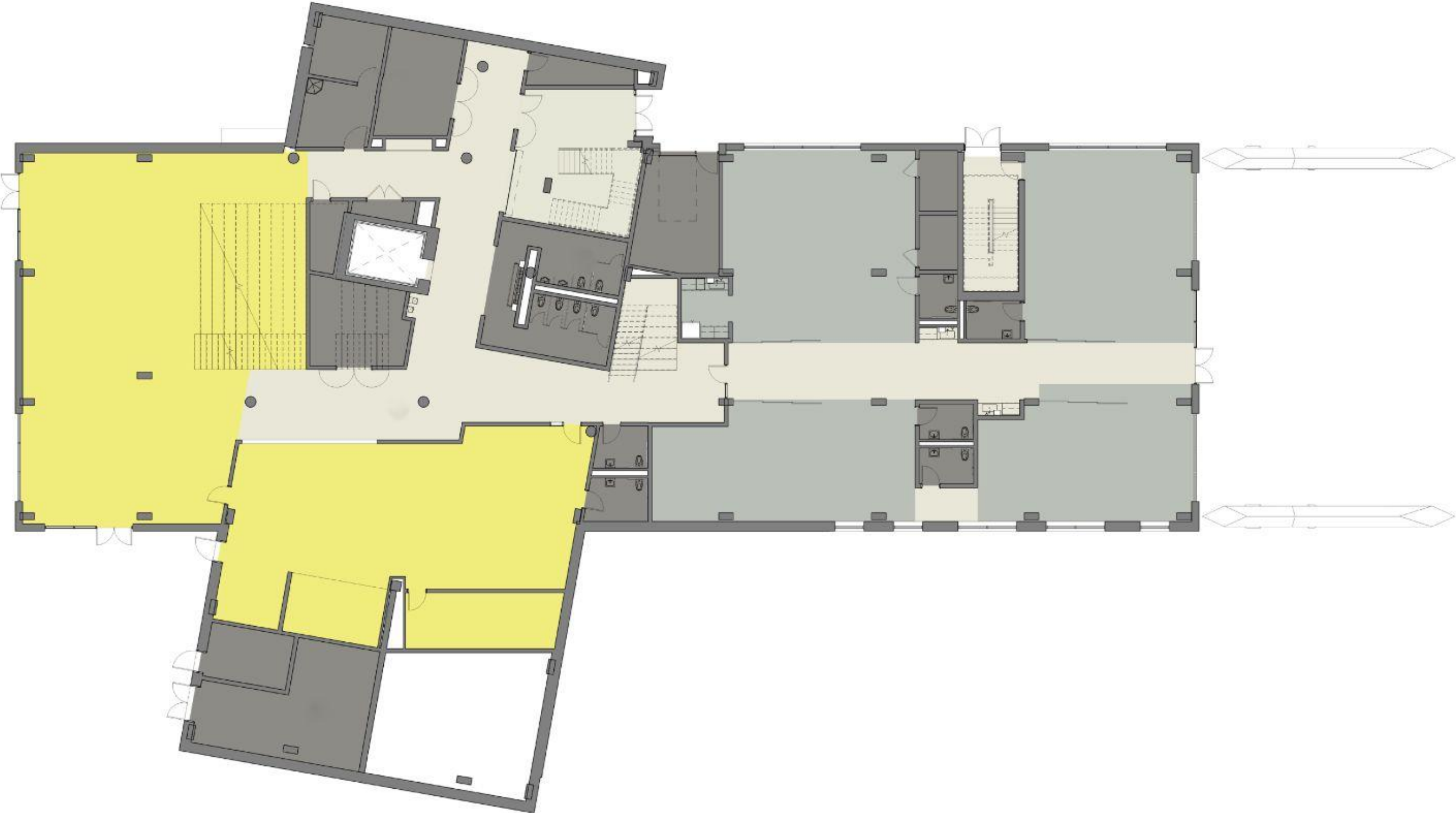
Vancouver Innovation, Technology & Arts Elementary School

Program Section

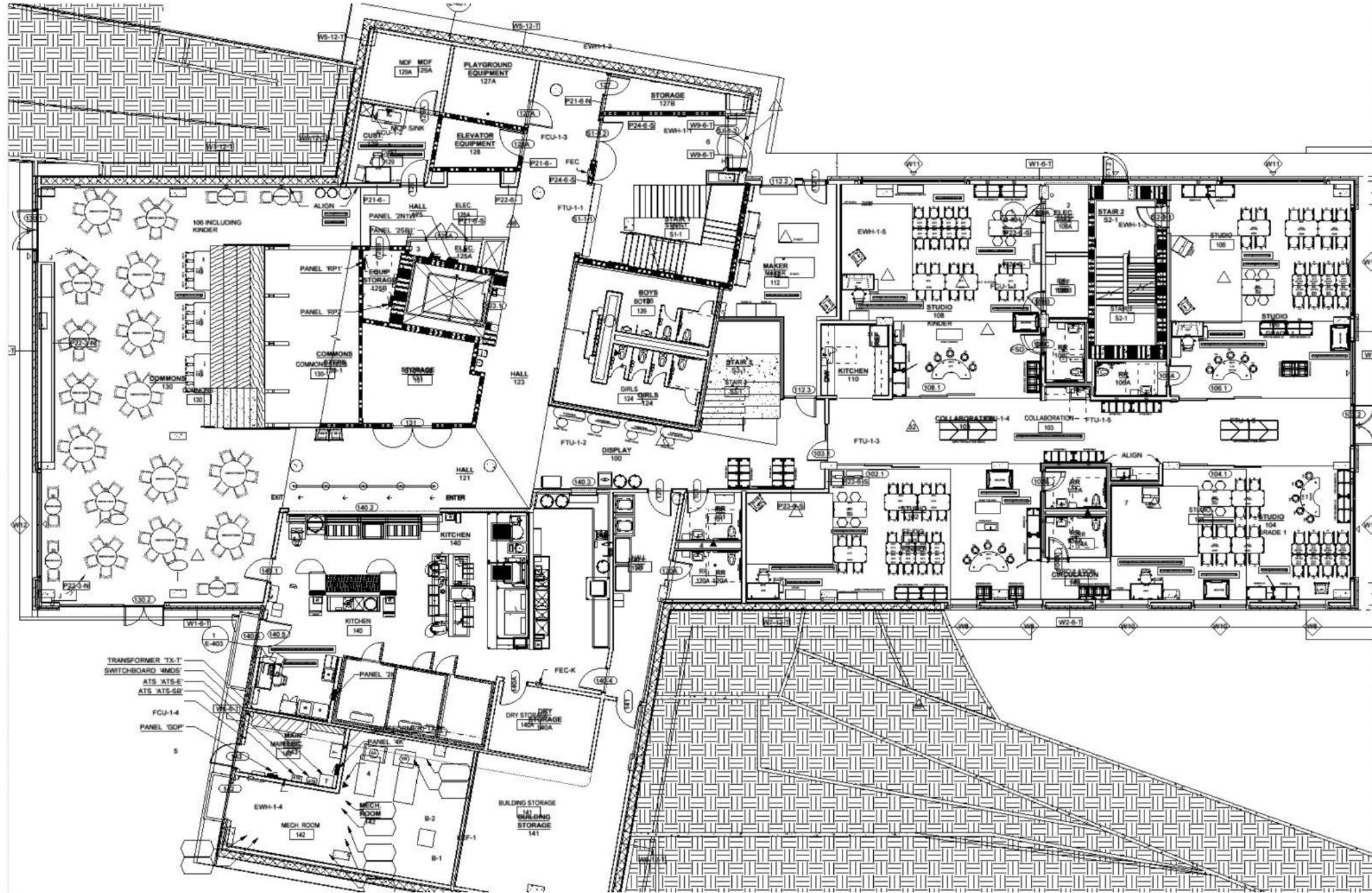


Level 1

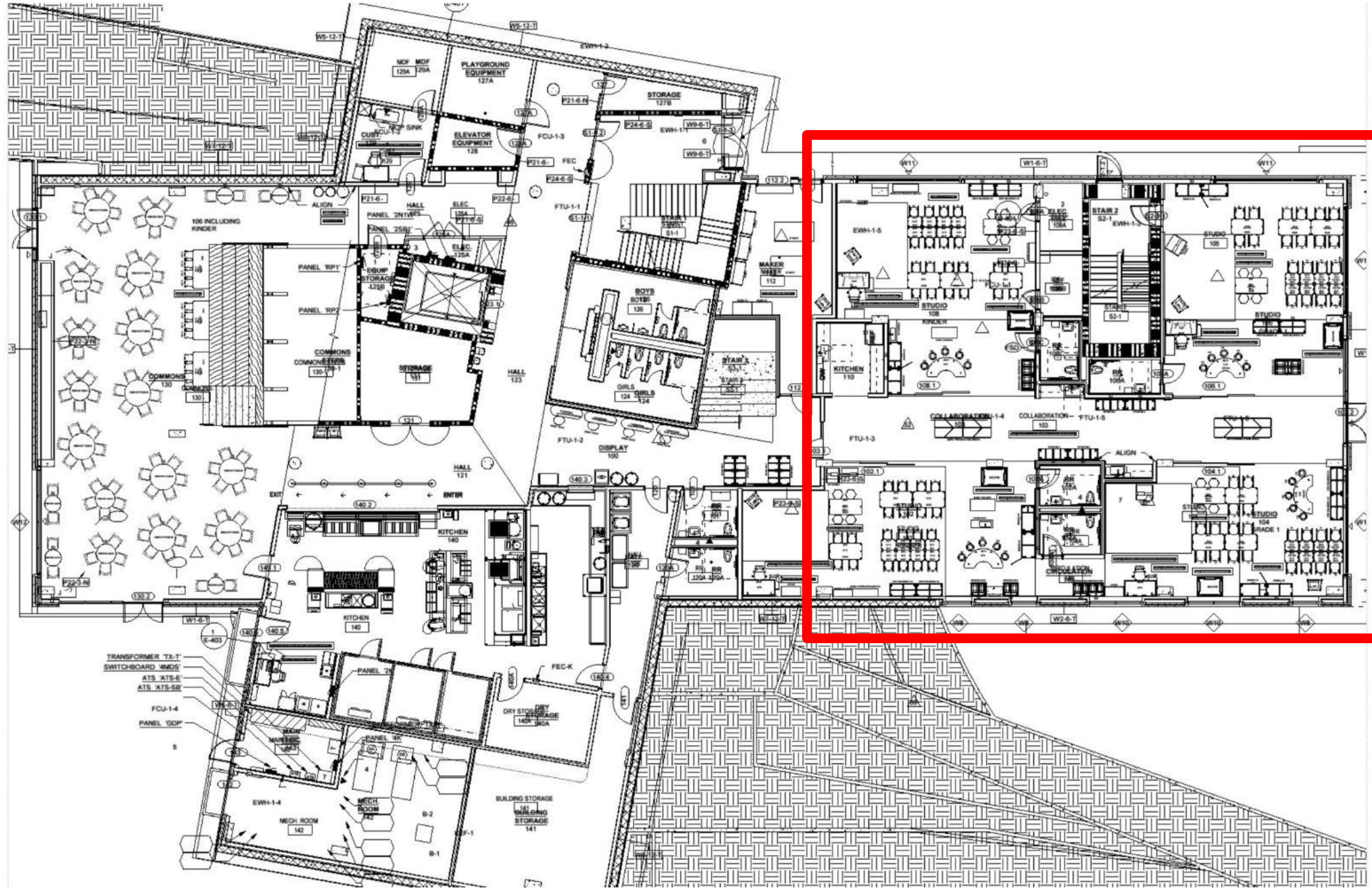
-  COMMONS / DINING
-  COLLAB / FLEX LEARNING
-  FACILITIES / SUPPORT
-  CIRCULATION



Level 1 - Furniture Plan



Level 1 - Kindergarten Learning Studios



Kindergarten | Typical Studio

Individual student desks + cantilever chairs

Teaching wall

Teacher desk

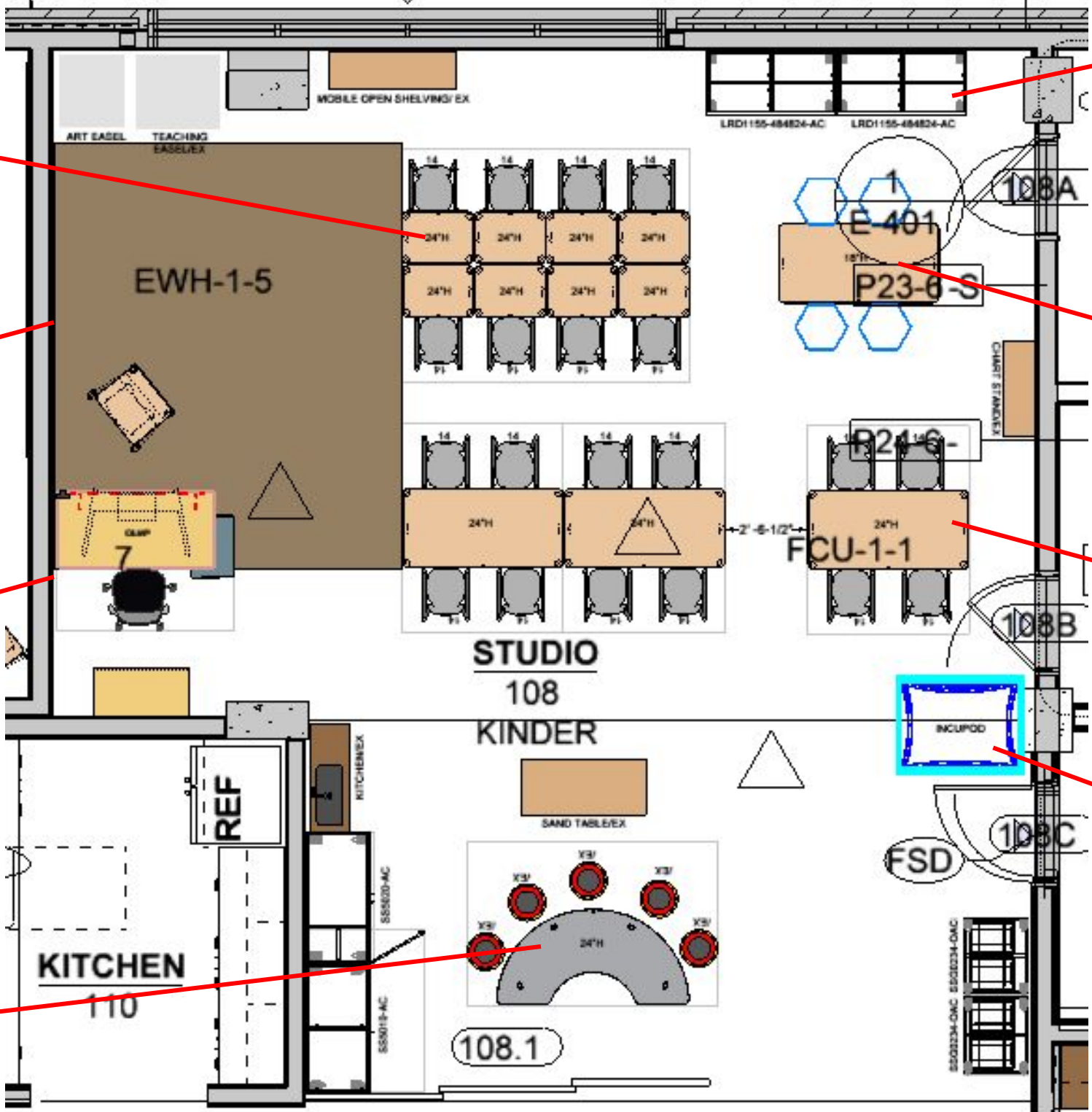
Group table + stools

Mobile storage

4-student desk + soft seating

4-student desk + cantilever chairs

Nook + cushion



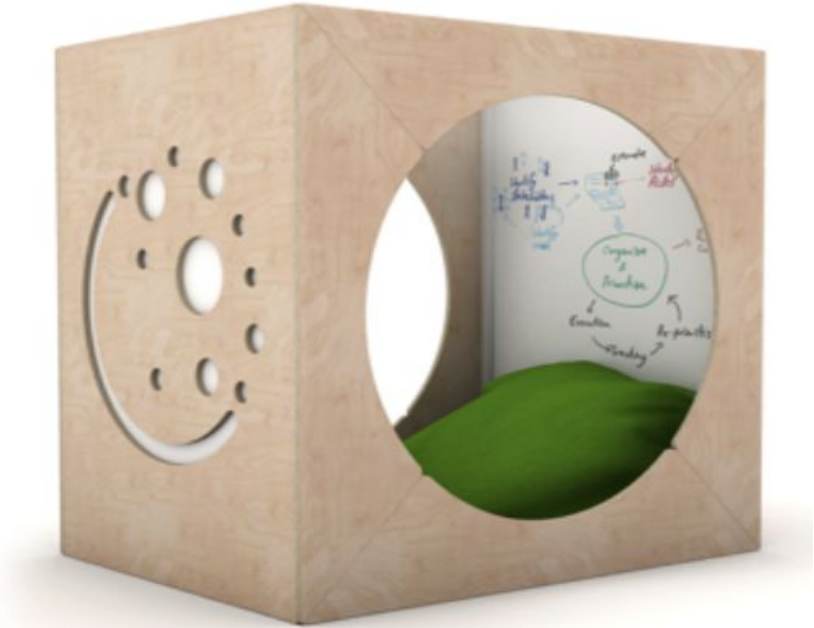
Kindergarten | Typical Studio



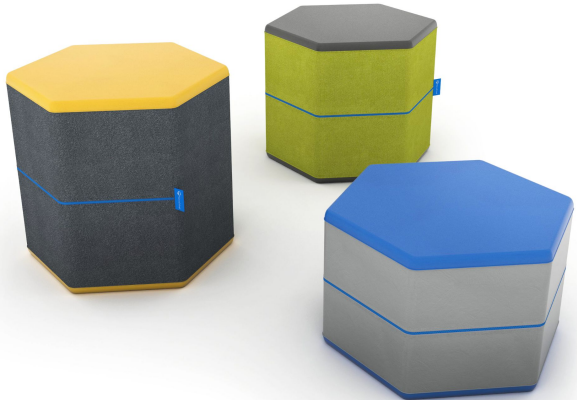
K-3 Studios | Seating & Tables



Cantilever Student Chair



Nook
(Grades Kinder & 1)



Hexagon Soft Seating
(K, 1, 2, & 3 Studios)



36D x 72W
Height Adjustable Table
K-3 Studios
2 casters in Grades 1-3
No casters in Kindergarten



30D x 60W
Height Adjustable Table
1 low table per classroom for K-3 Studios
2 casters for Grades 1-3 Studios
No casters in Kindergarten

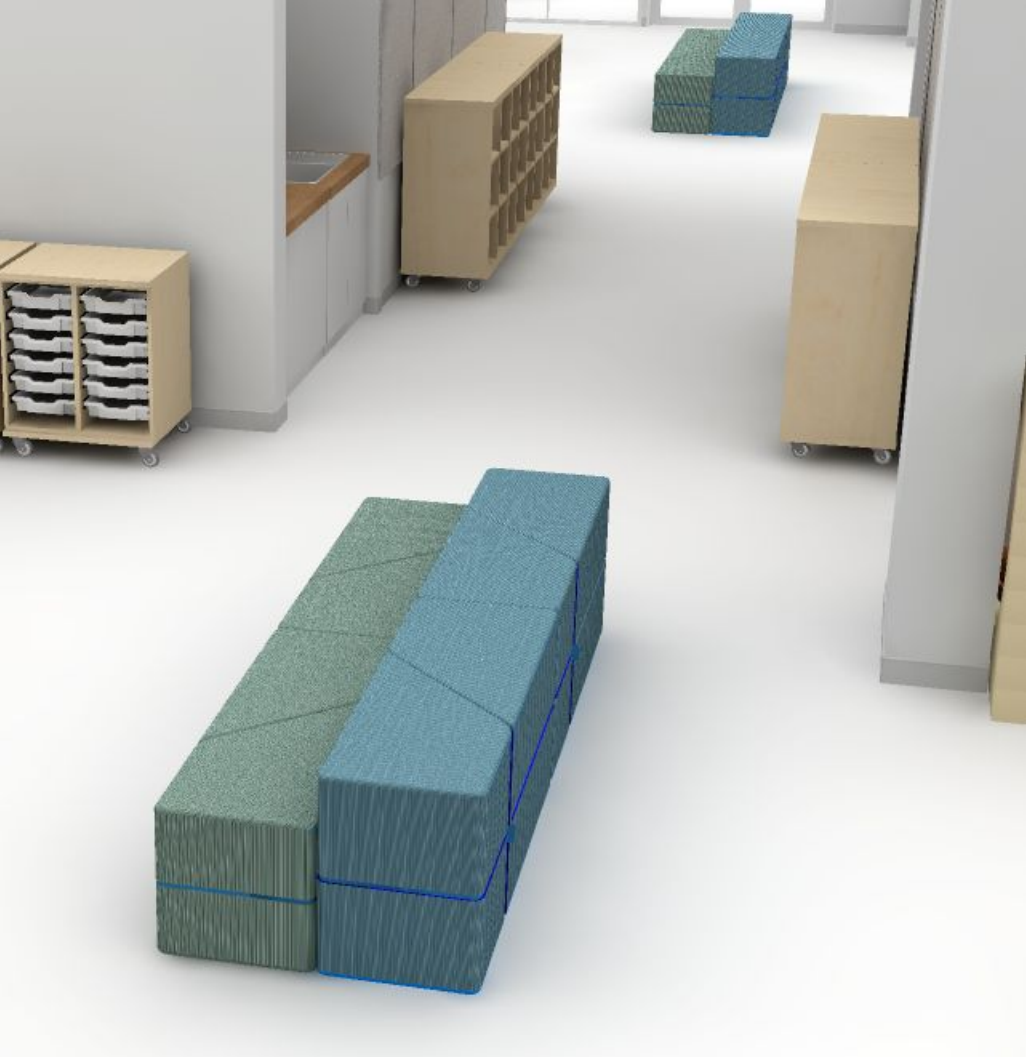


30D x 60W
Height Adjustable Table
2 casters for Grades 1-5
No casters in Kindergarten



20D x 27W
Height Adjustable Table
2 casters for Grades 1-5
No casters in Kindergarten

Kindergarten



Kindergarten

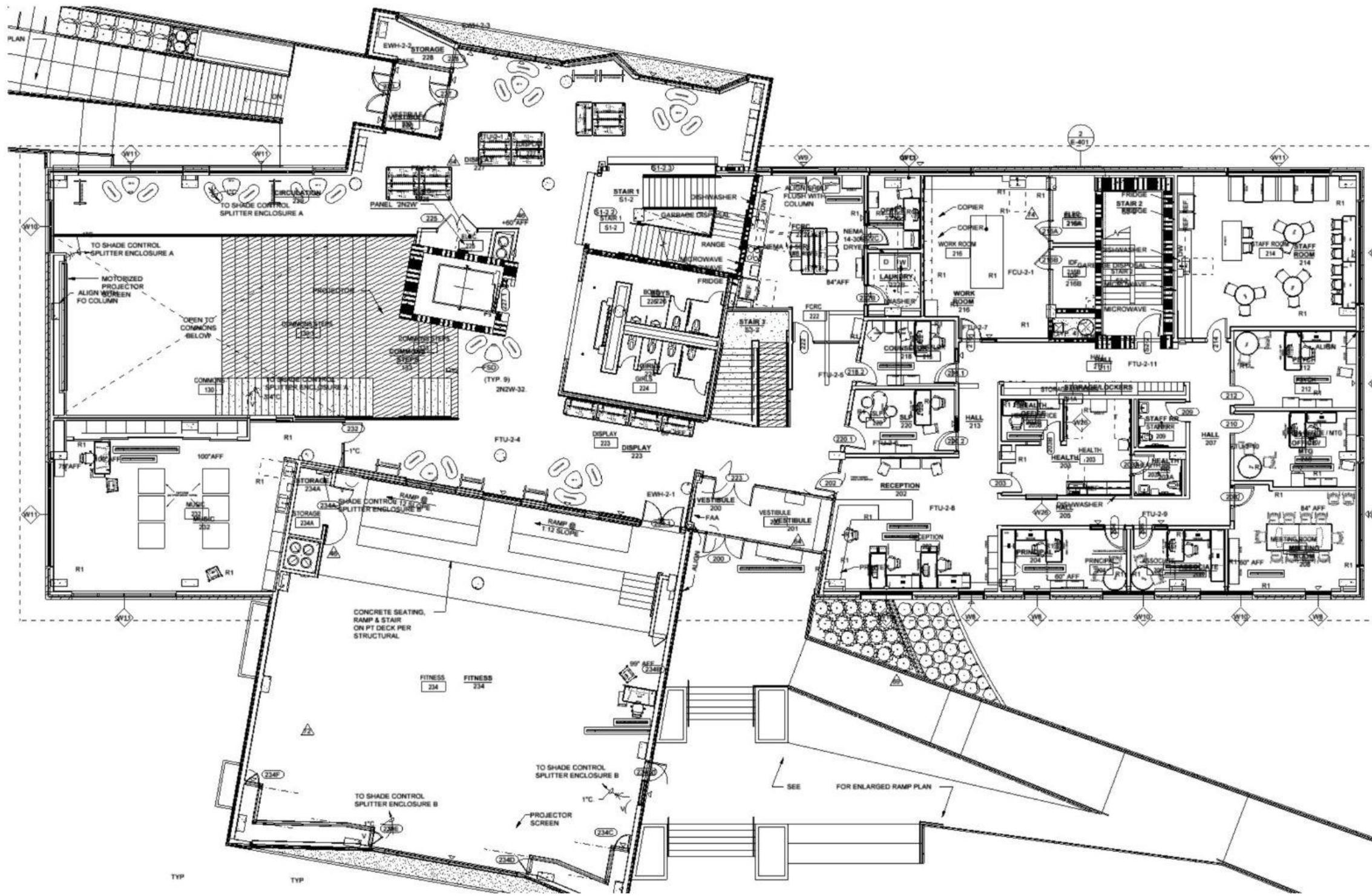


Level 2

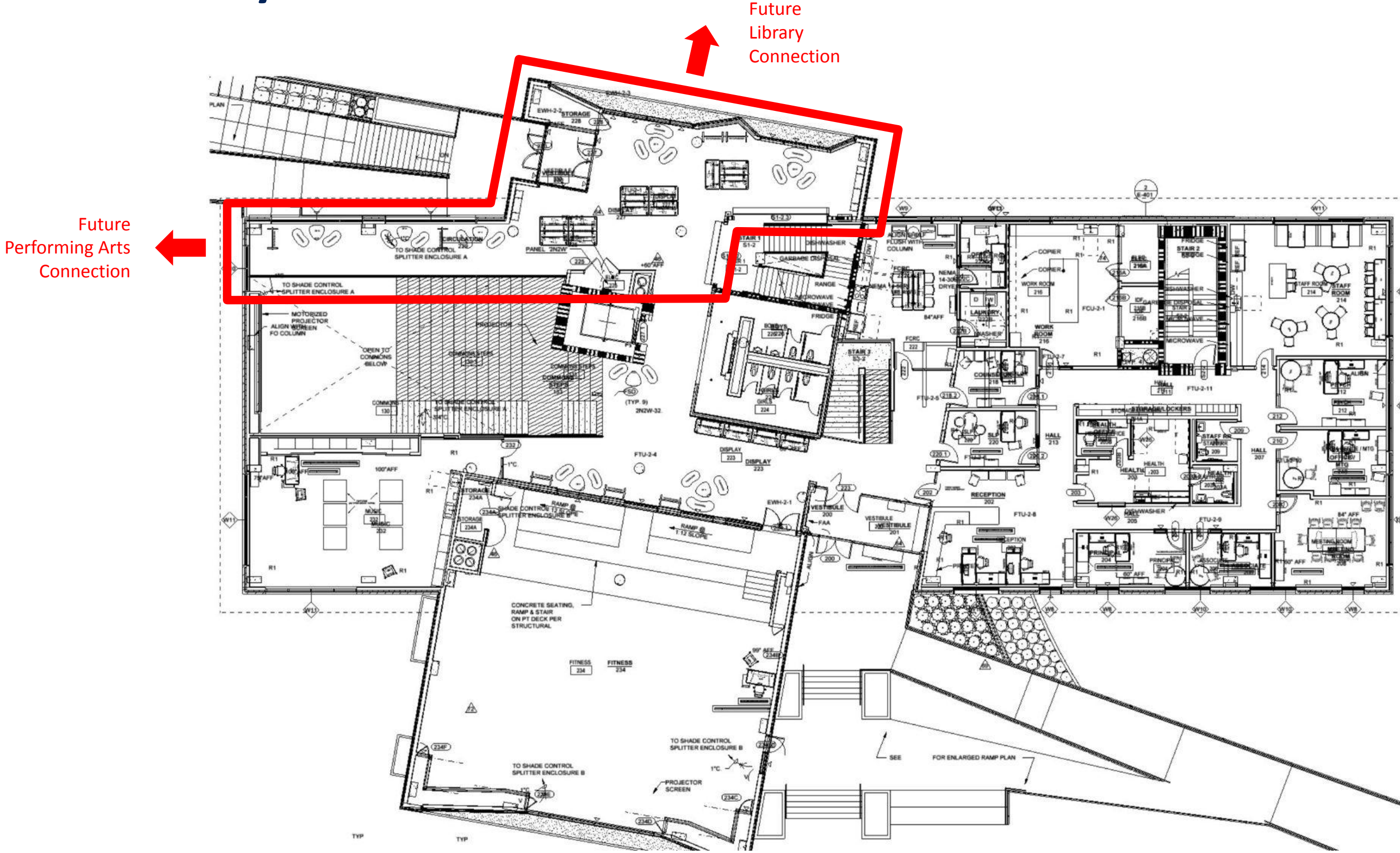
-  COMMONS / DINING
-  FITNESS / WELLNESS
-  ART / MUSIC
-  COUNSELING SERVICES
-  ADMINISTRATION
-  STAFF
-  FCRC
-  CIRCULATION



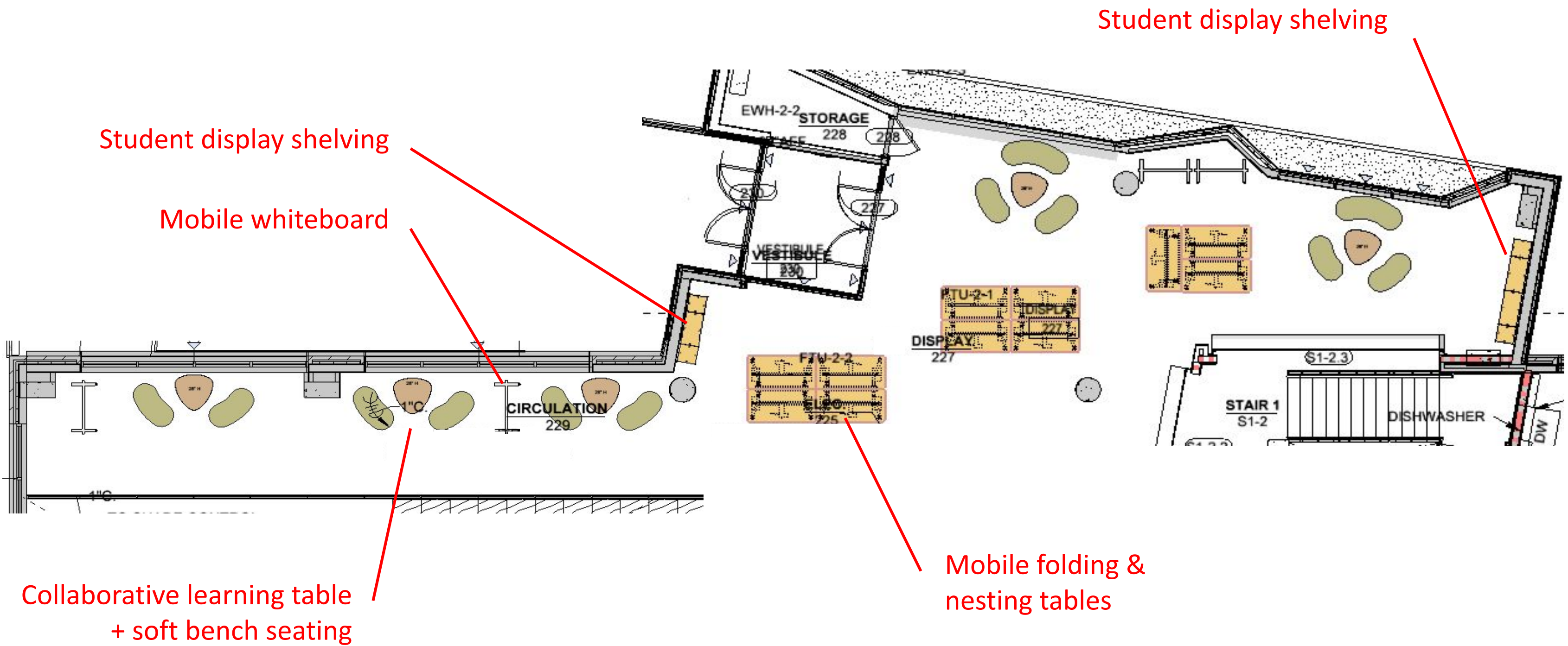
Level 2 - Furniture Plan



Level 2 - Student Gallery



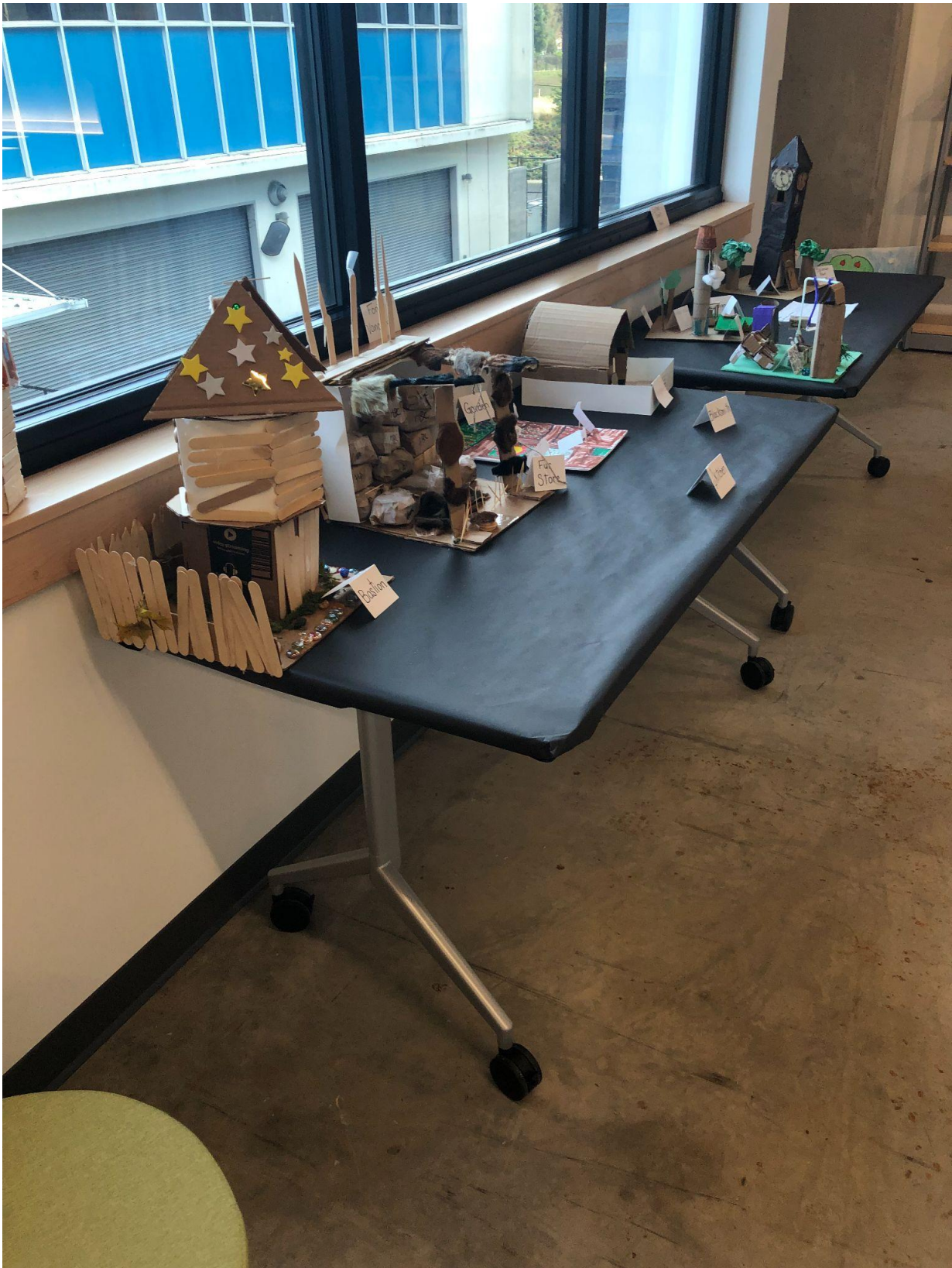
Student Gallery



Student Gallery

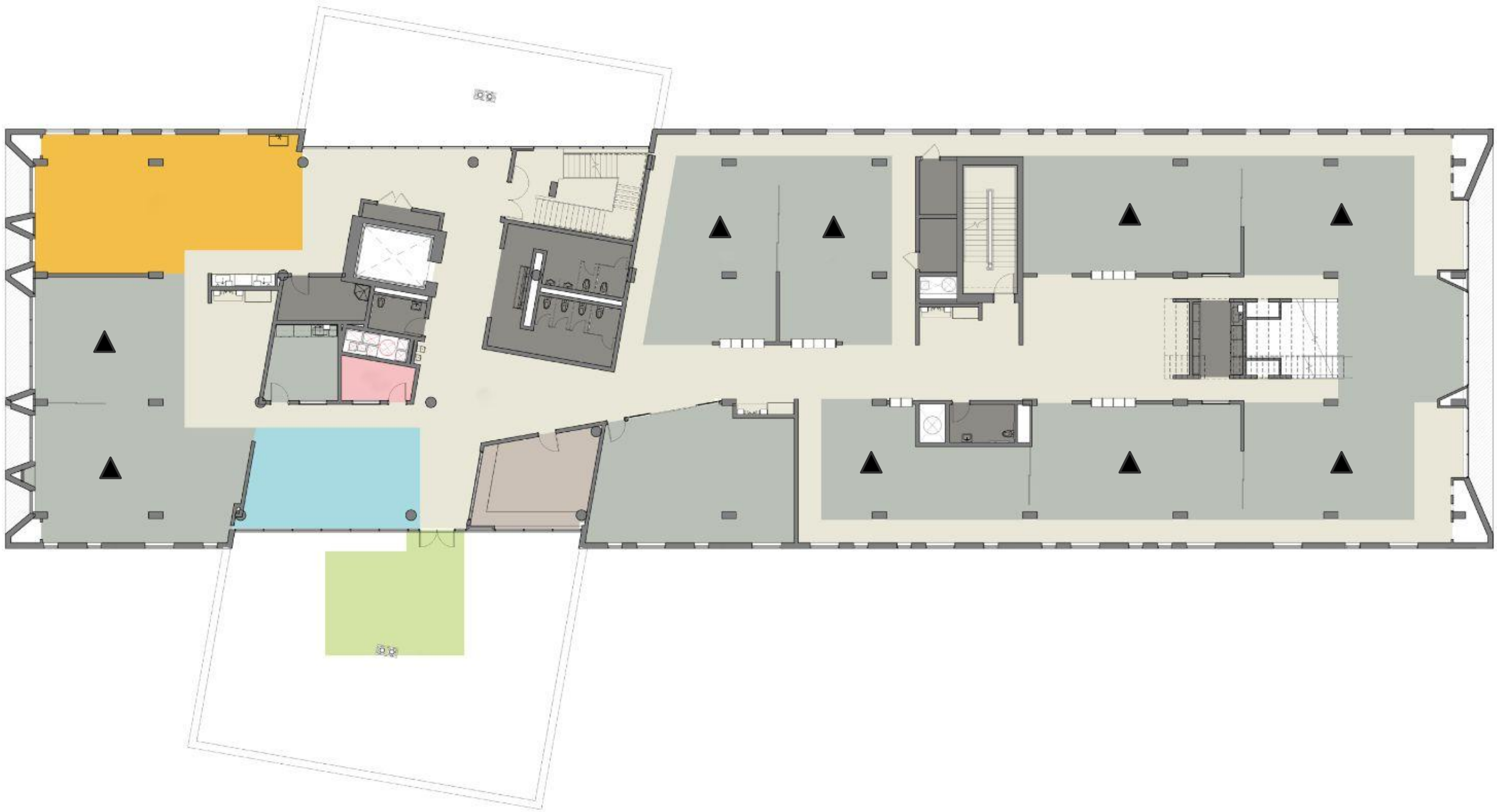


Student Gallery

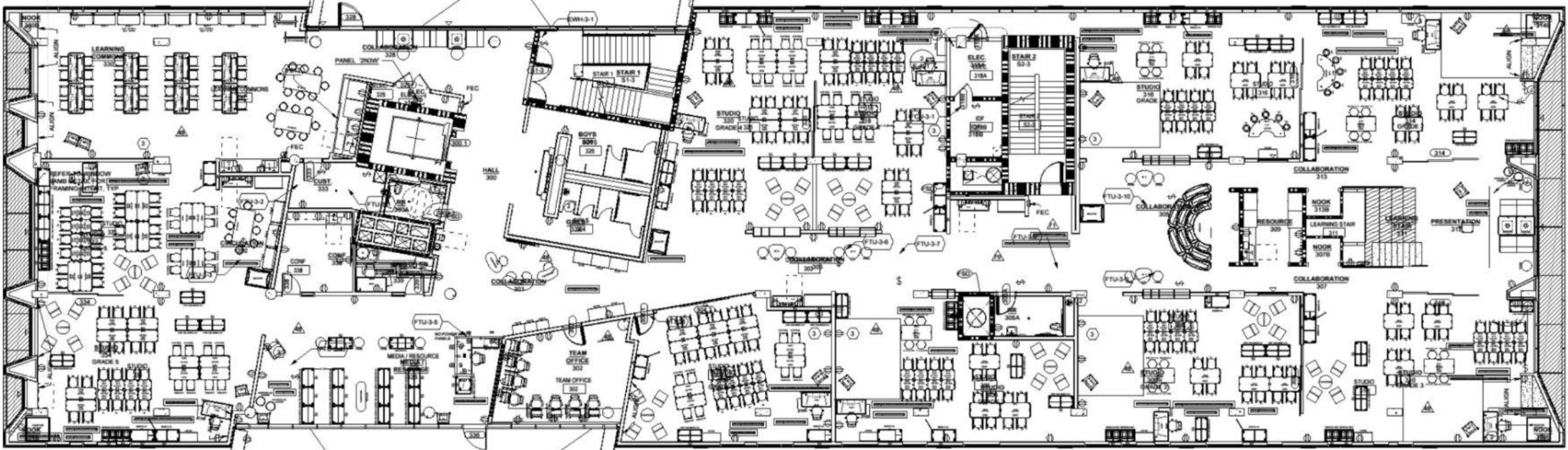


Level 3

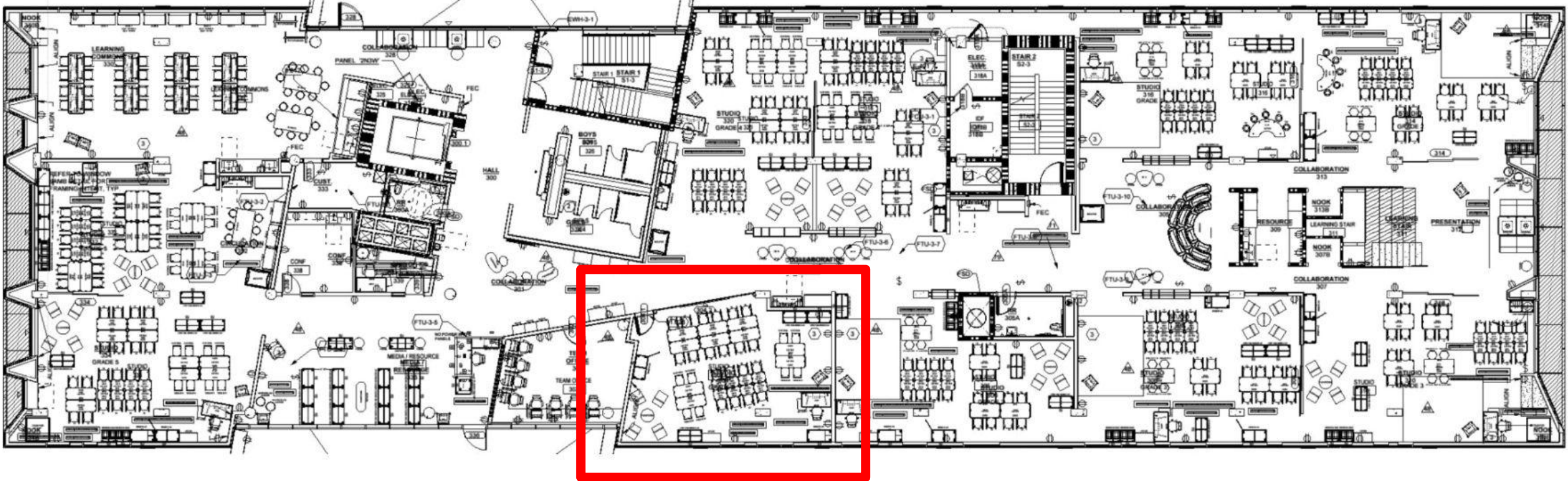
-  MAKER SPACE / FABRICATION
-  SPECIAL EDUCATION
-  MEDIA / RESEARCH
-  OUTDOOR LEARNING
-  LEARNING STUDIO
-  STAFF
-  COLLAB / FLEX LEARNING



Level 3 - Furniture Plan



Level 3 - 5th Grade Studio

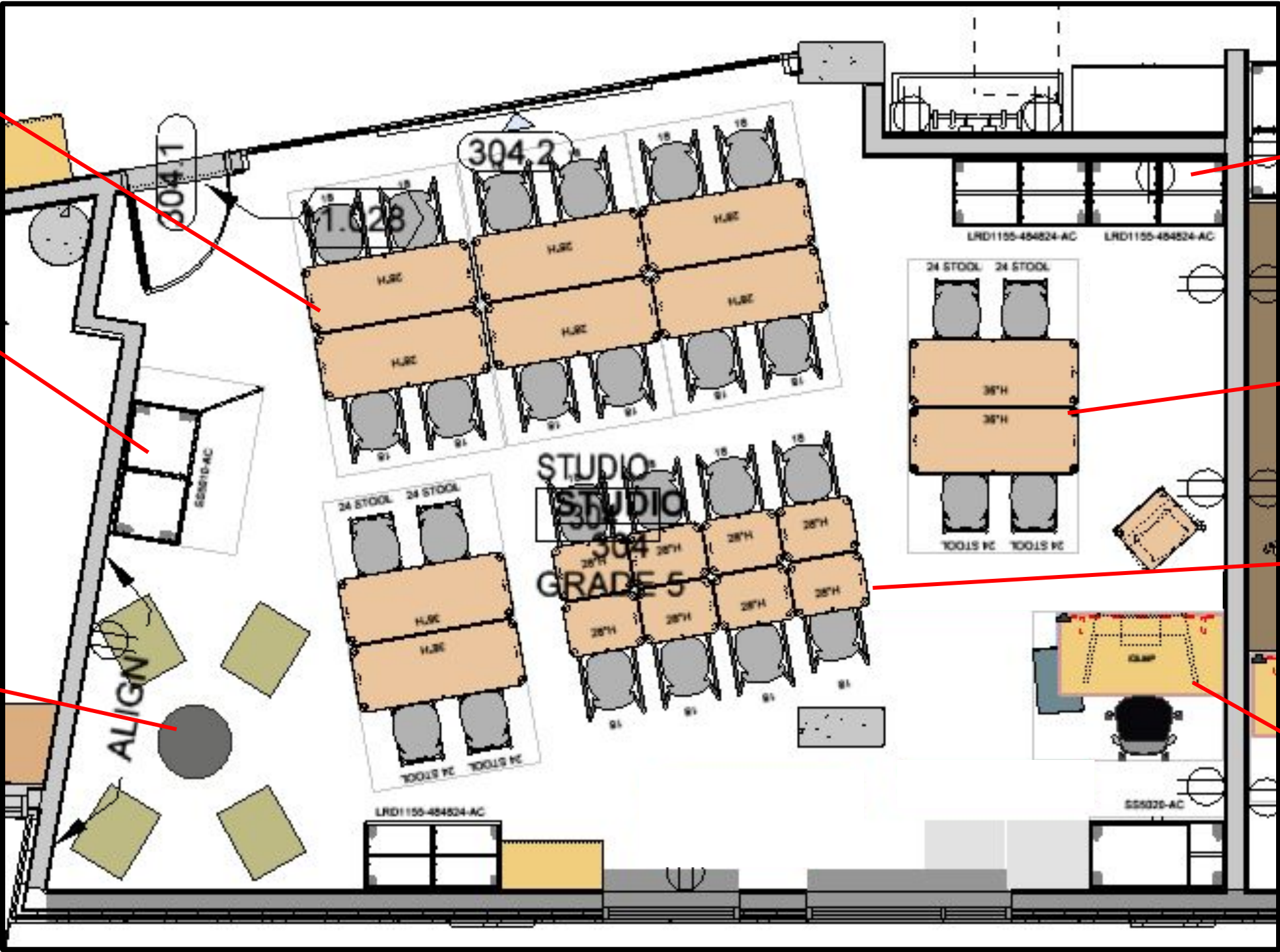


5th Grade Studio

Two-student desks + cantilever chairs

Mobile storage

Soft rocker seating + ottoman



Mobile storage

Two-student desks + stools

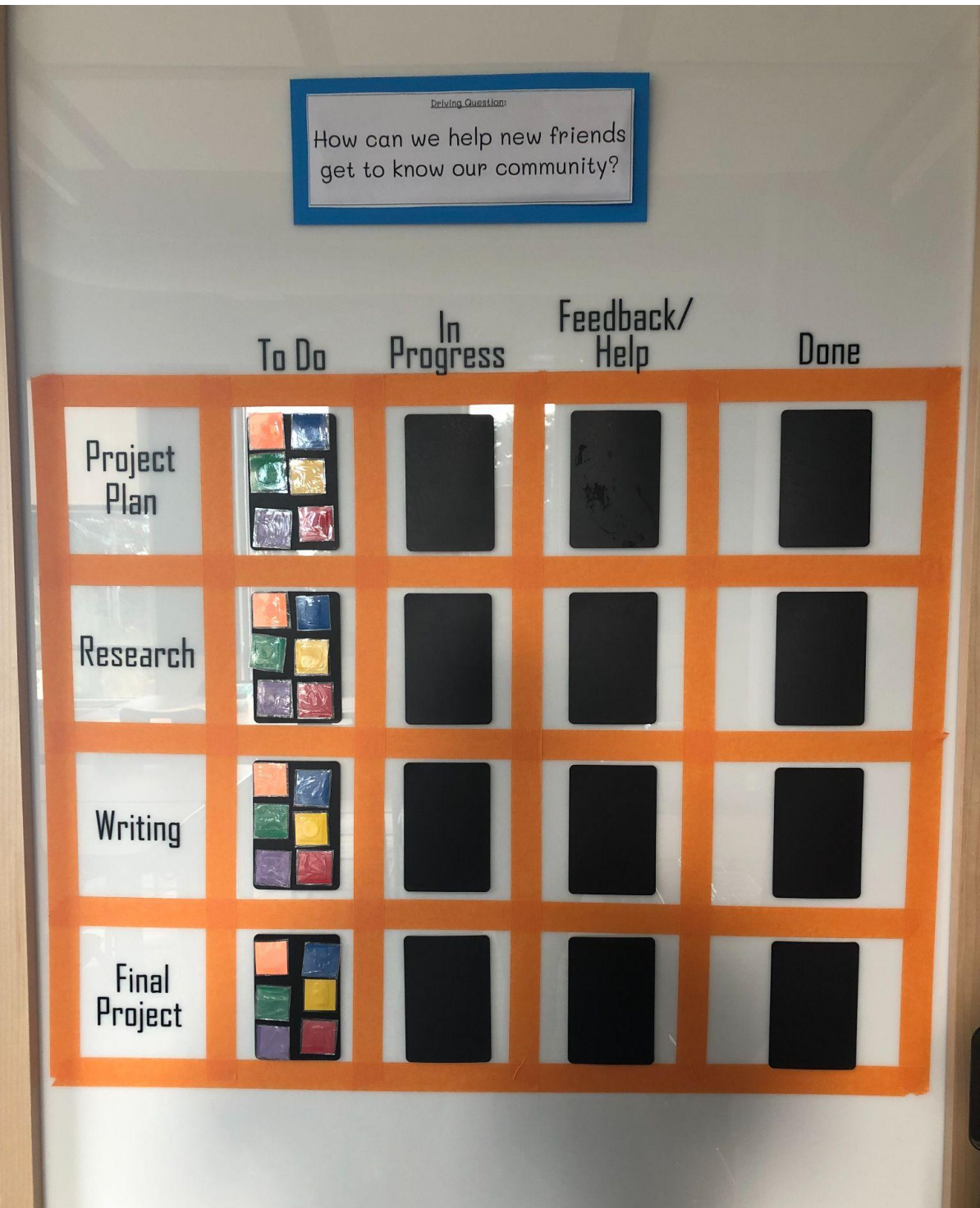
Individual student desks + cantilever chairs

Teacher desk

5th Grade Studio



5th Grade Studio









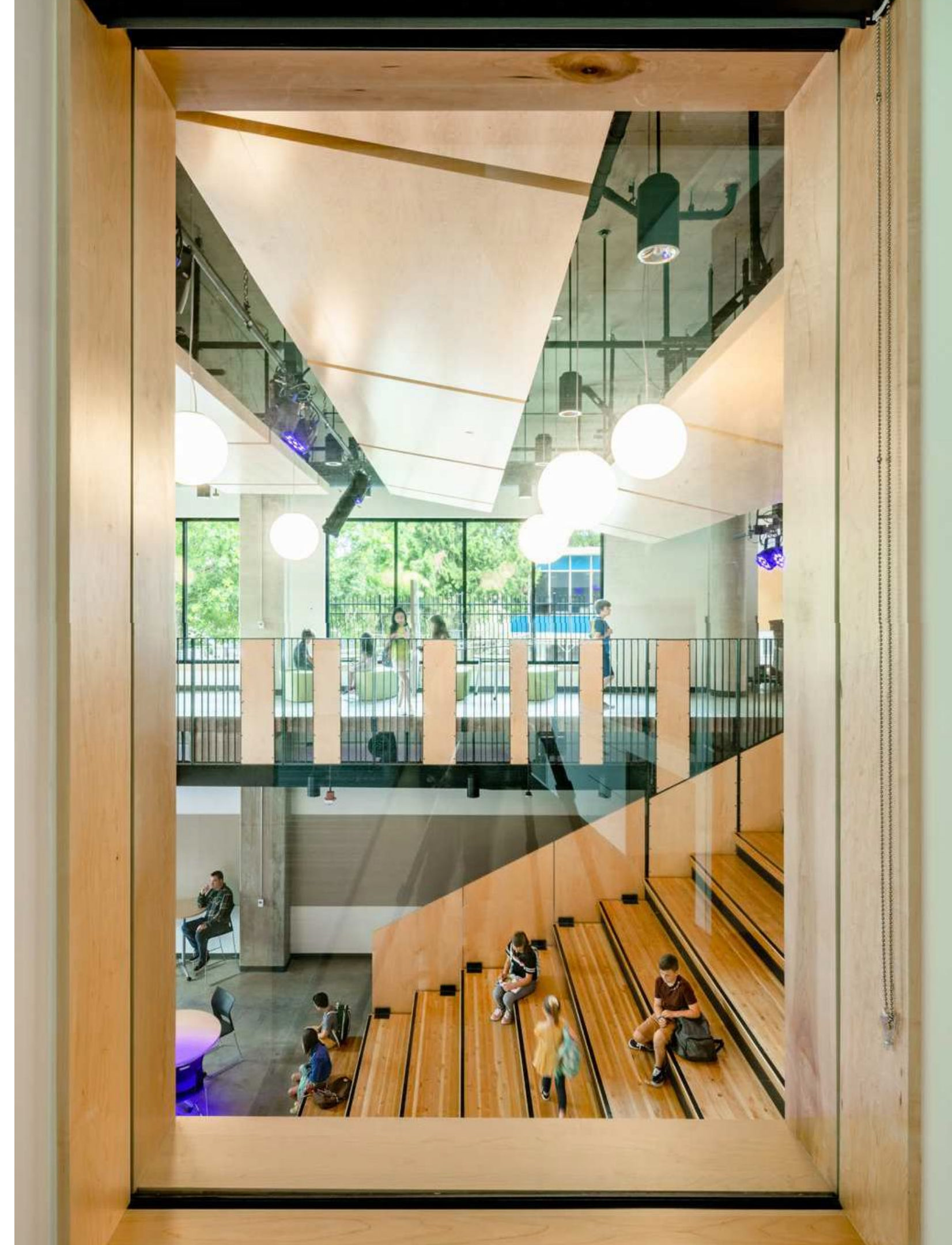
342

344

34







VITA | Anomalies



VITA | Anomalies

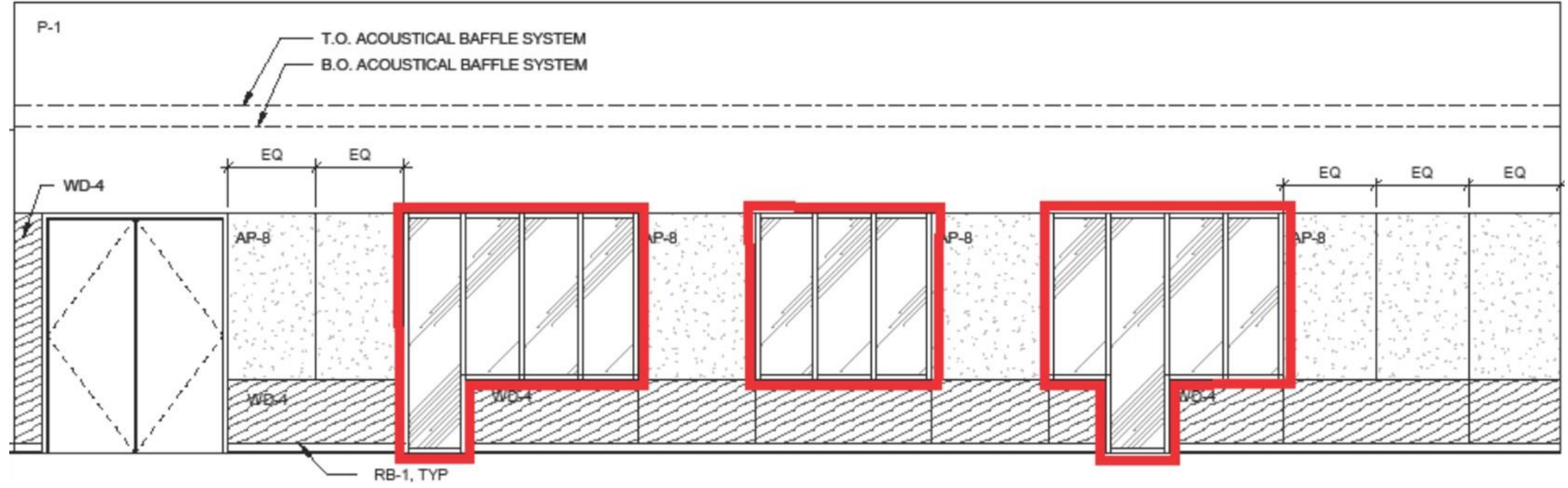
- 9 SEL Nooks – Cozy Capsule
- 8 Built in Casework – Abstract Circuit Diagram
- 7 Light fixtures to represent the solar system
- 6 Nature Play & Kinder Play Constellations
- 5 Playground Planet Plaques & Orbit Path
- 4 Mural in commons stair
- 3 Mural in main stair
- 2 Binary Code = Exterior window pattern
- 1 Morse Code = Interior Window pattern



VITA | Anomalies

1 Morse Code = Interior Window pattern at movement room

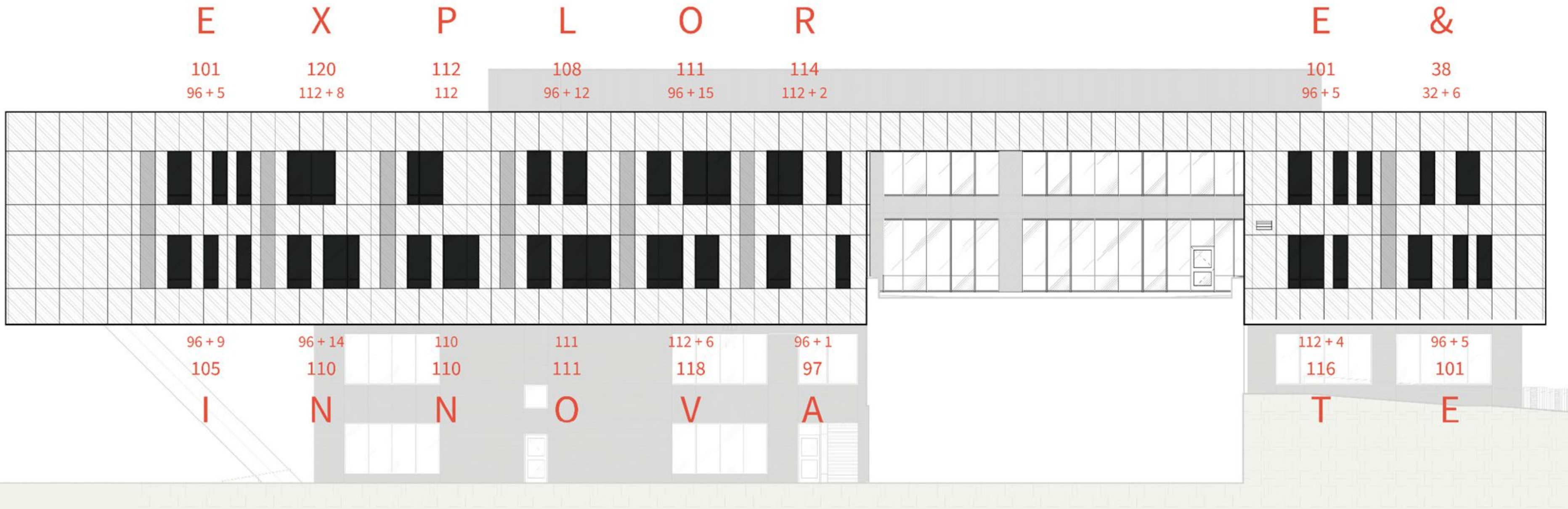
A ● -	J ● - - -	S ● ● ●
B - ● ● ●	K - ● -	T -
C - ● - ●	L ● - ● ●	U ● ● -
D - ● ●	M - -	V ● ● ● -
E ●	N - ●	W ● - -
F ● ● - ●	O - - -	X - ● ● ●
G - - ●	P ● - - ●	Y - ● - -
H ● ● ● ●	Q - - ● -	Z - - ● ●
I ● ●	R ● - ●	



J O Y

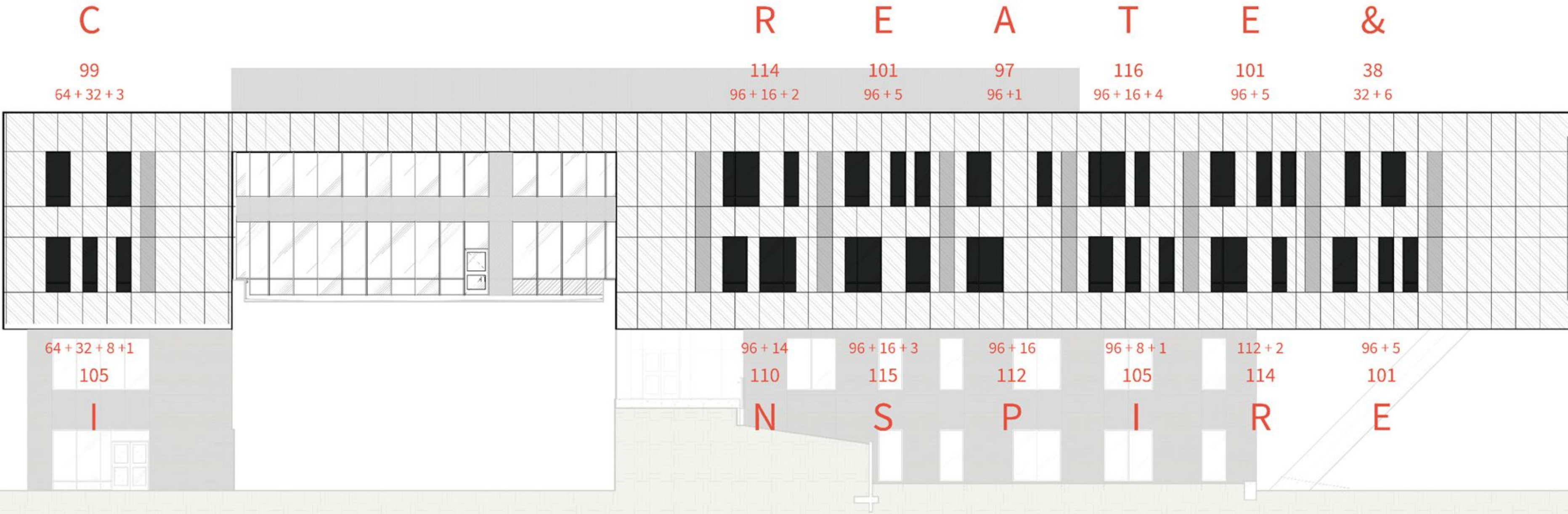
VITA | Anomalies

2 Binary Code - Exterior Fenestration: "Explore & Innovate"



VITA | Anomalies

2 Binary Code - Exterior Fenestration: "Create & Inspire"



VITA | Anomalies



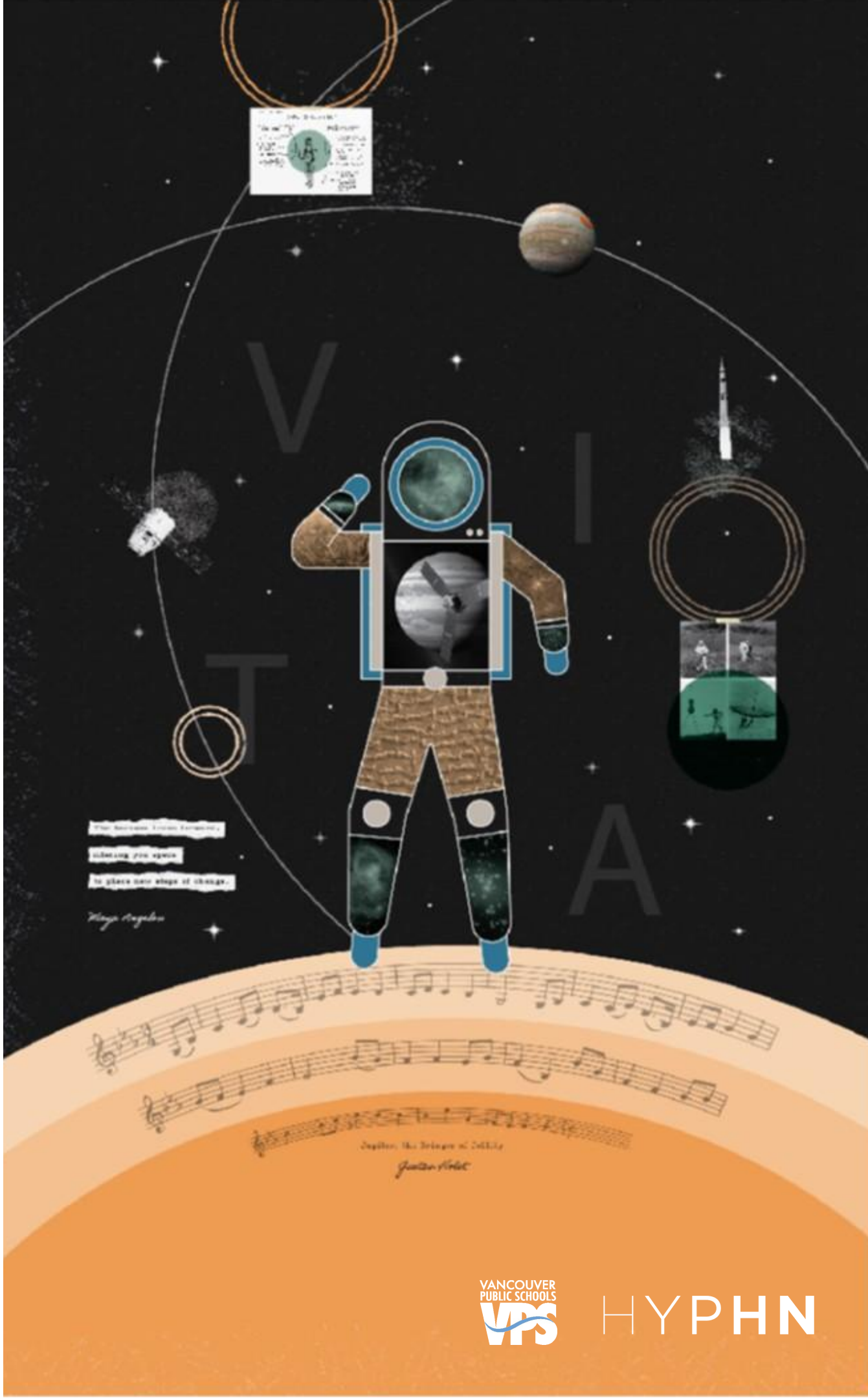
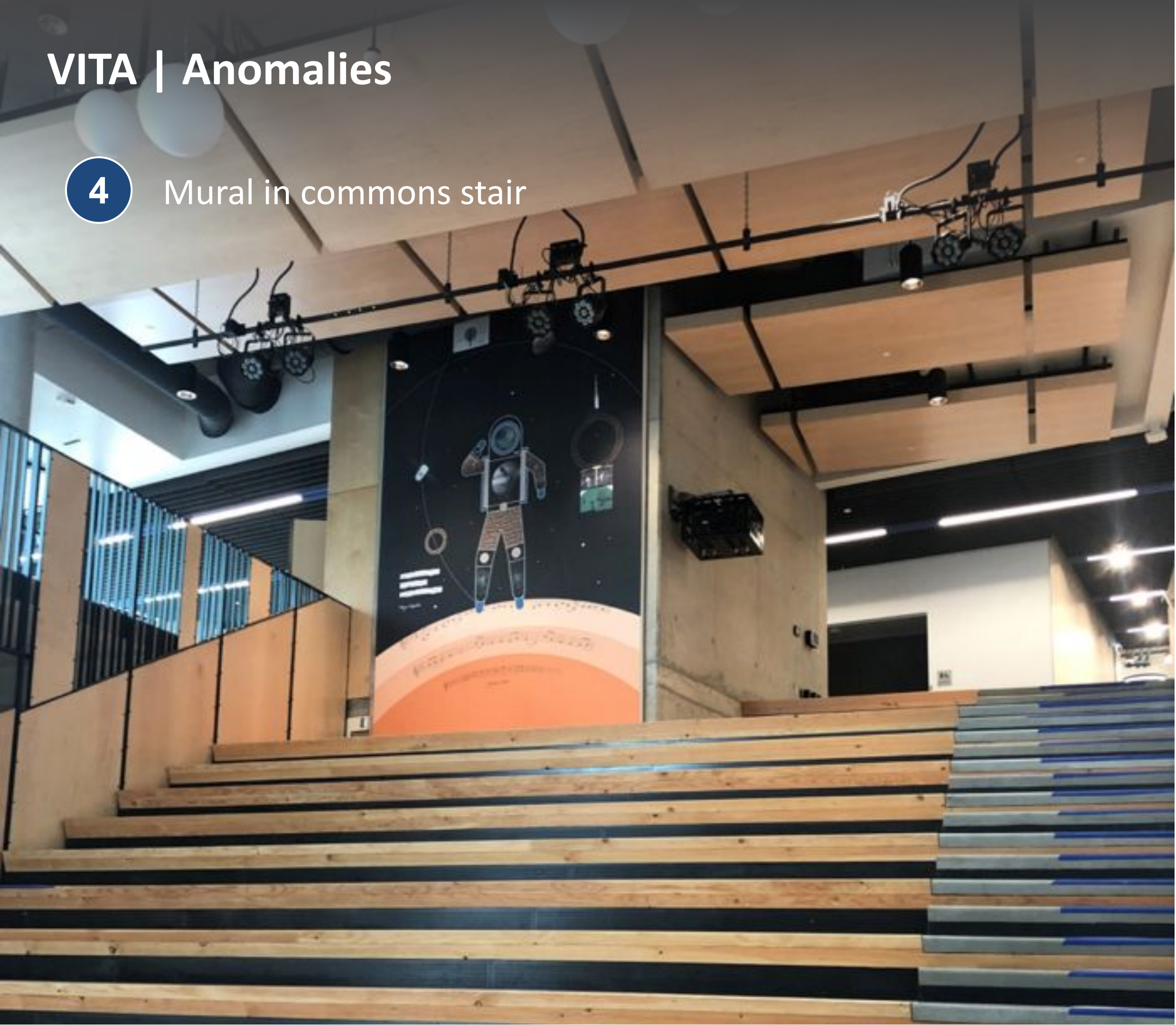
3 Mural in main stair



VITA | Anomalies

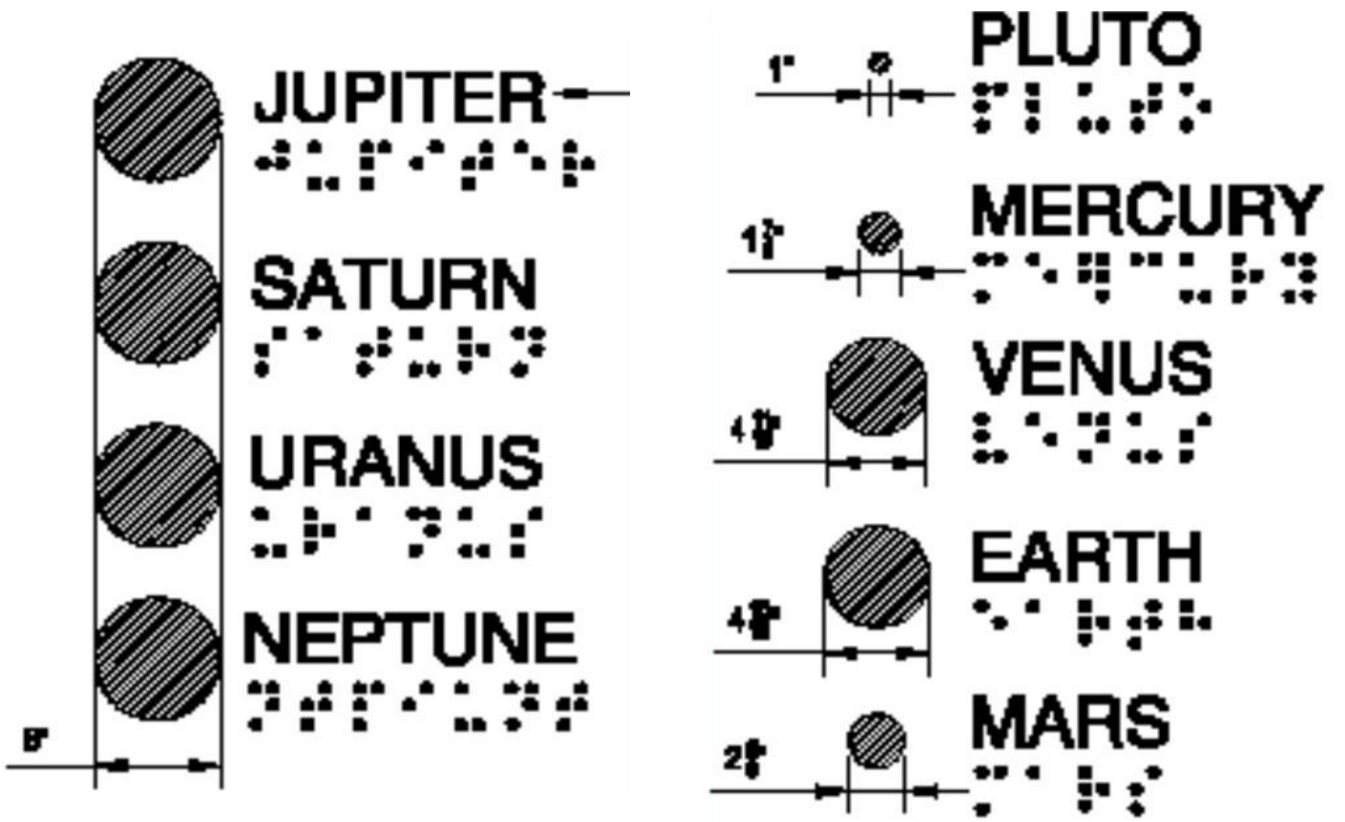
4

Mural in commons stair



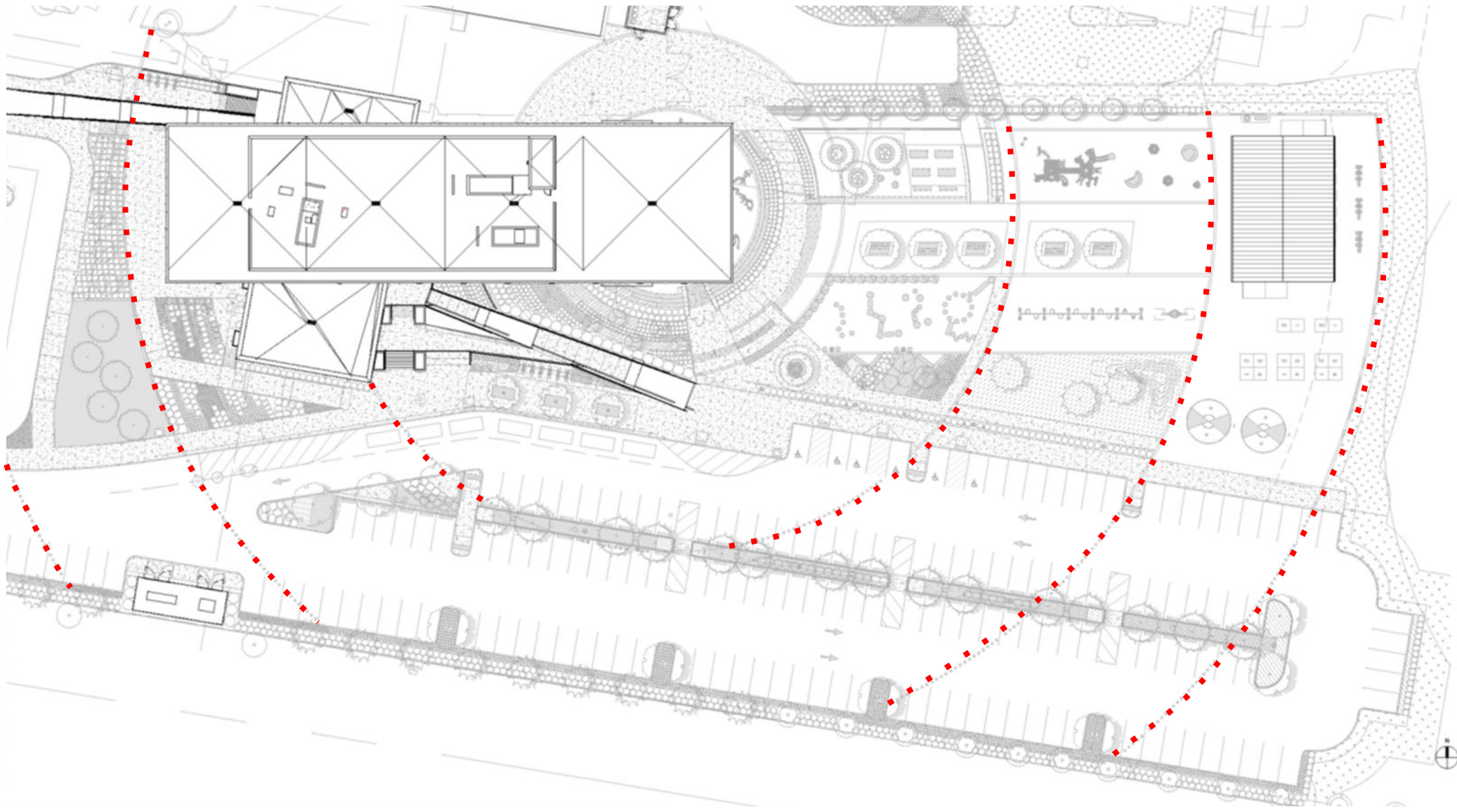
VITA | Anomalies

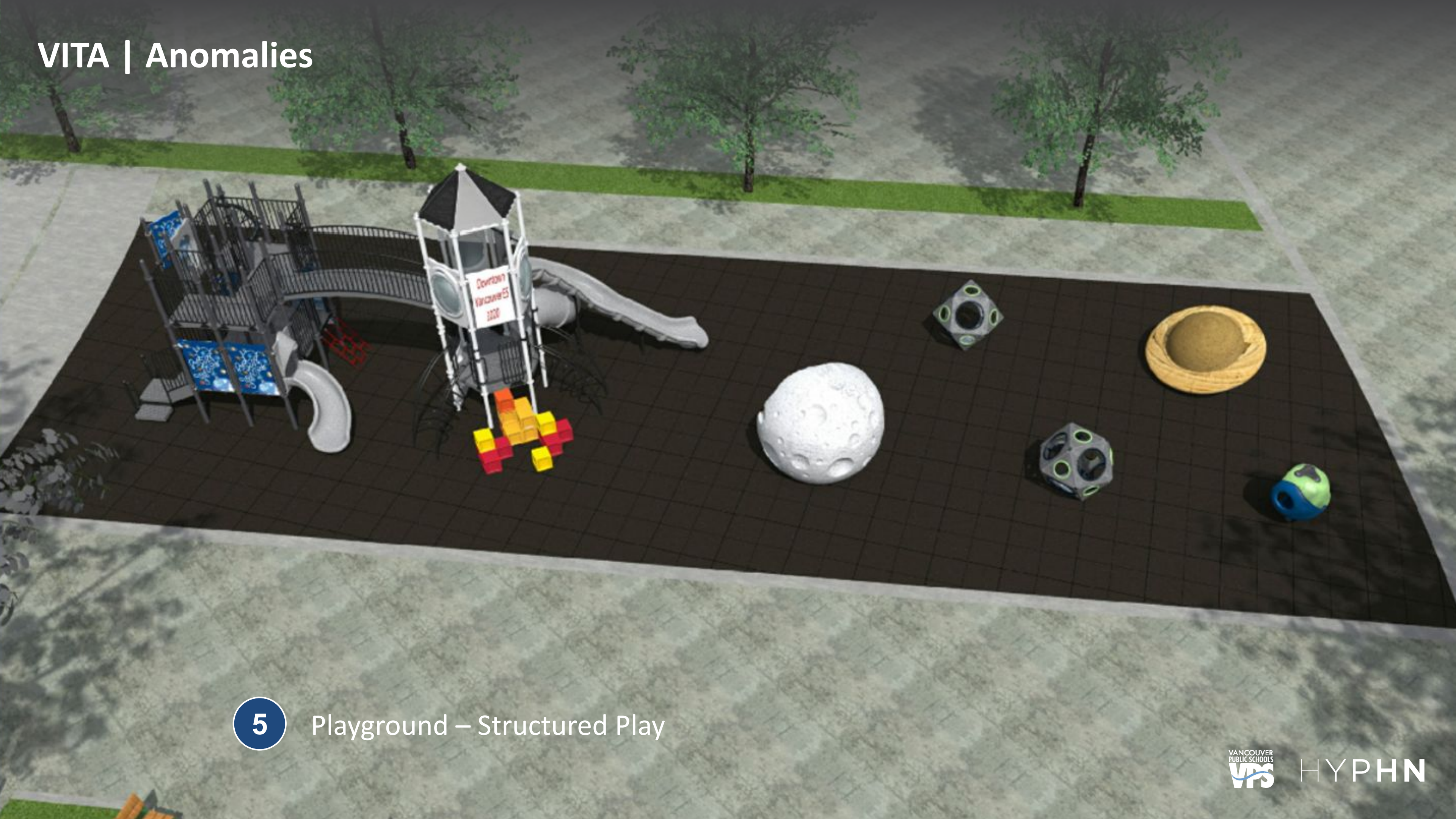
5 Playground Planet Plaques & Orbit



VITA | Anomalies

5 Playground Planet Plaques & Orbit





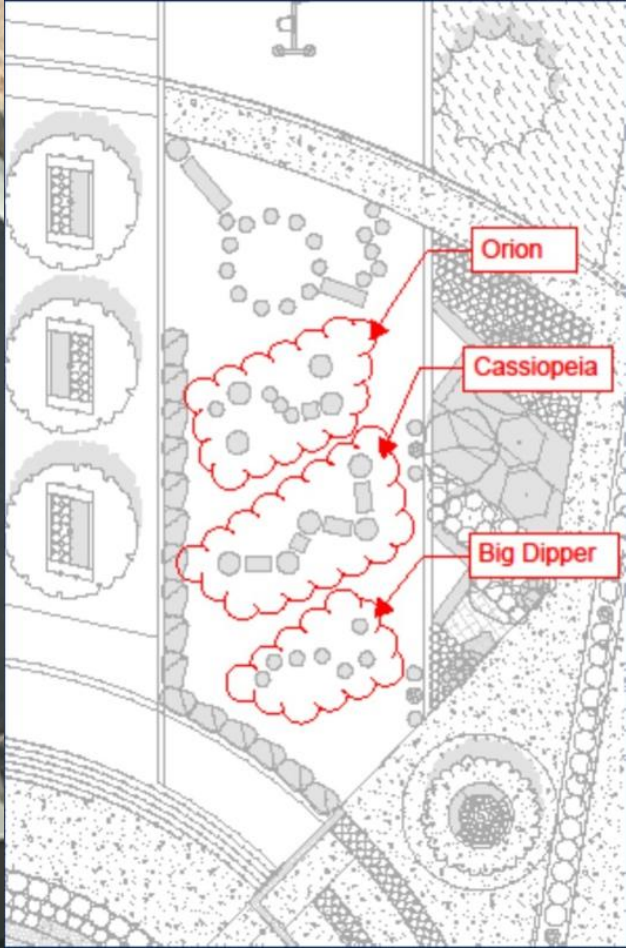
5

Playground – Structured Play

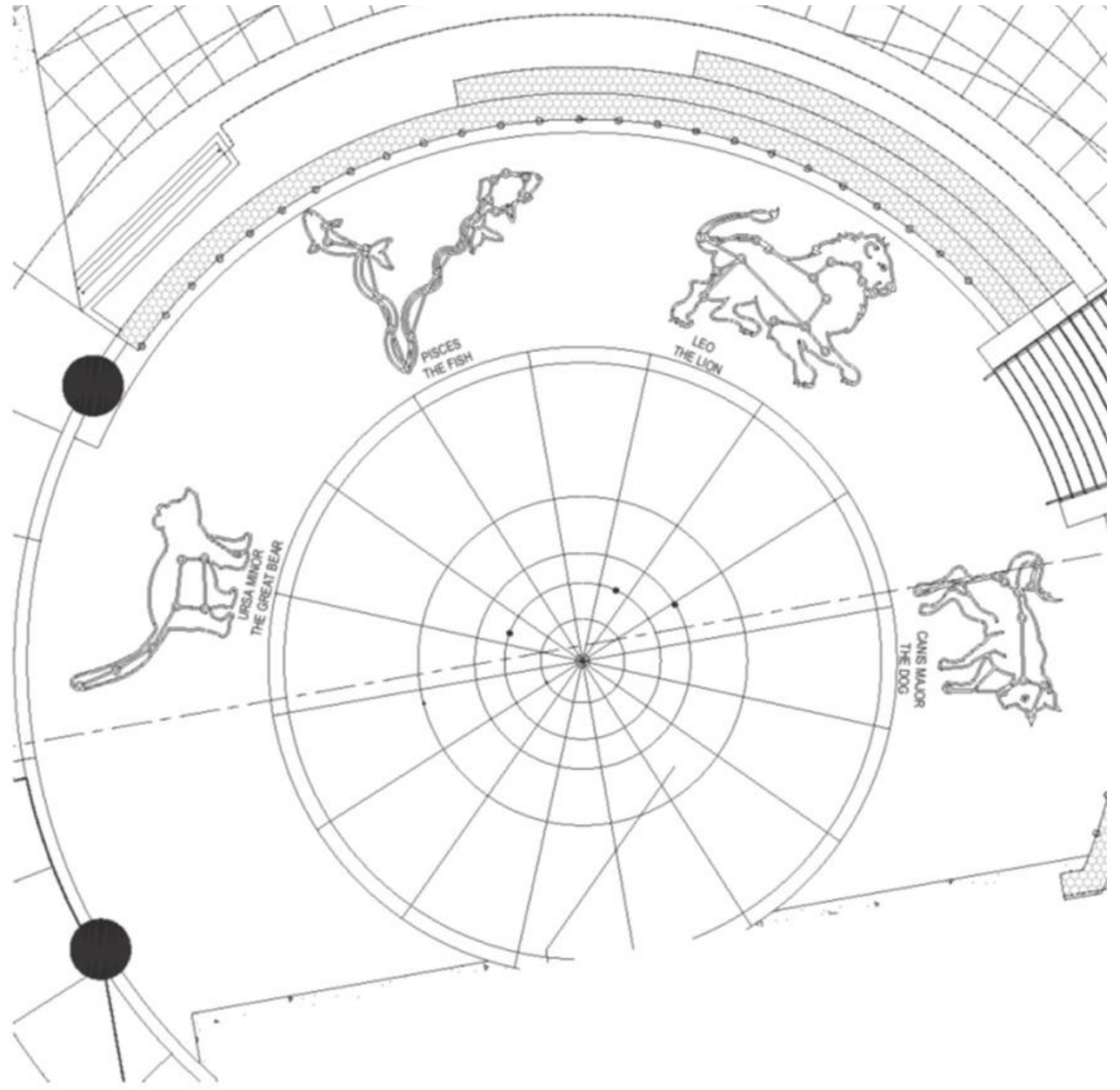


5

Playground – Structured Play



6 Kinder Play Constellations



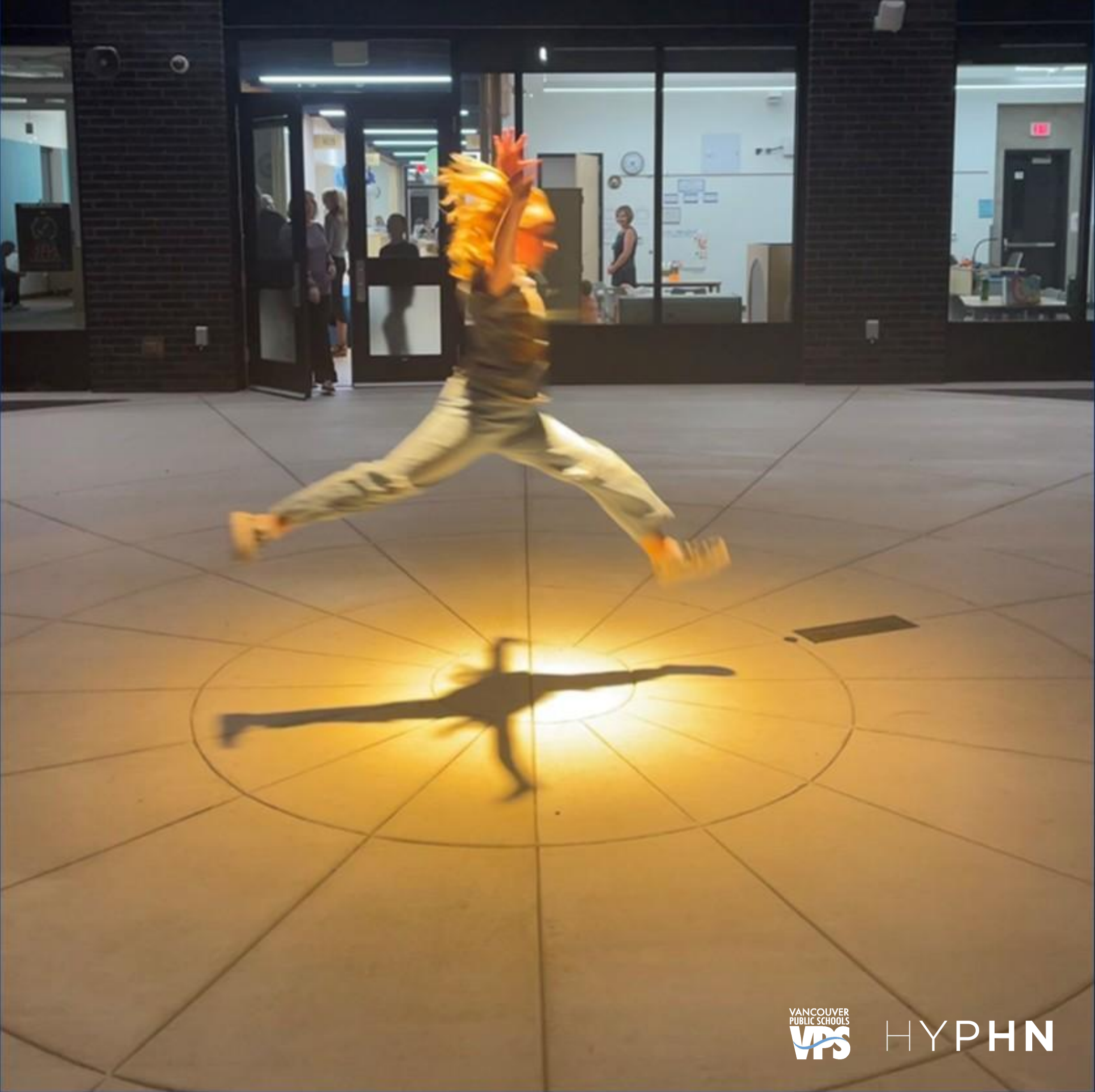
6 Kinder Play Constellations



VITA | Anomalies

7

Lights



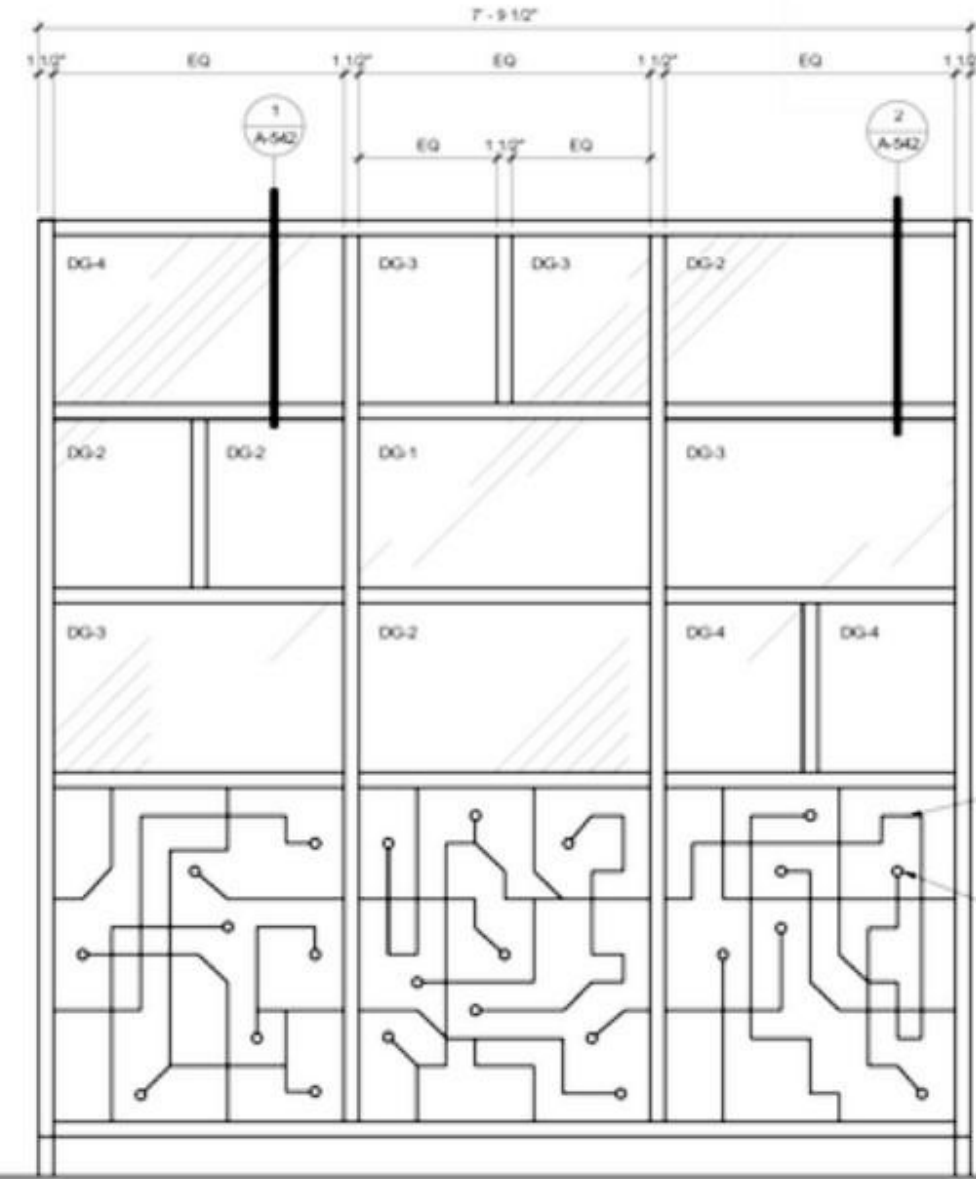
VITA | Anomalies

7 Lights

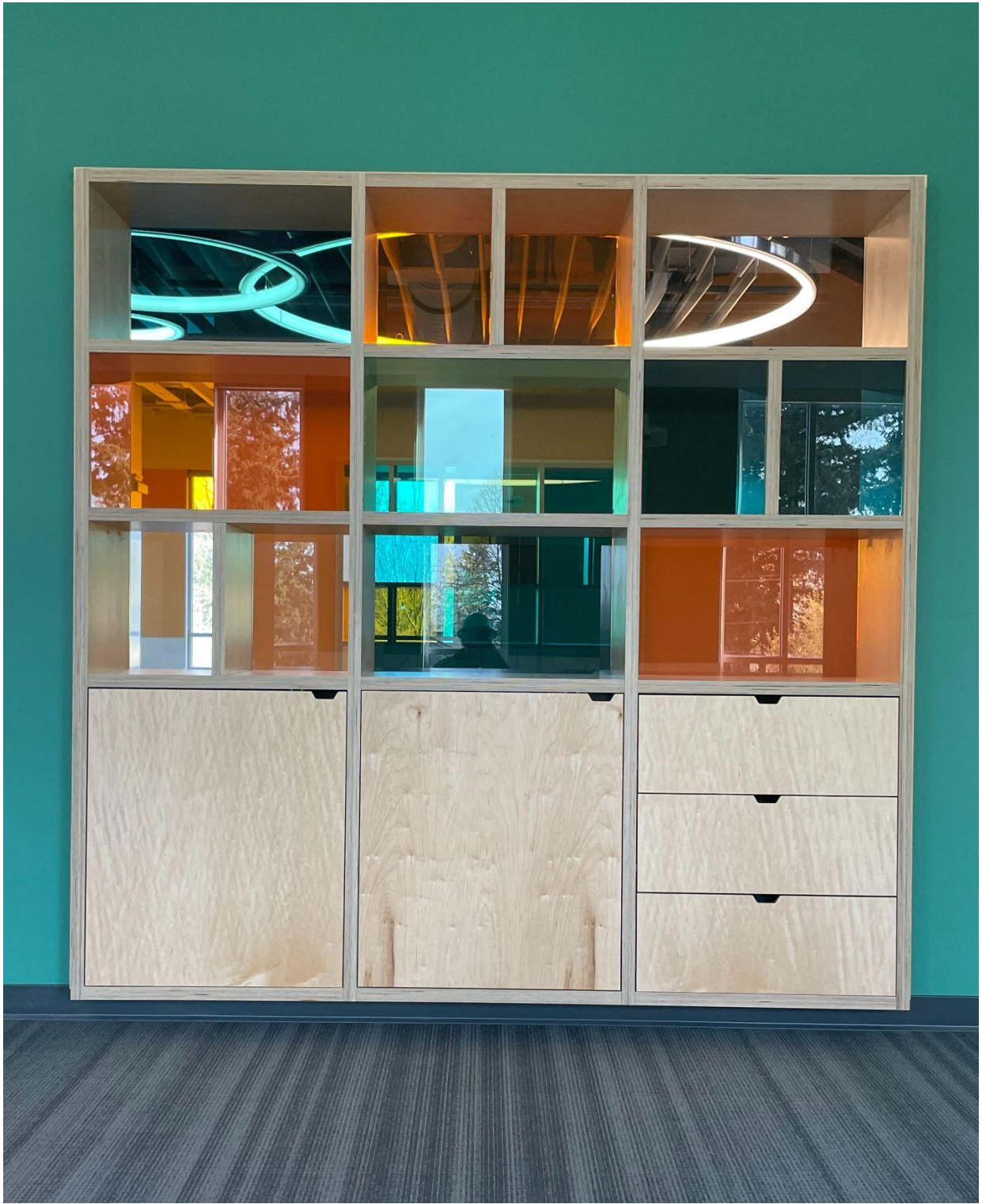


VITA | Anomalies

8 Built in Casework – Abstract Circuit Diagram



VITA | Anomalies



8 Built in Casework – Abstract Circuit Diagram

VITA | Anomalies

9 SEL Nooks – Cozy Capsule



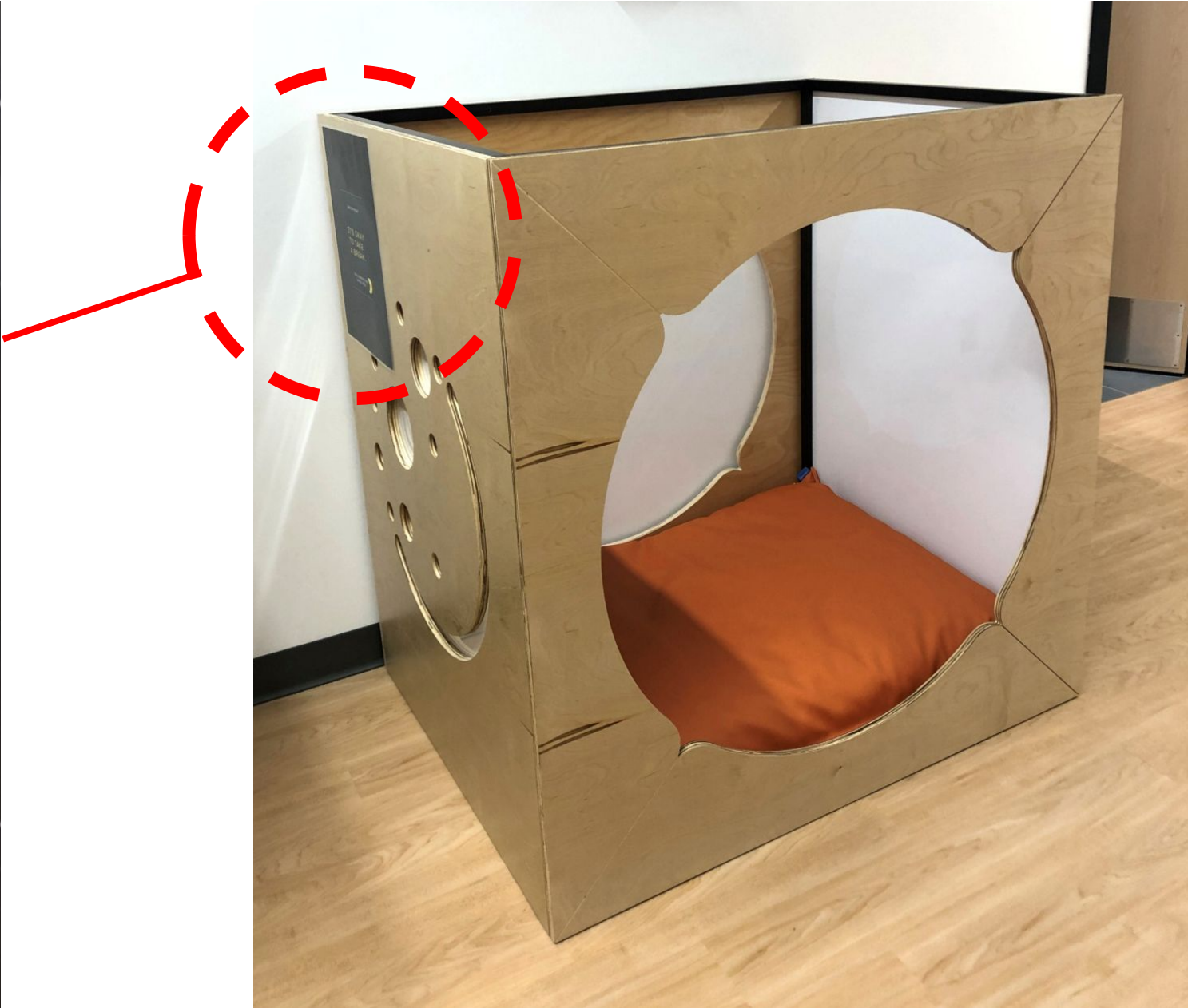
VITA | Anomalies

9 SEL Nooks – Corners

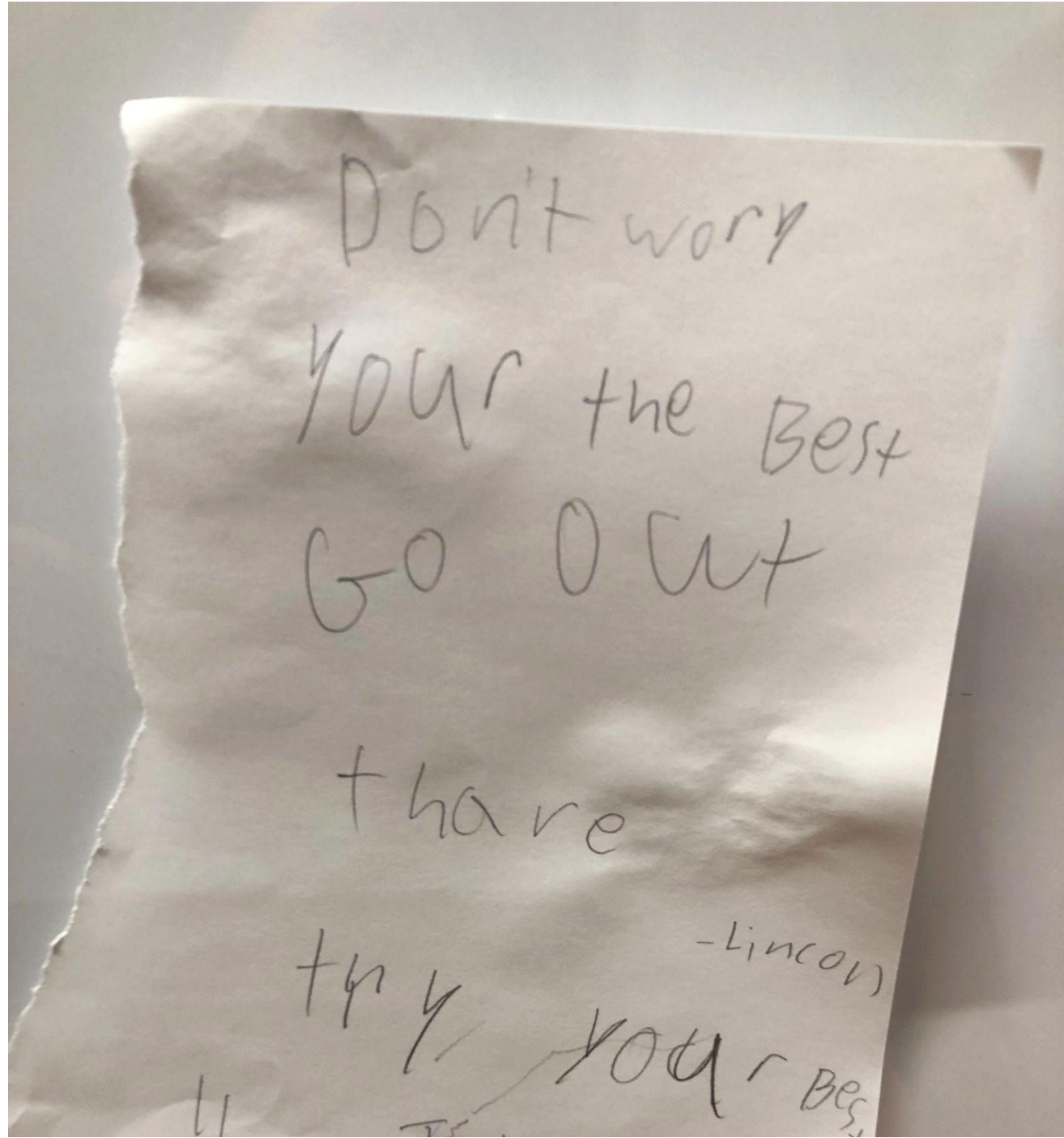
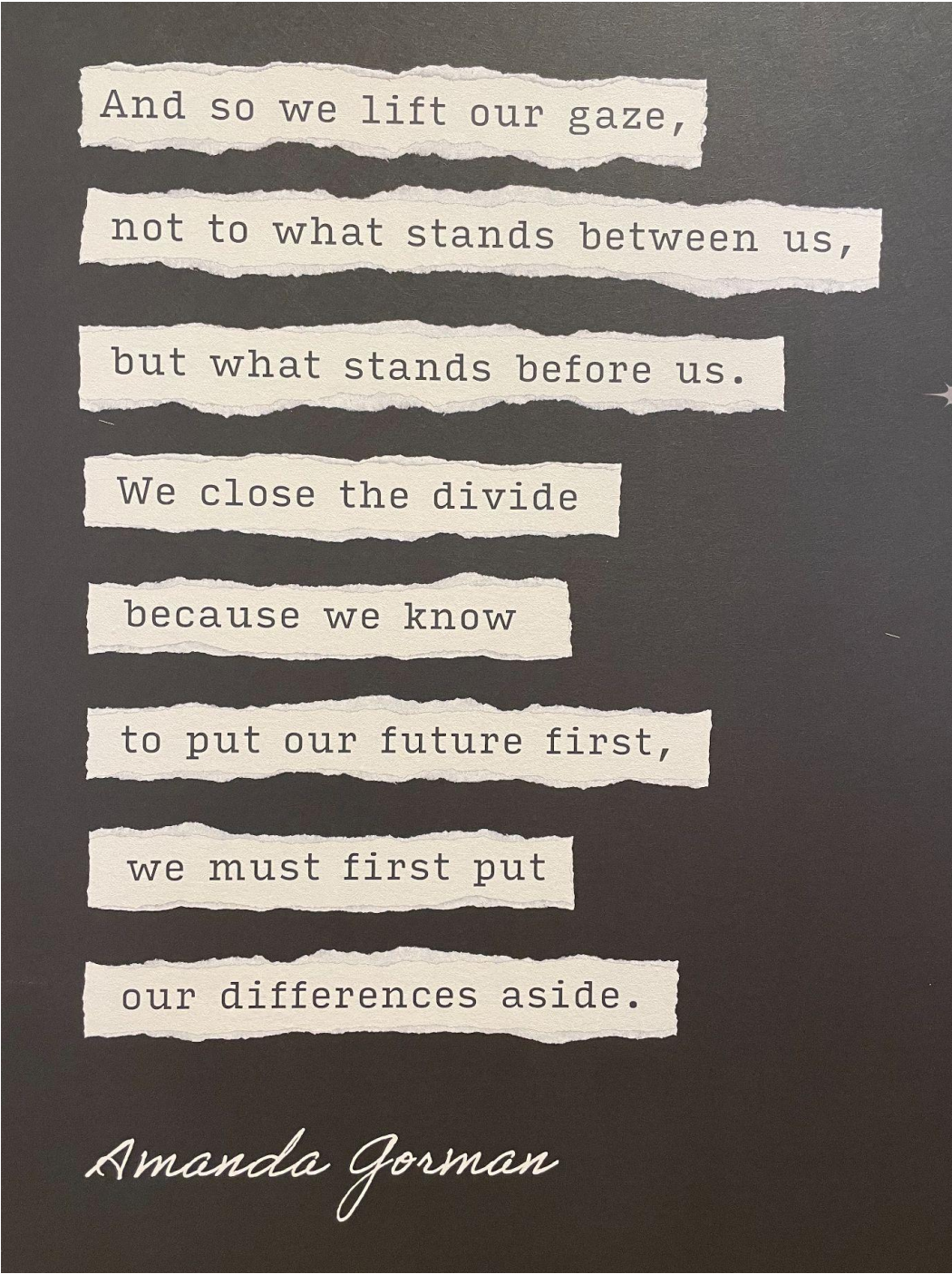
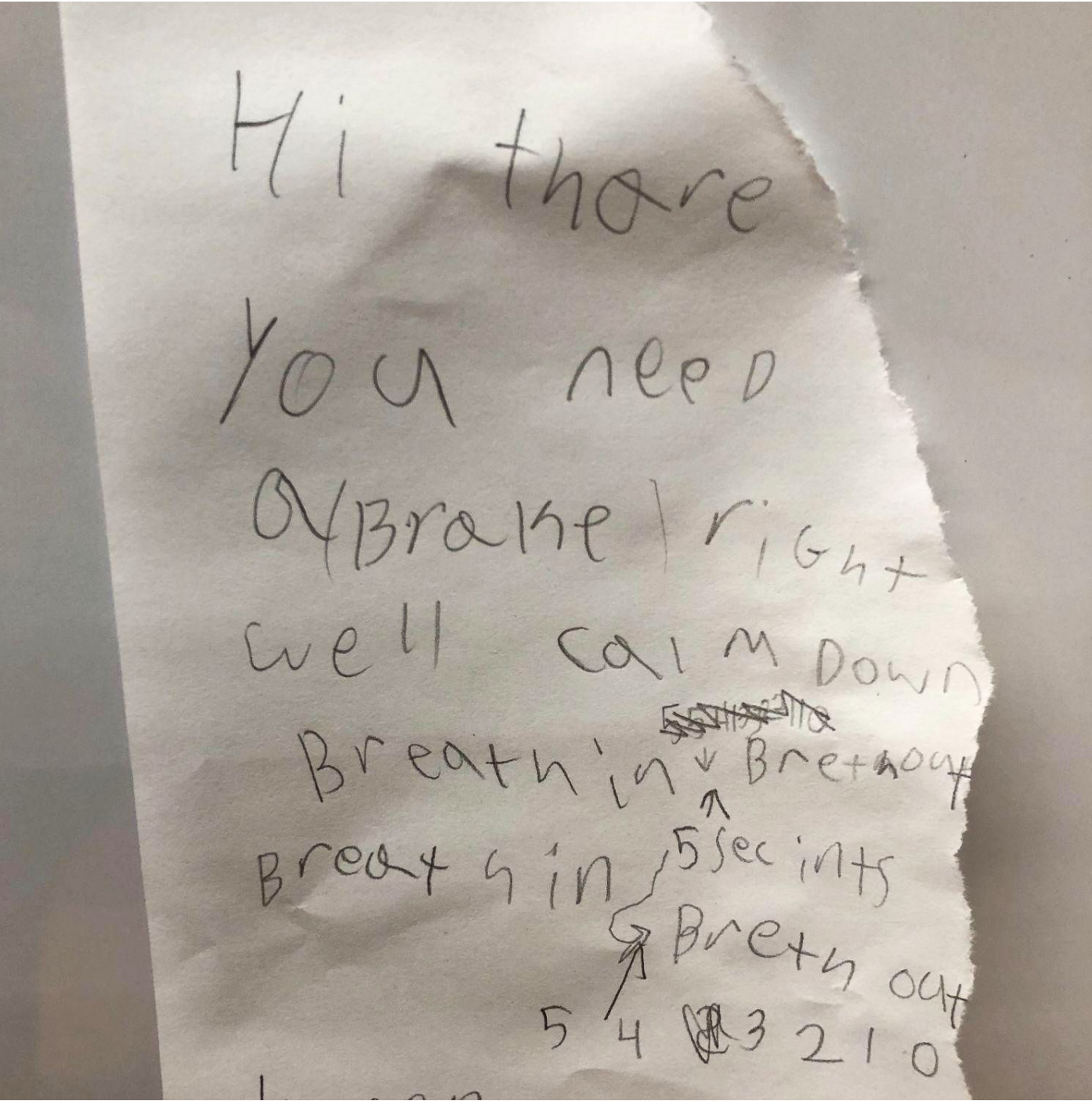


VITA | Anomalies

9 SEL Nooks – Furniture



VITA Inspiration



Thank You!

A4LE 2023 - Vancouver, BC

VITA Elementary

Vancouver Public Schools

Project Summary	
Design Kick-off	January 2018
Permitting/Bidding	November 2019 - September 2020
Design Duration	22 Months
Delivery Method	GC/CM
Construction Type	IIIA - Protected Combustible (PT Concrete & Lt Gauge Steel Framing)
Budget	\$34.3M
Building Area	63,454 SF
Student Capacity	420

Construction Overview	
General Contractor	Robertson & Olson Construction Inc.
Groundbreaking	September 2020
Substantial Completion	August 2022
Duration	3.5 Years

Project Team	
Owner	Vancouver Public Schools
Architect	LSW Architects
Landscape	Shapiro Didway
Structural	Kramer Gehlen & Associates
MEPT	Interface Engineering, Inc.
Civil	Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc.
Acoustics	MBF AudioVisual & Acoustical Consulting
Theater	PLA Designs
Food Service	Halliday Associates
Cost Consulting	Roan Associates
Archaeology	Archaeological Services, LLC
Geotechnical	NV5
Nature Play	Nature Play Designs
Commissioning	Elevate Building Commissioning
Furniture	Hyphn
Envelope	Morrison Hershfield