

# PLANTING SEEDS:

Integrating Outdoor Education and  
Indigenous Culture at Ida Nason  
Aronica Elementary

**INTEGRUS**  
A DIVISION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



**ELLENSBURG  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**PEI** PACIFIC  
EDUCATION  
INSTITUTE



Photo Credit: SUGi Project



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

---

1. Identify opportunities within existing education systems to represent and engage indigenous communities to promote cultural engagement and environmental stewardship
2. Reinforce school identity and the connection to project goals using experiential graphics.
3. Explain the concept of affordance in relation to the design of learning environments.
4. Assess and determine challenges to educators implementing an outdoor-learning-based curriculum.



Alan Aronica Son of namesake Ida Nason Aronica

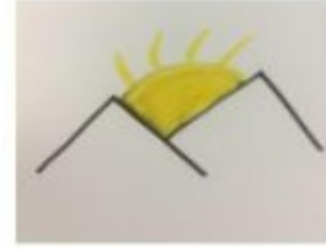
Photo Credit: SUGI Project

Davis E. Washines / Yellowash

"Yellowash is called upon in the tribal communities of the region to conduct traditional ceremonies because of his knowledge of his native language, culture and oral traditional history of native people, land and natural resources" -Yakama Nation Fisheries

Good morning.  
How are you? I am  
happy. I am good.

Shix máytski. Shix máytski.  
Mish nam wa? Mish nam wa?  
Kw'aláni nash wa. Kw'aláni nash wa.  
Uu shix nash wa. Uu shix nash wa.



Good afternoon.  
How are you? I  
am happy. I am  
good.



Shix páchway. Shix páchway.  
Mish nam wa? Mish nam wa?  
Kw'aláni nash wa. Kw'aláni nash wa.  
Uu shix nash wa. Uu shix nash wa.

Good evening?  
How are you? I  
am happy. I am  
good.

Shix kwláawit. Shix kwláawit.  
Mish nam wa? Mish nam wa?  
Kw'aláni nash wa. Kw'aláni nash wa.  
Uu shix nash wa. Uu shix nash wa.



Good night. How  
are you? I am  
happy. I am  
good.



Shix sts'at. Shix sts'at.  
Mish nam wa? Mish nam wa?  
Kw'aláni nash wa. Kw'aláni nash wa.  
Uu shix nash wa. Uu shix nash wa.







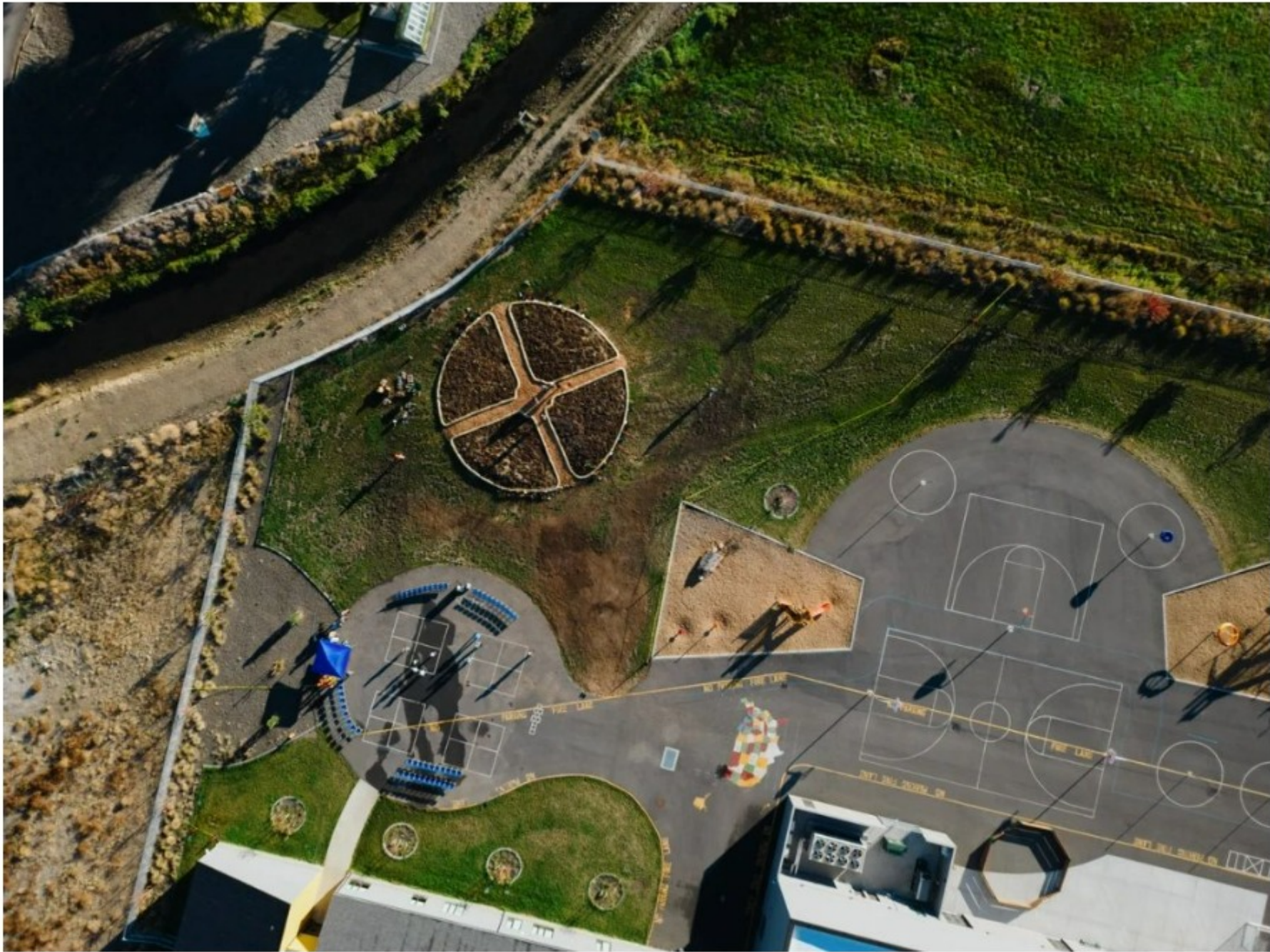
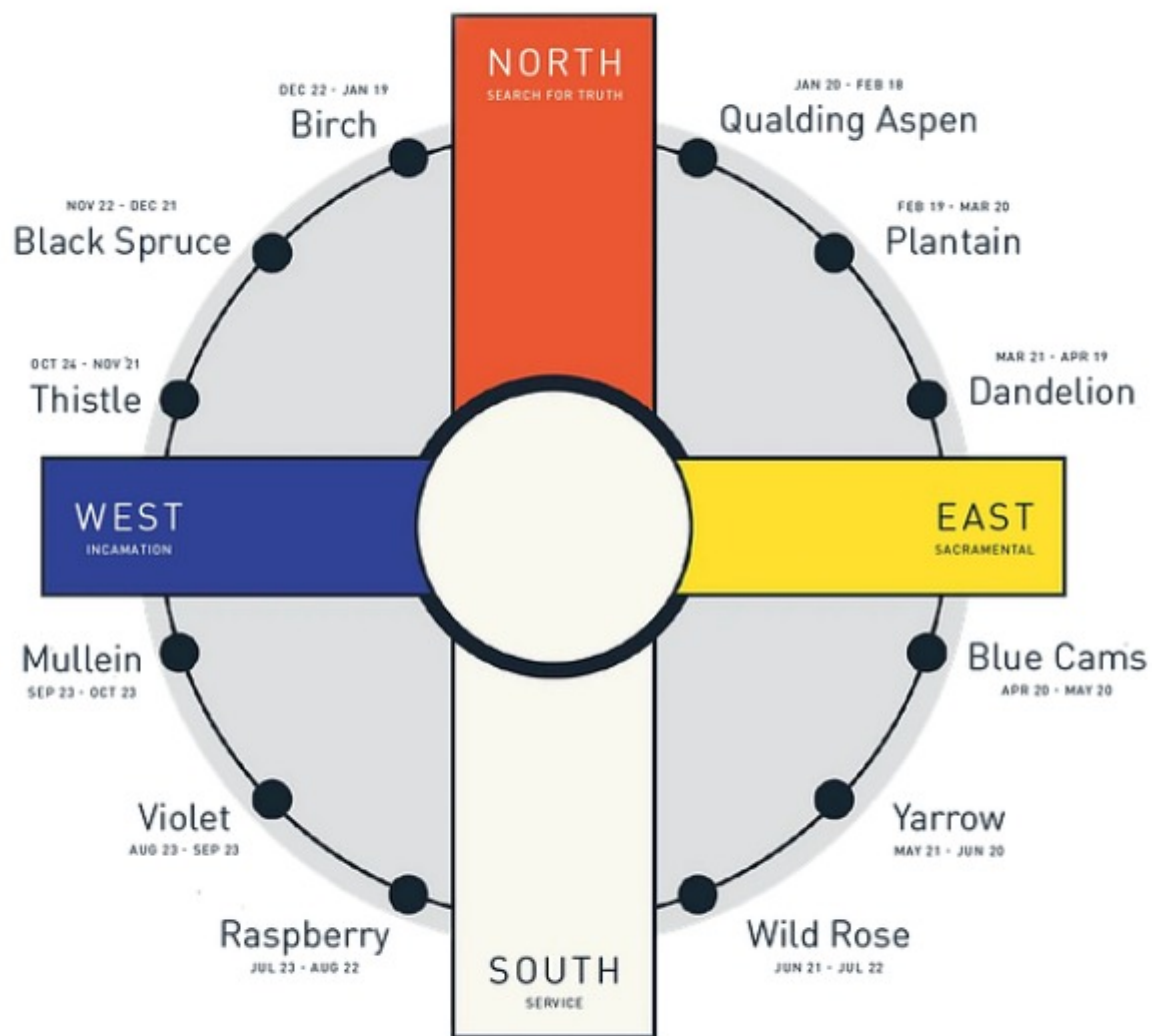


Photo Credit: SUGI Project





**"As cycles happen with the four seasons and four directions, this forest will be in the shape of a medicine wheel with four quadrants and a small central reflection space."**

**~Ethan Bryson**

SUGi Project

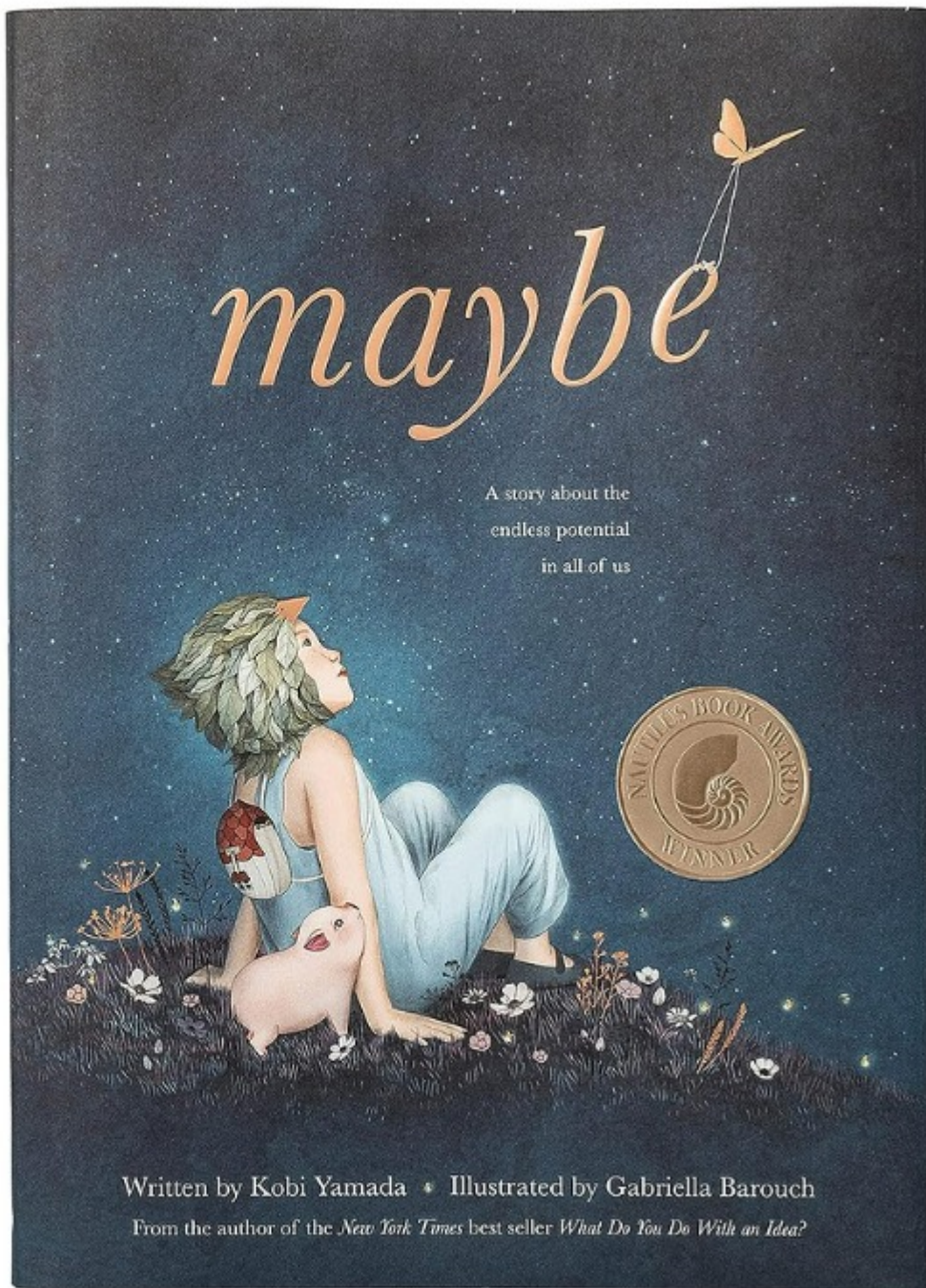
<https://www.sugiproject.com/>

<https://youtu.be/k7P7k1P5o1o?si=tLAPpOARpxtH407n>









***This is a story for everything you will do and everything you could be. It's for who you are right now, and it's for all the magical, unbounded potential you hold inside.***

***~Kobi Yamada***

## Outdoor Learning & Play:

- Include intentional outdoor spaces that honor learning and creativity
- Integrate elements of play throughout the site and the building
- Design outdoor spaces to be flexible with a variety of areas for exploration and discovery
- Foster a sense of stewardship for the environment



# AFFORDANCE

"The affordances of the environment are what it offers the animal, what it provides or furnishes, either for good or ill."

~James J. Gibson, 1979

"...the properties of an object or features of an environment that suggest to us how it is to be used."

~Sarah Williams Goldhagen, 2017

"Perception is perception for action"

<https://youtu.be/4srpRzMP99g?si=bZ-GuR8v-j96ielF&t=1560>



# ACTION SETTINGS

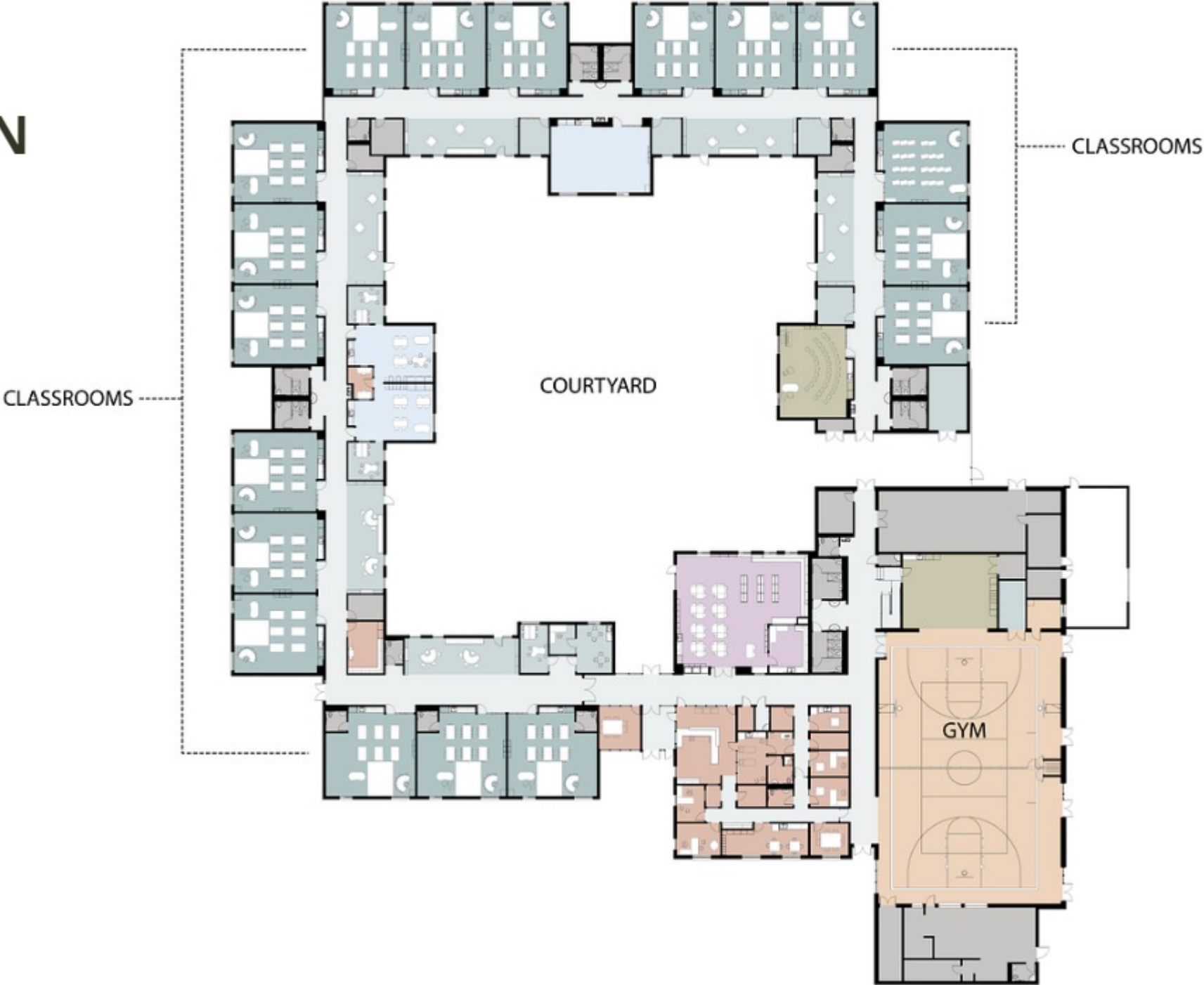
Person, Environment, and Social Context

Goldhagen's criteria for how we engage with a particular place (i.e. "Action Setting")





# COURTYARD CONNECTION



# SHARED LEARNING



# SHARED LEARNING



# OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS





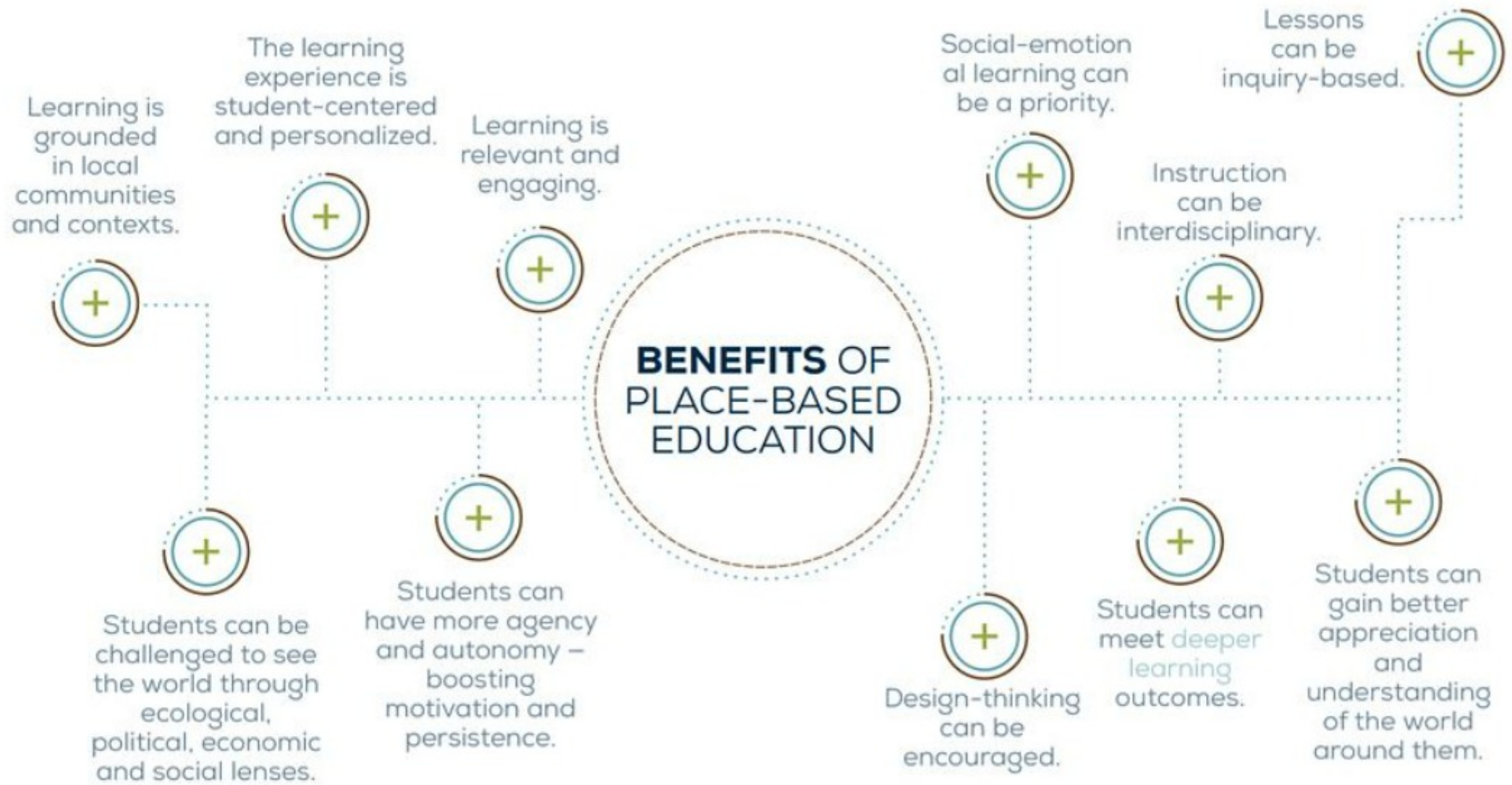
## PLACE BASED EDUCATION



*At the core of place-based education is the need for more equitable learning environments for all students—environments where students are seen, valued, and heard. In these environments, **learning is designed with and for students** as humans and individuals in the space.*

Tom Vander Ark, CEO of Getting Smart





*Infographic from Getting Smart*







# WAYFINDING



# HERITAGE



# IDENTITY

MT STUART  
ELLENSBURG RODEO  
KITITAS VALLEY

IDA NASON ARONICA  
ELEMENTARY

# Ida





# Ida Nason Aronica



Documentary:

<https://youtu.be/qgZbTJItYrw?si=yseEY5Vy8u5CiF2L>





## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Ida Nason-Aronica



**IDA NASON-ARONICA** was a prominent artist of the 20th century. She was a pioneer in the field of Native American art and was instrumental in the development of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board.

She was born in 1888 and spent her childhood in Idaho. She was a member of the Nez Perce tribe and was known for her intricate beadwork and jewelry.

She was a pioneer in the field of Native American art and was instrumental in the development of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. She was a member of the Nez Perce tribe and was known for her intricate beadwork and jewelry.



## NATIVE LEGACY

Chief On-ki



**CHIEF ON-KI** was a prominent leader of the Nez Perce tribe. He was known for his bravery and leadership during the Nez Perce War of 1877. He was a member of the Nez Perce tribe and was known for his intricate beadwork and jewelry.



## A VALLEY TRADITION

Ellensburg Rodeo



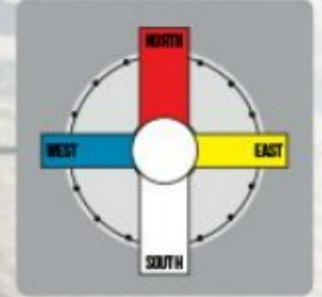
The 1917 **ELLENSBURG RODEO** was a significant event in the history of the region. It was the first rodeo held in the area and was a major attraction for the community. The event was held in the Ellensburg arena and was a major attraction for the community.



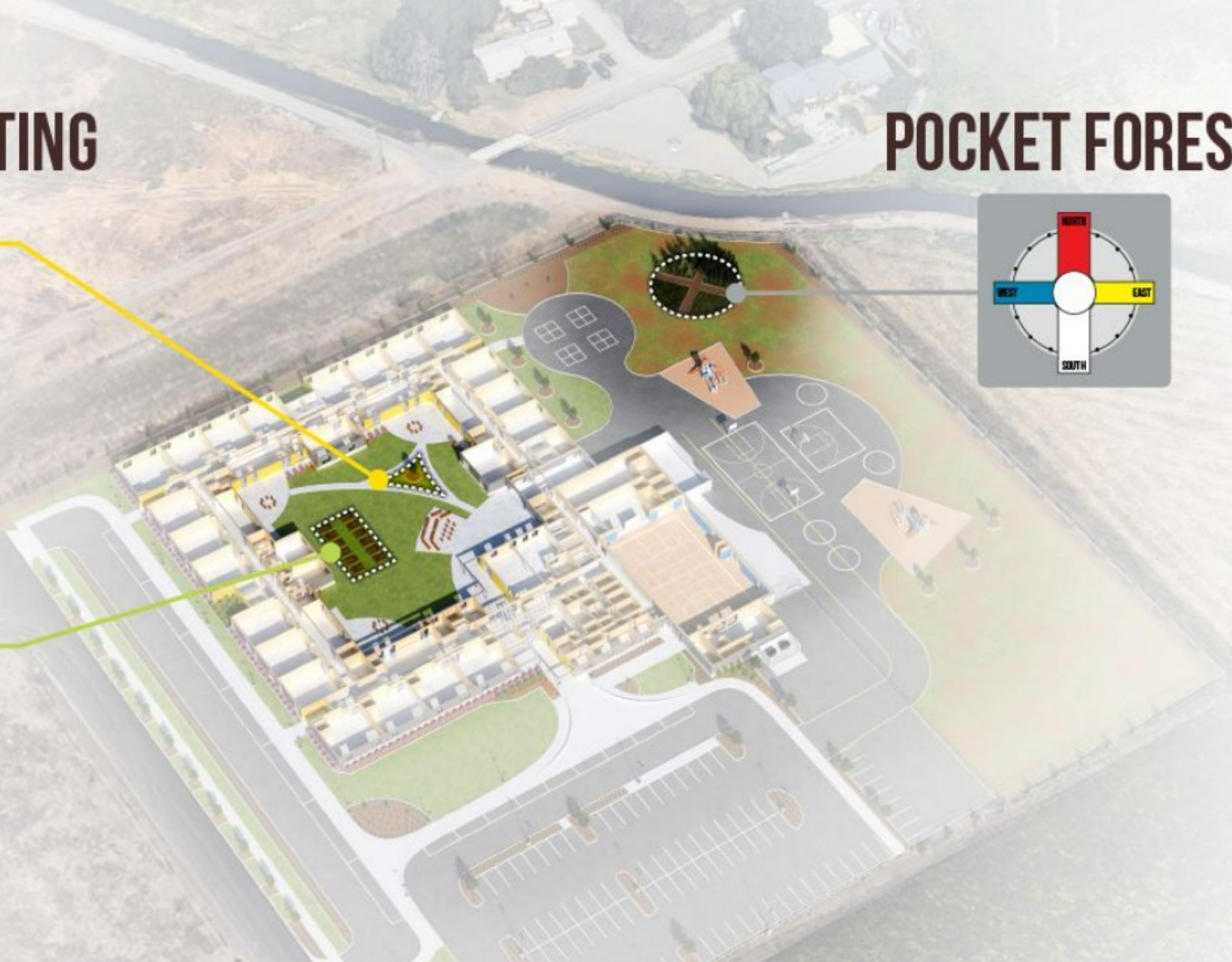
# NATIVE PLANTING



# POCKET FOREST



# GARDEN





# Community Involvement



**"When the community becomes the classroom and the outdoors becomes the curriculum, magic happens. Children learn not only about the world around them but also about their place within it. Through shared experiences and collective engagement, they cultivate a deep sense of belonging and responsibility."**

# SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

- SEEDS OF THE FUTURE
- COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- FULL CIRCLE
- SPROUTS GARDEN CLUB





**When the root is deep, there is  
no reason to fear the wind.  
~Grace F**

## Community Supporters



**Mid-Columbia Fisheries**

**Nature Conservancy**

**PEI**

**KEEN**

**Kittitas County Conservation District**

**CWU Wildcat Farm**

**Ellensburg Rotary**

**Master Gardeners**

**Washington Outdoor School**

**Kittitas County Historical Museum**

**Yakama Nation**

**SUGi**

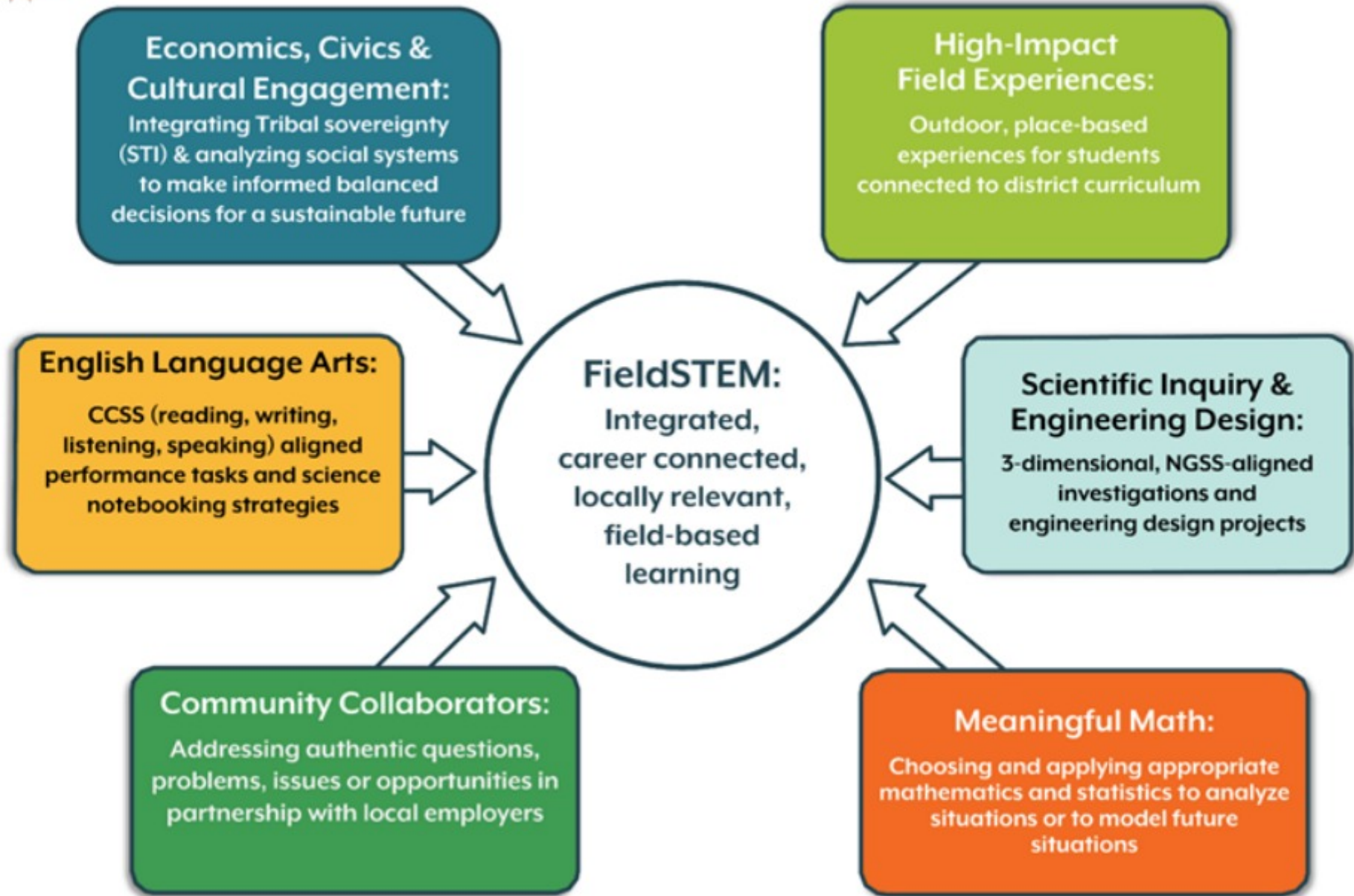
**Natural Urban Forests**

**Central Nursery**



# Community Supporters











# Our Food Waste Inventory

Our Food Value	Native Food Value <sup>less food waste!!!</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• eat</li><li>• Yummy</li><li>• Commodity</li><li>• required (given)</li><li>• No purpose Serves us</li><li>• Survival</li><li>• Grocery store</li><li>• No feelings</li><li>• animals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food is a gift</li><li>• Has feelings</li><li>• share it</li><li>• Work for their food</li><li>• ask permission .</li><li>• Give back to the food</li><li>• large value</li><li>• Only take what they need (given)</li><li>• use wisely</li><li>•</li></ul>









ONE THING IS FOR SURE,  
YOU ARE  
HERE. AND BECAUSE YOU  
ARE HERE. ANYTHING IS  
POSSIBLE.  
~KOBİ YAMADA

A landscape photograph featuring a double rainbow arching across a blue sky with light clouds. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a garden bed with raised beds and stakes. To the left, a large yellow and grey building is visible. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage and a few houses. The text "THANK YOU" is centered in the sky.

THANK YOU

Her