



**SHERMAN OAKS CENTER FOR ENRICHED STUDIES
COMPREHENSIVE MODERNIZATION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Being the first Comprehensive Modernization project to begin construction in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) region, the explicit project intent is to modernize an entire existing campus and match the quality of newly constructed campuses completed over the past decade.

There is a significant logistical challenge to maintain an active campus in operation throughout construction. The project design and construction team led collaborative meetings with Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Students (SOCES) and LAUSD representatives to analyze, develop, and refine numerous iterations of phasing plans.

The design solution clarifies and formalizes the campus organization by embracing the “Center Circle” stage, re-aligning circulation axes with a Clock Tower to root the intersection, and modeling Science building masses to frame the landscaped plaza threshold between the “Academic South” and the “Athletic North”.

The southeastern quadrant of the campus reflects an historical quality of the original campus. These post World War II era classroom buildings are organized around a radial finger plan. The classrooms will receive finish upgrades throughout. The collaboration with a Historical consultant influenced the selection of materials, building mass and orientation, and joints between new and old, both literal and implied.

The new Elementary School is located on the northern edge of this historical quadrant to complete the last finger of the radial pattern. The bi-furcation of the elementary building masses respects the intermediate circulation patterns and links the new facilities to old. Despite the site area challenge to accommodate, the one-story height was a self-imposed limitation to provide egress immediacy and simplicity for elementary students. The one-story height also respects the existing classroom buildings.

Two new Science and Technology buildings are positioned on the southeastern quadrant of the campus where upper grade level classes are held. The two-story masses flank the Center Circle stage providing a visual backstop to the original Central Quad and consolidate vertical classroom density to conserve desirable outdoor space. By freeing up site area, a new collegiate-like Quad activates the southeastern zone with outdoor teaching areas, performing arts stage, theater, and a flexible lunch area expansion.

The old Gymnasium will be demolished to accommodate the new Science and Elementary schools. A modern Gym that meets the client’s latest standards is positioned in the northeastern zone, adjacent to the baseball field. This location was desired due to its proximity to the neighborhood street to best accommodate off-site traffic for games and ceremonies. The original “Knights” logo will be refurbished and integrated with the new facility to maintain the valiant school history.

Aesthetically, the design reflects the school’s desire to be a good neighbor by blending new buildings with the surrounding residential neighborhood. The design team surveyed local residences along with the campus’ existing materials. Shallow sloped roofs, low building heights, brick, stucco, and ribbed metal panels are utilized to strike a balance between academic and residential aesthetics while still meeting durability and longevity requirements.



New campus site plan



Existing campus aerial view

SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET

The general scope of the project spans over the entire campus, improving learning and teaching conditions in all aspects of the built environment. New construction includes a new Gymnasium, a consolidated one-story elementary school building, two new science & technology buildings, and a new lunch shelter. New outdoor landscaping improvements throughout the campus are created with the addition of new outdoor teaching spaces and a collegiate Quad. The Administration Building and Auditorium will also receive a complete interior renovation.

The total construction budget is about \$90 Million.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The campus-wide project applies the latest classroom standards for Science, Chemistry, Robotics, and Culinary Classrooms in two-story structures, adding additional classroom space while also creating new exterior open areas.

During the design phase, the team went to great lengths to organize the new buildings with sufficient site clearance for a single-story elementary school building - an option preferred for security and safety reasons. The one-story design creates a direct connection into the historical, war time era, radial finger plan of the southeast quadrant.

The gymnasium was deliberately located to the northwest quadrant to improve after school access for traveling team sports events and to make way for a new building to anchor the center of campus. The gymnasium also serves as a book end to the "Athletic North" side of the campus, adjacent to practice basketball courts and the main field. It provides amenities for the students to access during outdoor practices. With the North façade facing a main boulevard, the presence of the school is enhanced with the school logo displayed along the gym's northern elevation - a historical reflection of the original gym.

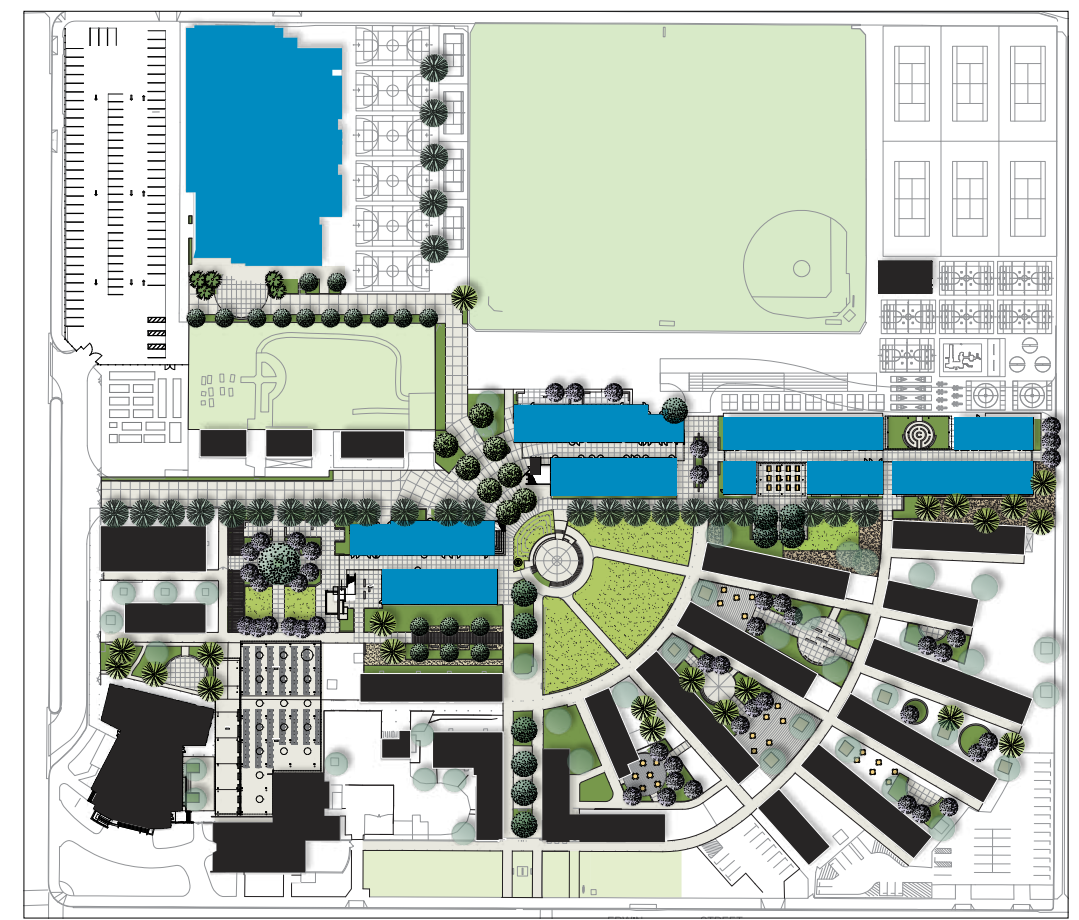
The new Science Building East provides a collegiate backdrop to the Center Circle main outdoor area and stage. The inclusion of a new clock tower solidifies the center of campus orientation while clarifying the organization of primary and secondary campus axes.



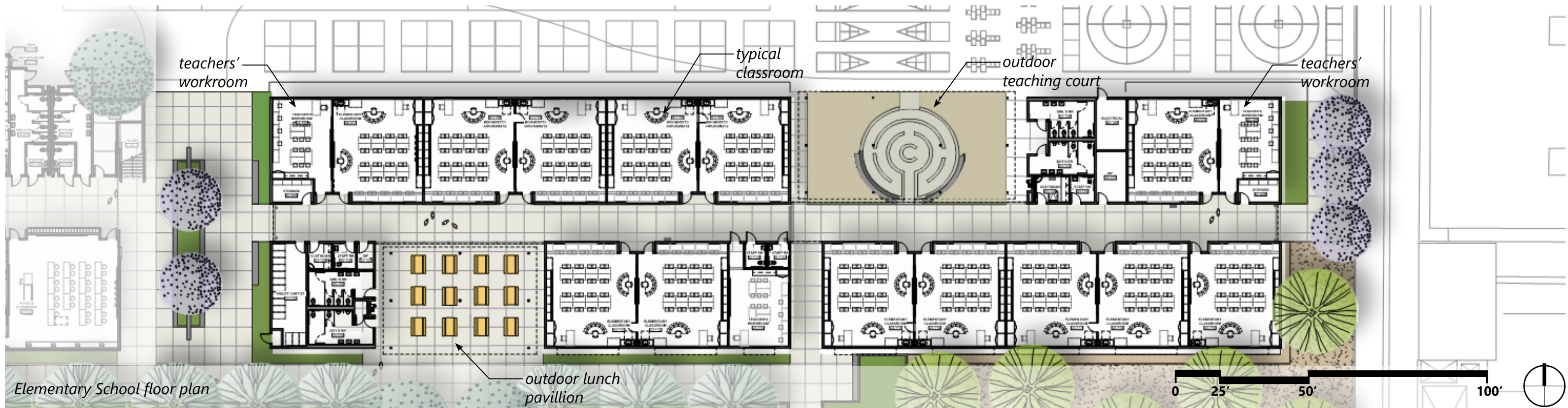
Aerial view of existing campus showing locations of campus improvements

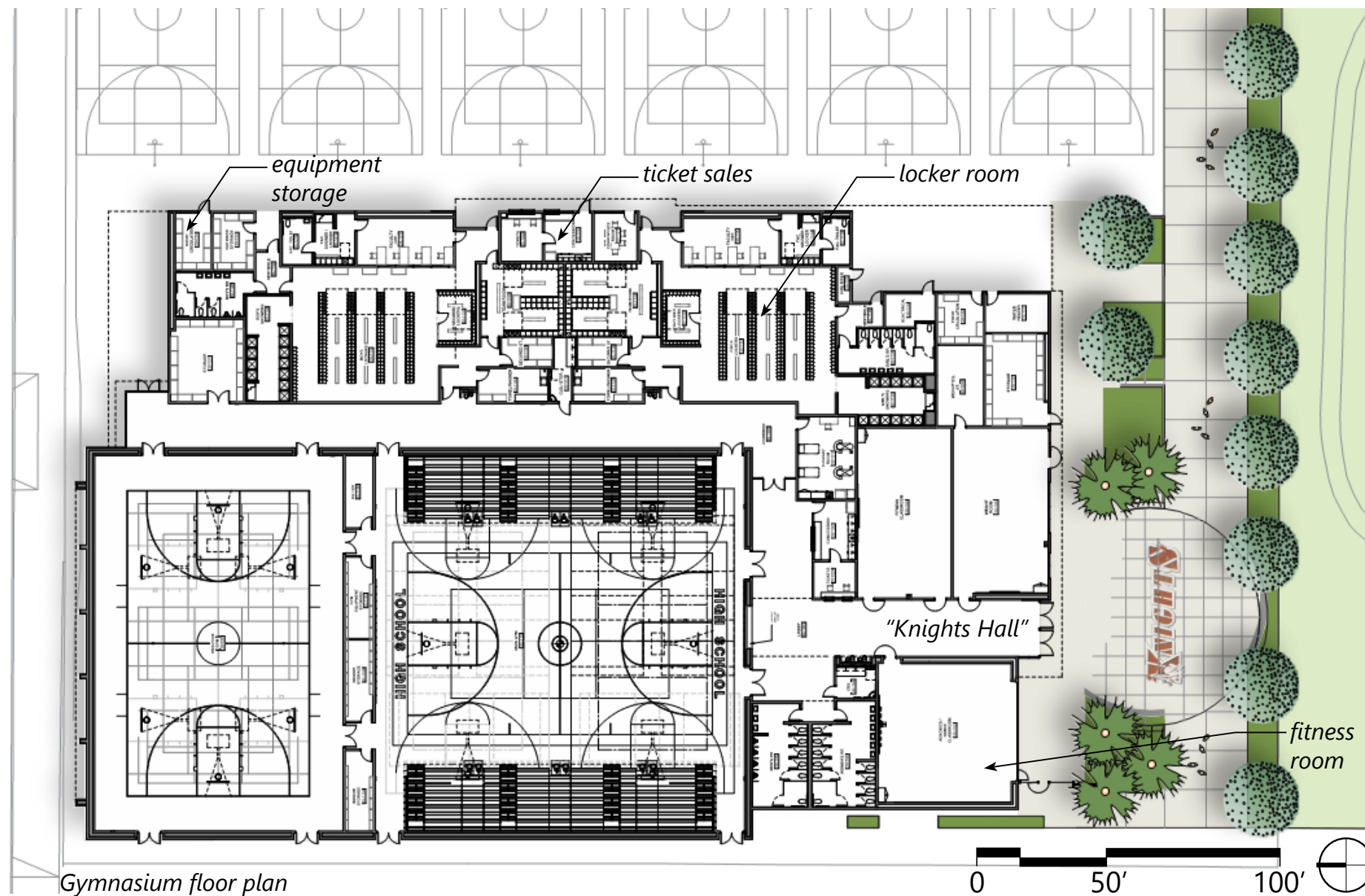


Existing campus figure ground



New campus figure ground





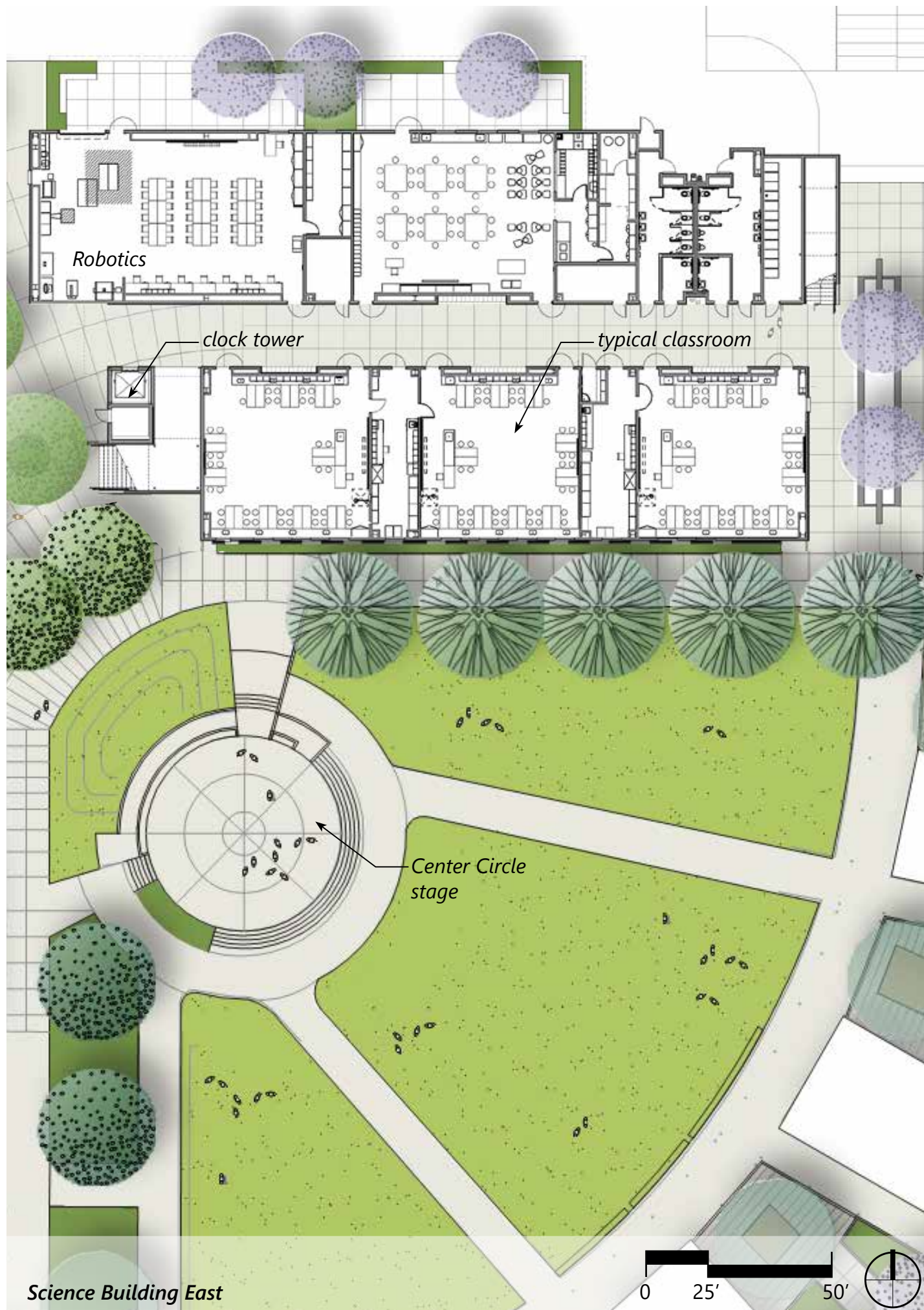
Gymnasium floor plan

The old Gymnasium will be demolished to accommodate the new Science and Elementary schools. A modern Gym that meets the client's latest standards is positioned in the northeastern zone, adjacent to the baseball field. This location was desired due to its proximity to the neighborhood street to best accommodate off-site traffic for games and ceremonies. The original "Knights" logo will be refurbished and integrated with the new facility to maintain the valiant school history.



Refurbished "Knights" logo (original shown on right) integrated with the new gym





SCHOOL + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (SOCES) campus is located within a quiet residential neighborhood in Tarzana, CA and is a part of LAUSD. Adjacent to the South and West ends of campus are a variety of single family homes with similar architectural attributes. The North end faces a main boulevard that serves as a key access through the neighborhood.

During the course of the project, a total of three community meetings have been held to date since the project was awarded, along with additional meetings slated throughout construction. Each meeting was well attended by parents, teachers, students, and neighbors. Every engagement was seen as an opportunity to educate the community on the District's goals and intentions for the project, the measures being taken to safe guard the public, and the quality of the improvements being provided to the benefit of the school and thereby the surrounding neighborhood. Community leaders and members frequently engaged LAUSD representatives and architects in positive conversations both before and after meetings in a friendly environment where concerns were heard, noted, and addressed at subsequent meetings.

Among the stakeholders are representatives of LAUSD Board of Education, District 3, LAUSD Design and Construction Management, PEX, Standards Division, SOCES School Principal, Administration staff, and Faculty, Local District Northwest Superintendent, and Tarzana Neighborhood Council and residents.

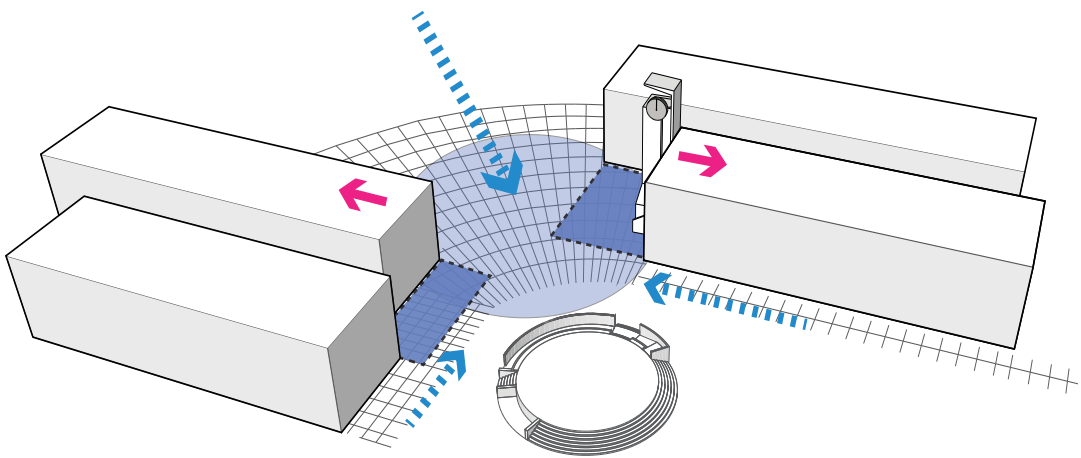
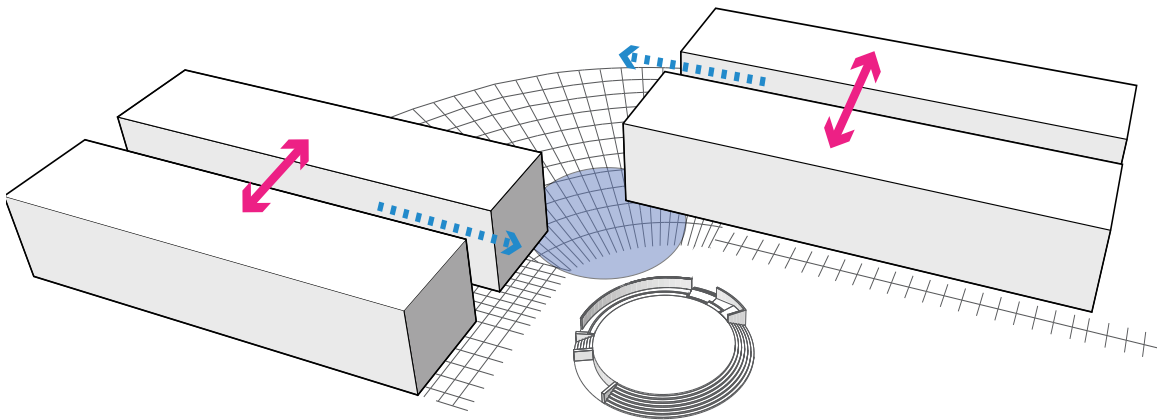
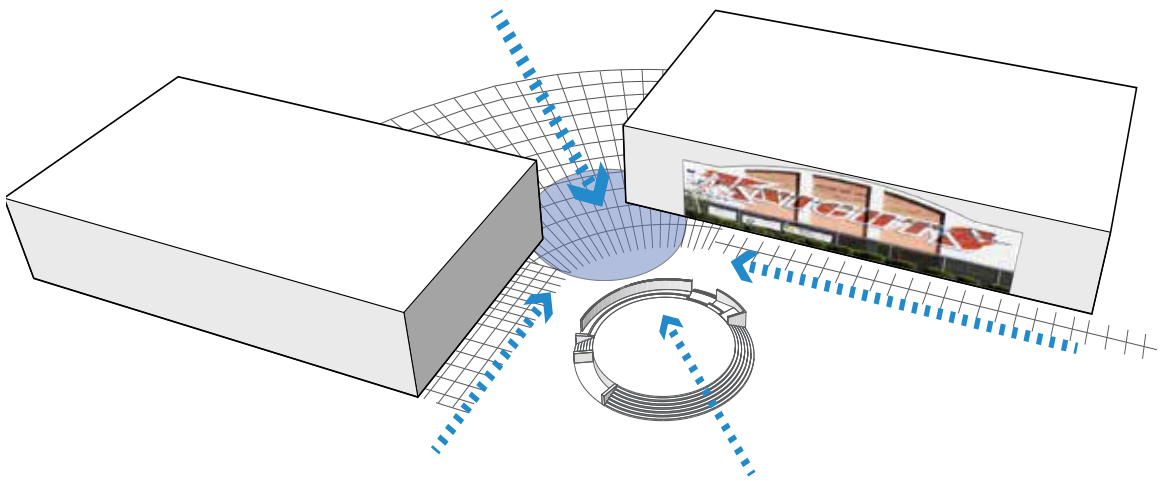
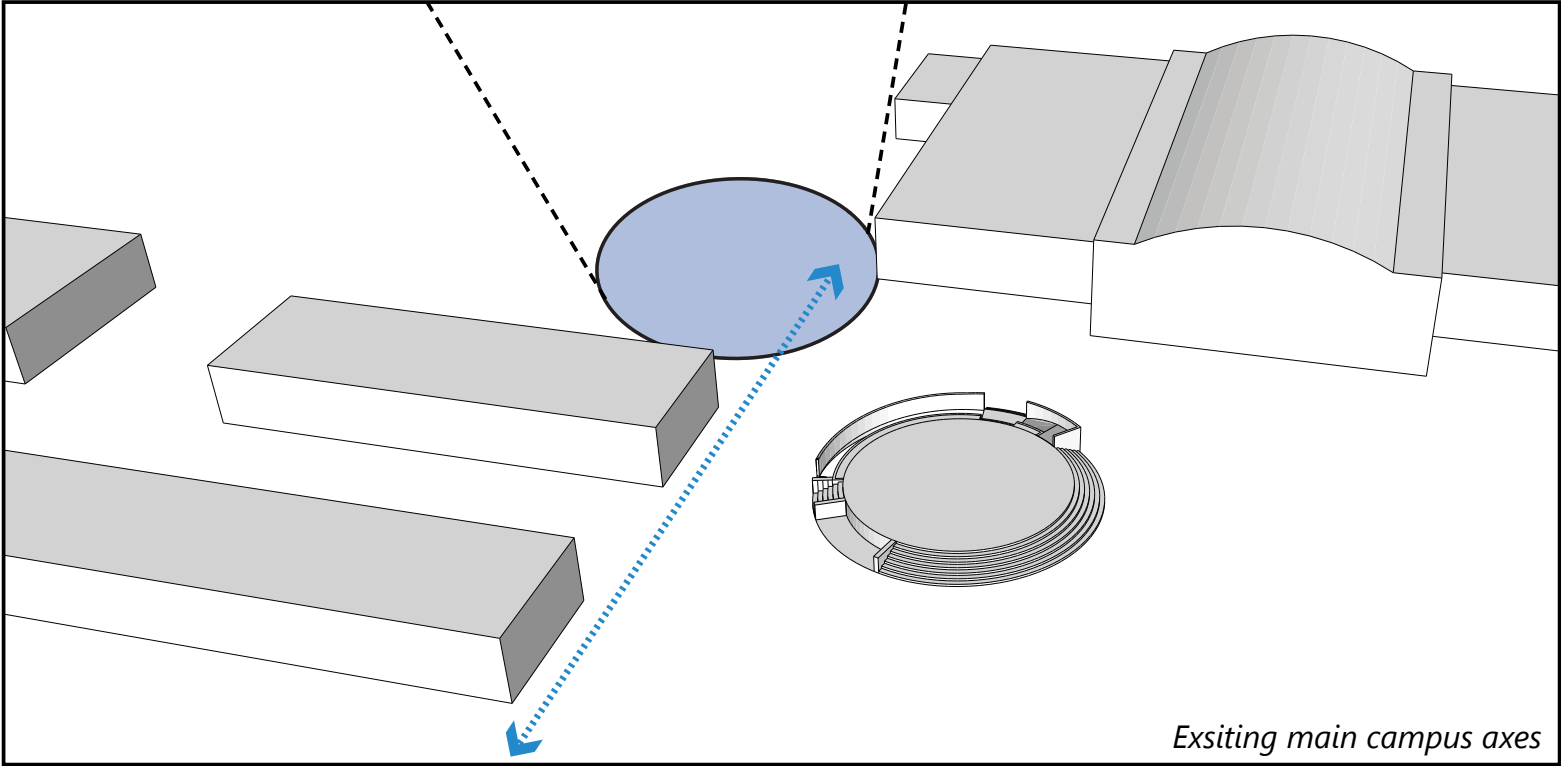
Challenges encountered through the modernization efforts included: Gathering consensus among a large committee of reviewers representing the end-users and LAUSD's interest; maintaining higher quality design responses while remaining within the practical limitations of the District's Design Standards; and, responsibly and responsively addressing concerns raised by parents, teachers and neighbors.

LAUSD has a great in-house resource department that manages and guides the community engagement process. The district is constantly updating and improving the methods and quality of responses to affected constituents impacted by their projects. Ultimately, providing guidance to the design team in preparation for Community Meetings.



View of clock tower node at primary and secondary campus axes

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Center Circle Quad



New quad showing radial finger plan and new circulation connection to the Gym



School entrance



Neighborhood aesthetic



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Elementary School building



The new Elementary School is located on the northern edge of this historical quadrant to complete the last finger of the radial pattern. The bi-furcation of the elementary building masses respects the intermediate circulation patterns and links the new facilities to old. Despite the site area challenge to accommodate, the one-story height was a self-imposed limitation to provide egress immediacy and simplicity for elementary students. The one-story height also respects the existing classroom buildings.



EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For the past several decades, LAUSD was focused on creating new school campuses to address severe over-crowding on existing campuses. SOCES is the first campus-wide, modernization project under the latest Bond Measure to start construction with the intended goal of raising the quality of the educational environment to achieve parity of an existing campus with new campuses.

With the consolidation of program and vertical density of two-story classroom buildings, ample exterior space was made available. The new abundant landscape is to be dedicated to open outdoor-teaching plazas, courtyards, and collegiate-style quads. The use of these varied outdoor teaching areas imparts a more collaborative environment that intends to prepare students for higher education. These collegiate, architectural references are in keeping with SOCES' pedagogy of developing an educational comfort level to encourage success after high school and beyond.



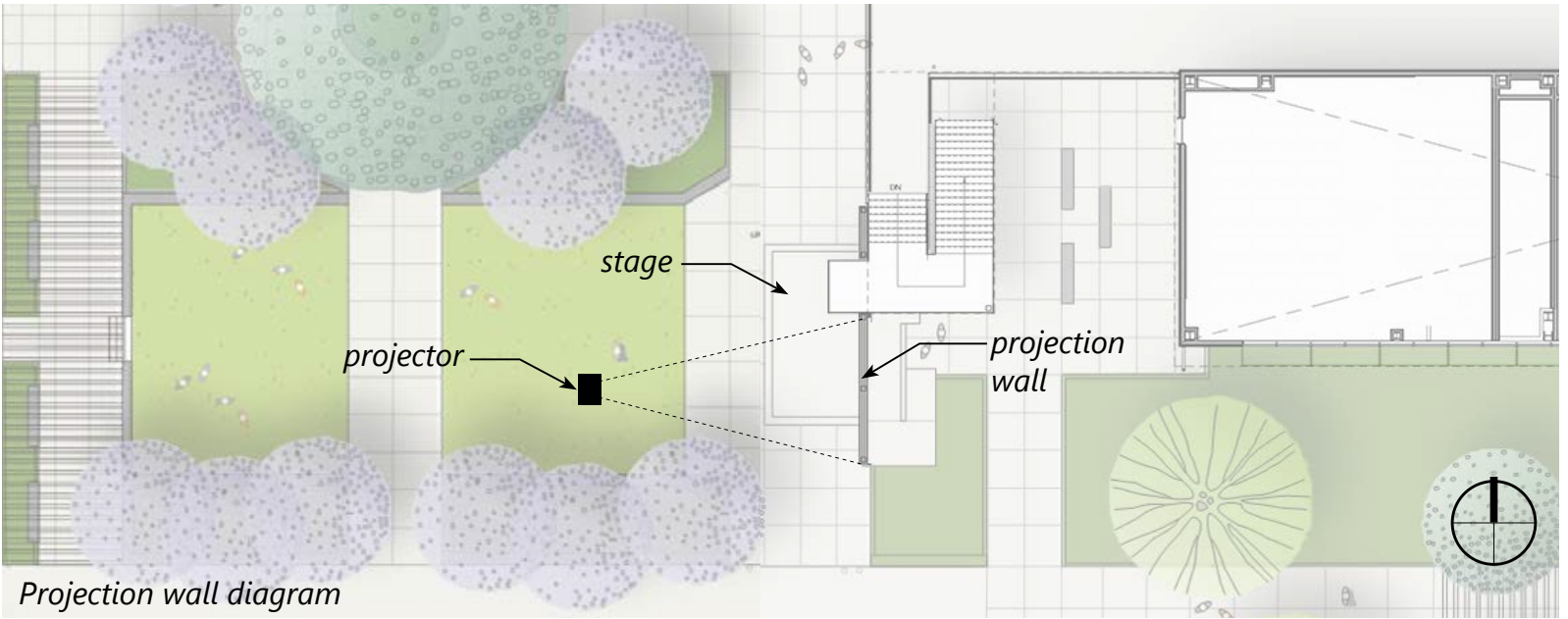
Immediate egress for students to playcourts from classrooms



West quad at-dusk activities

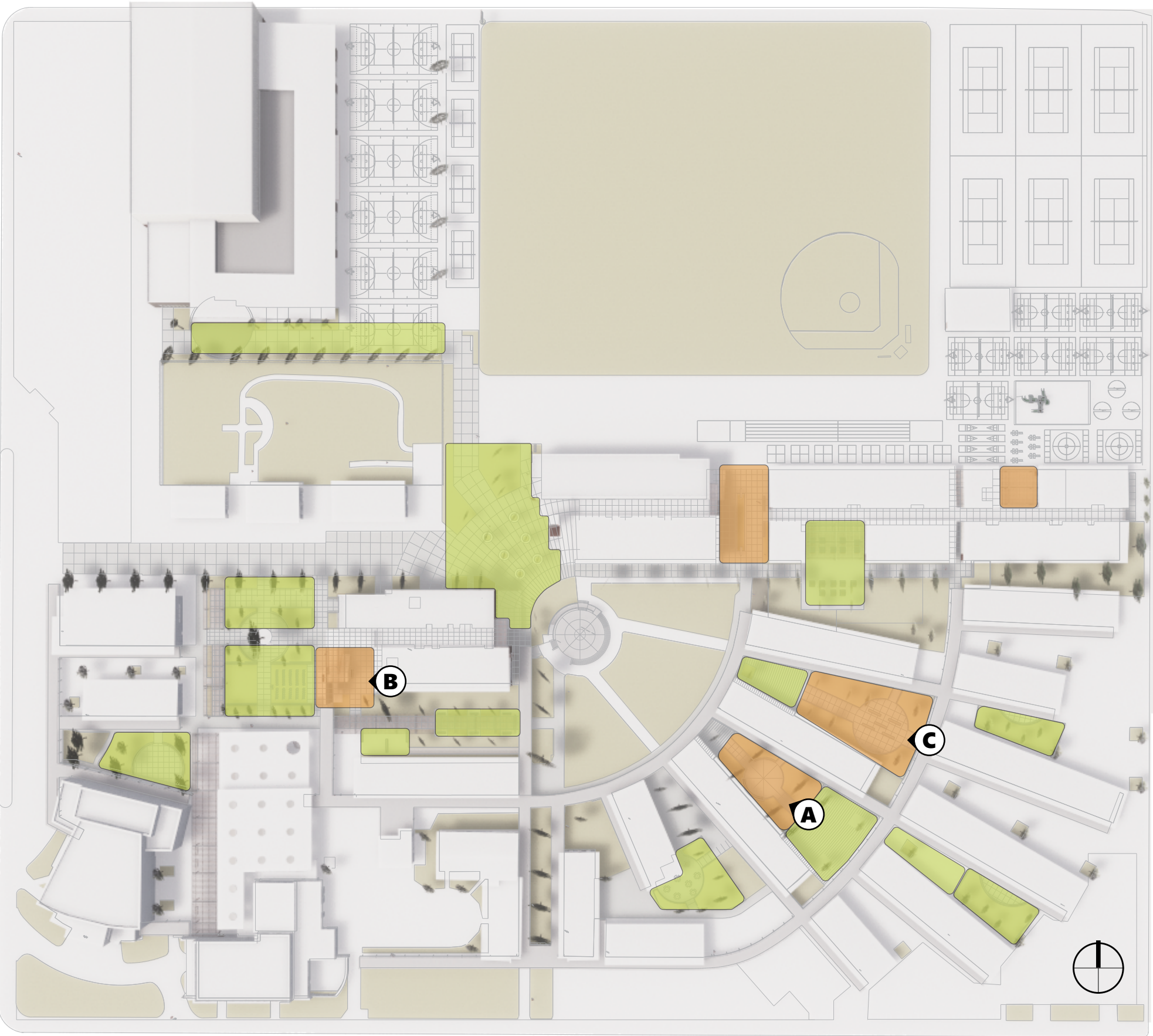


West quad day-time activities



Projection wall diagram

Two new Science and Technology buildings are positioned on the southeastern quadrant of the campus where upper grade level classes are held. The two-story masses flank the Center Circle stage providing a visual backstop to the original Central Quad and consolidate vertical classroom density to conserve desirable outdoor space. By freeing up site area, a new collegiate-like Quad activates the southeastern zone with outdoor teaching areas, performing arts stage, theater, and a flexible lunch area expansion.



Landscape Improvement Plan

- Legend**
- Outdoor Teaching Areas
 - New Landscape Areas



RESULTS OF THE PROCESS + PROJECT

During design phases, the team evaluated and incorporated the District's Design Standards to ensure the latest technology is included, teaching workflows are optimized, and factors for healthy-learning environments are provided, including air quality and abundant natural light. By refurbishing interiors of existing buildings around the edge of campus and centralizing most of the new construction away from the perimeter, the project is mitigating construction noise to neighbors and maintaining the perceived campus massing from the sidewalk. Furthermore, new construction is aesthetically balanced between the original campus materials and surrounding residential materials (i.e. brick, plaster, sloped roofs).

With the new classroom buildings and gym, state-of-the-art auditorium, renovated administration building, and modernized existing classrooms throughout the campus, SOCES will be rejuvenated and well supported to provide on-going quality education for decades to come.

