2018 LE Solutions

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS SCHOOL OF FILM AND CINEMATIC ARTS

SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL

"Over the last few years, Olmos and his Latino Film Institute have worked closely with the Santa Ana Unified School District to pioneer the Youth Cinema Project, which now serves as a model for districts across the state of California. Through the project, Heninger Intermediate and Santa Ana High School students discover the art of filmmaking by working with film industry professionals and studying screenwriting, editing, special effects and more."

SAUSD District Website

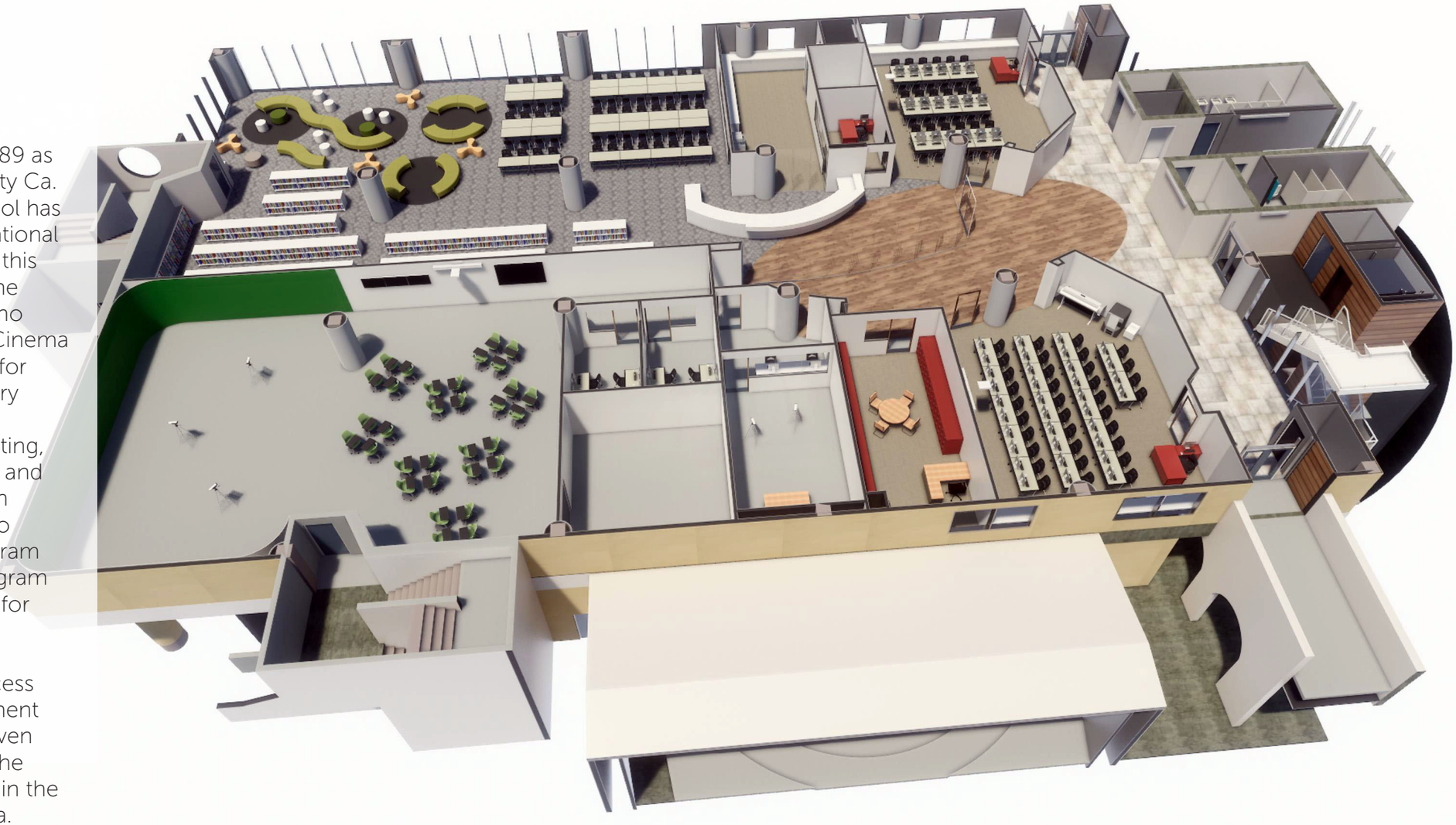
Category: Small Project

Santa Ana Unified School District

Orange County, California

Santa Ana High School opened in 1889 as the first high school in Orange County Ca. After 128 years, Santa Ana High School has developed many pathways for educational success for the students who attend this flagship school. Several years ago, the campus began working with the Latino Film Institute and Mr. Olmos' Youth Cinema Project that fosters students dreams for big screen careers by bringing industry professionals to the schools to work with the students studying Screenwriting, Editing, Broadcasting, Special Effects and more. The program at Santa Ana high school was flourishing and a desire to create a specific identity for the program culminated in the naming of the program as the Edward James Olmos School for Film and Cinematic Arts.

In 2017, the District decided the success of the program warranted an investment to improve the facilities and create even greater opportunities or students in the Santa Ana Community to participate in the largest industry in Southern California.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

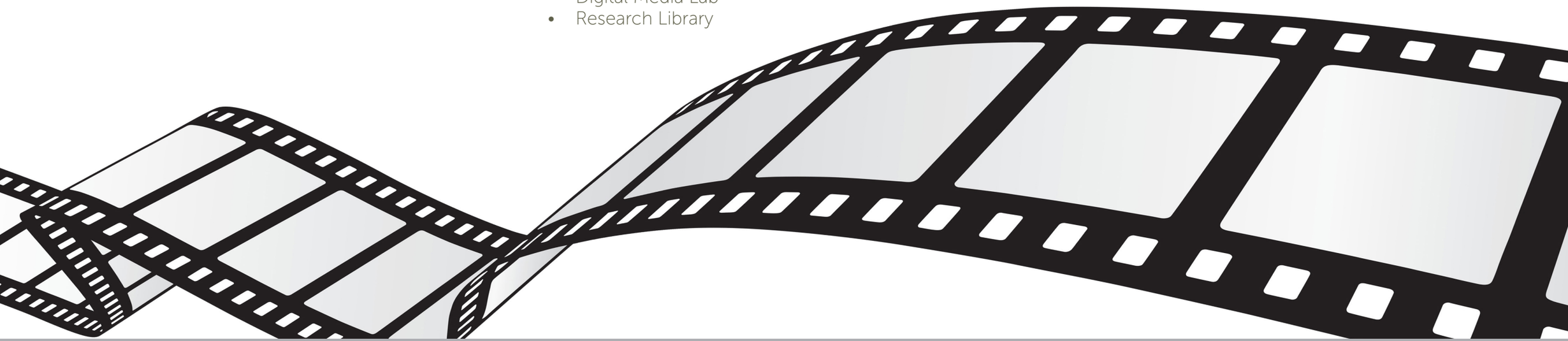
PROJECT SCOPE

To support the Youth Cinema Project at Santa Ana High School, the District decided to create a film studio on campus. The existing Library was 14,000SF of underutilized space on the second floor of a non-descript, three-story building. The Project is to re-imagine the entire floor by re-creating the library in a smaller 5,400SF footprint and add the Film Studio components to the freed space. The Film Studio consists of a large Studio outfitted for filming and instruction, two editing rooms, a Digital Broadcast suite with Control Room and Studio, a Digital Media Lab and a Flex Lab.

The project consists of:

- Soundstage
- Editing Suite
- Digital Broadcast Suite
- Digital Media Lab
- Research Library

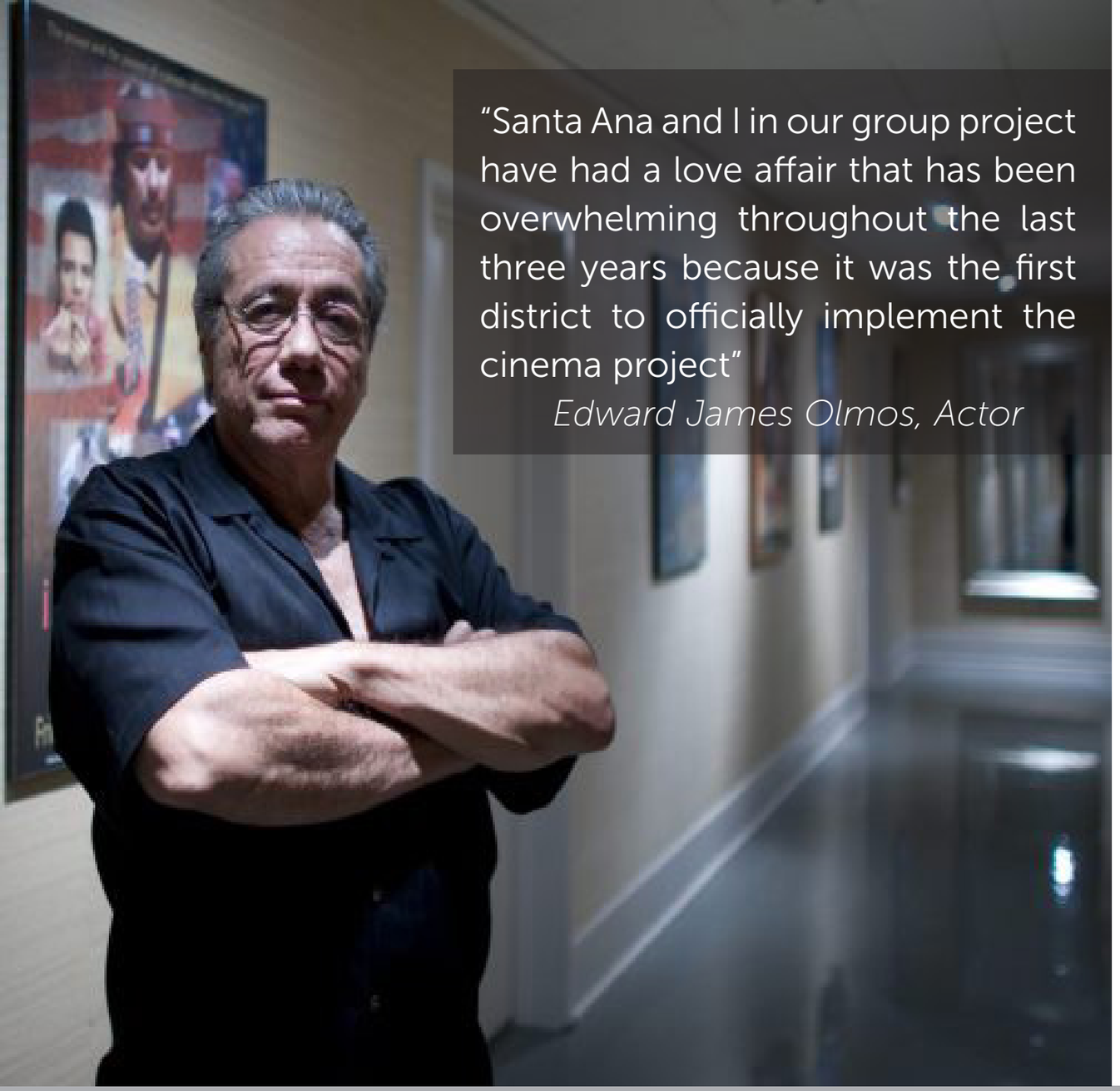
campus	Santa Ana High School
district	Santa Ana Unified School District
type	Public
students served	350
project cost	$ 3.7 million
construction cost	$ 2.9 million
area	14,000 SF



SCOPE OF WORK & BUDGET

Edward James Olmos School of Film and Cinematic Arts | SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL

LATINO FILM INSTITUTE



STAKEHOLDERS & ASSETS

- Students
- Citizens of Santa Ana
- Latino Film Institute
- Youth Cinema Project
- Local Industry Professionals
- Campus VAPA (Visual And Performing Arts) Students and Programs

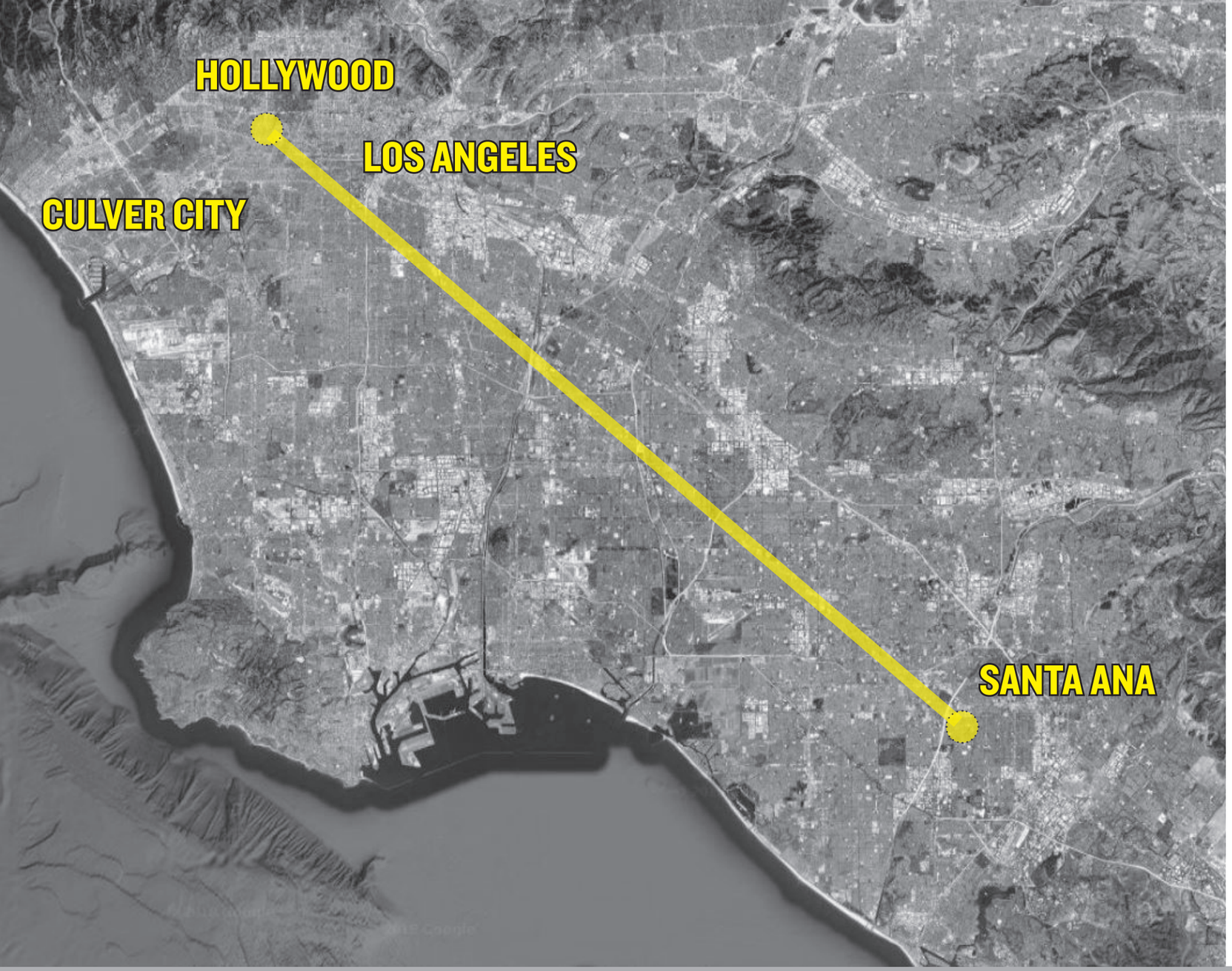
VALUE OF PROCESS AND PROJECT

The Youth Cinema Project mission is to deliver "project-based learning that produces competent, resilient and real-world problem solvers and bridges the achievement and opportunity gaps by creating lifelong learners and the entertainment industry's multi-cultural future." This program and the Edward James Olmos School for Film and Cinematic Arts provide real-time, real-world opportunities to the students of Santa Ana that help foster the identity and professionalism needed to be successful that are often overshadowed by the economic realities of the area.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

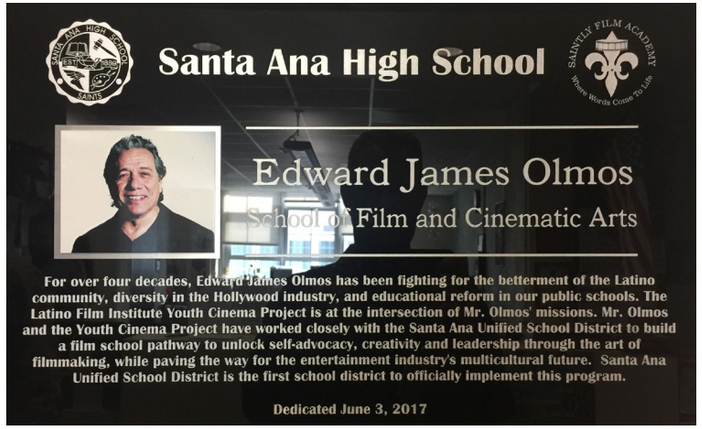
Edward James Olmos School of Film and Cinematic Arts | SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL

LATINO FILM INSTITUTE



COMMUNITY

Santa Ana High School is located in Santa Ana, California. The predominantly Hispanic community has a long history of ties to the film industry of Southern California. The high school offers many pathways to their students and the latest is the School for Film and Cinematic Arts.



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

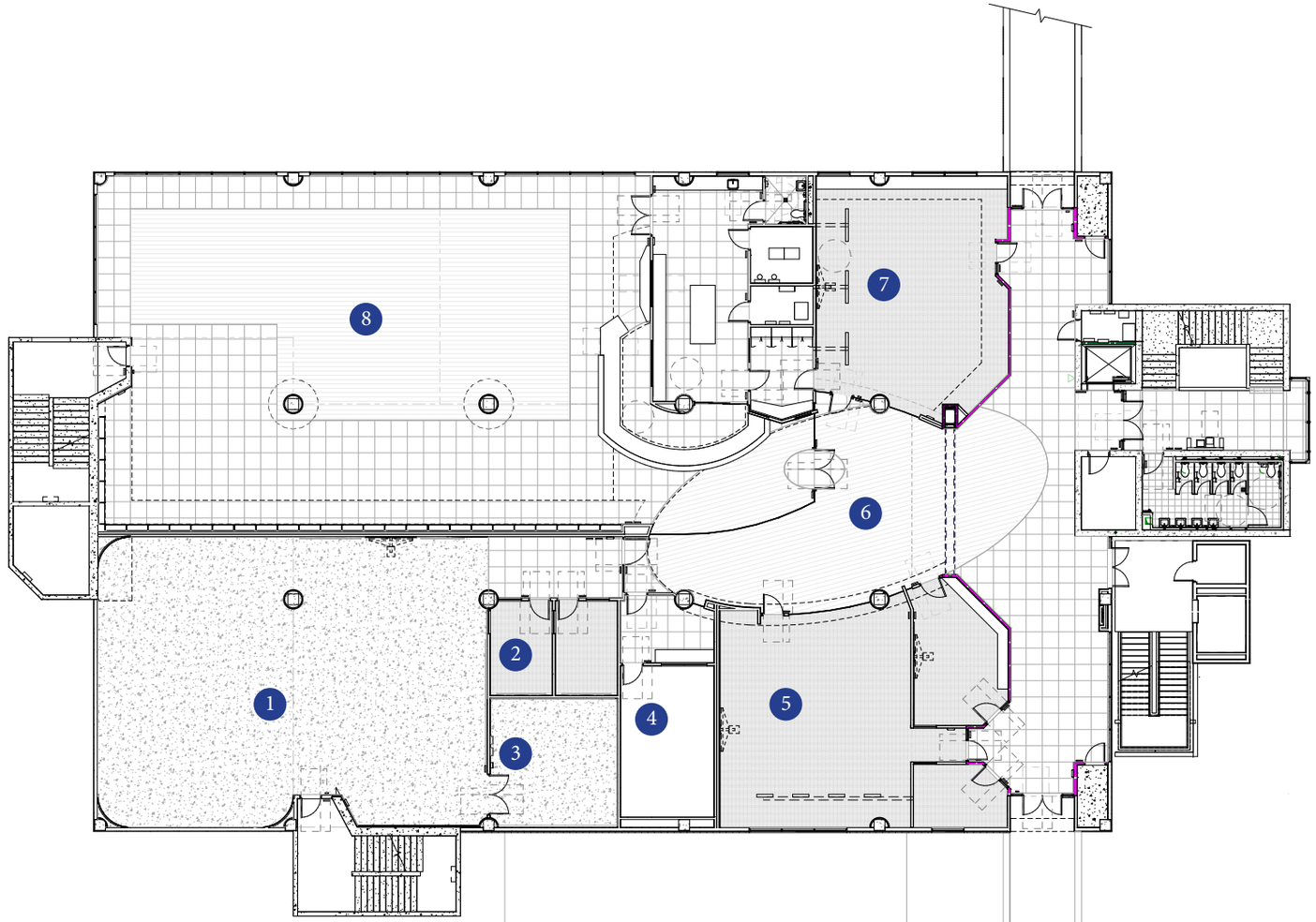
LATINO FILM INSTITUTE

VISION

The vision shared by all of the stakeholders is to create a school that provides "project-based learning that produces competent, resilient and real-world problem solvers and bridges the achievement and opportunity gaps by creating lifelong learners and the entertainment industry's multi-cultural future."

The environment created for the students is intended to mimic professional spaces that will be encountered in the industry. This goal must be understood as different from providing so-called 'state-of-the-art' spaces for all activities. Rather, by design, the spaces remain flexible to a variety of uses that can change over-time appropriate to the ad-hoc nature of creative cinematography, similar to actual professional soundstages.

The inclusion of Industry Professionals to instruct and mentor students helps make real to students the credibility of the program and provide potential conduits for entry into the industry post-graduation.



2nd FLOOR PLAN

1. Soundstage
2. Editing Suite
3. Equipment Storage
4. Digital Broadcast Studio
5. Digital Medai Lab
6. Lobby
7. Flex Lab
8. Research Library

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

SOUNDSTAGE

The film studio is the flagship space of the project. The studio is set up in two primary zones: instruction and filming. The filming area is set up with a large ‘green-screen’ area including a hanging track system for ‘flats’ (student-built hard construction stage-set panels which hang in front of the green screens. The instructional areas are deliberately within the studio space for full immersion into the workings of a soundstage and making best

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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DIGITAL BROADCAST STUDIO

This suite provides small scale digital broadcasting opportunities that can support the program and the Campus at large by providing a professional venue to produce student announcements, student news. The studio provides experience with broadcast (TV) media ad its complexities and differences with cinematography.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

The Digital Media Lab will round out the post-production capabilities of the program along with the Editing Suite. The focus of the space is individualized, concentrated work digitally produced to create the final product. A flex Lab is also provided and will augment all of the other spaces by providing a place for rehearsal, study, writing, set construction and other less frequently needed tasks to support filming.

EDITING SUITE

Integral with any filming endeavor, editing is a critical part of the crafting process. The editing suites are designed to mimic industry editing suites by creating an isolated environment where small teams of 2-3 people can work to transform raw footage into crafted scenes that reveal the art of the actors and the strength of the storyline.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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RESEARCH LIBRARY

The decision to dedicate more than half of the existing library to the Cinema Arts school required the recreation of the library in a smaller space but fully updated to a modern 'library' operation relying less on Book Stacks and more on digital information retrieval and exploration. The new library provides more areas for quiet study and student

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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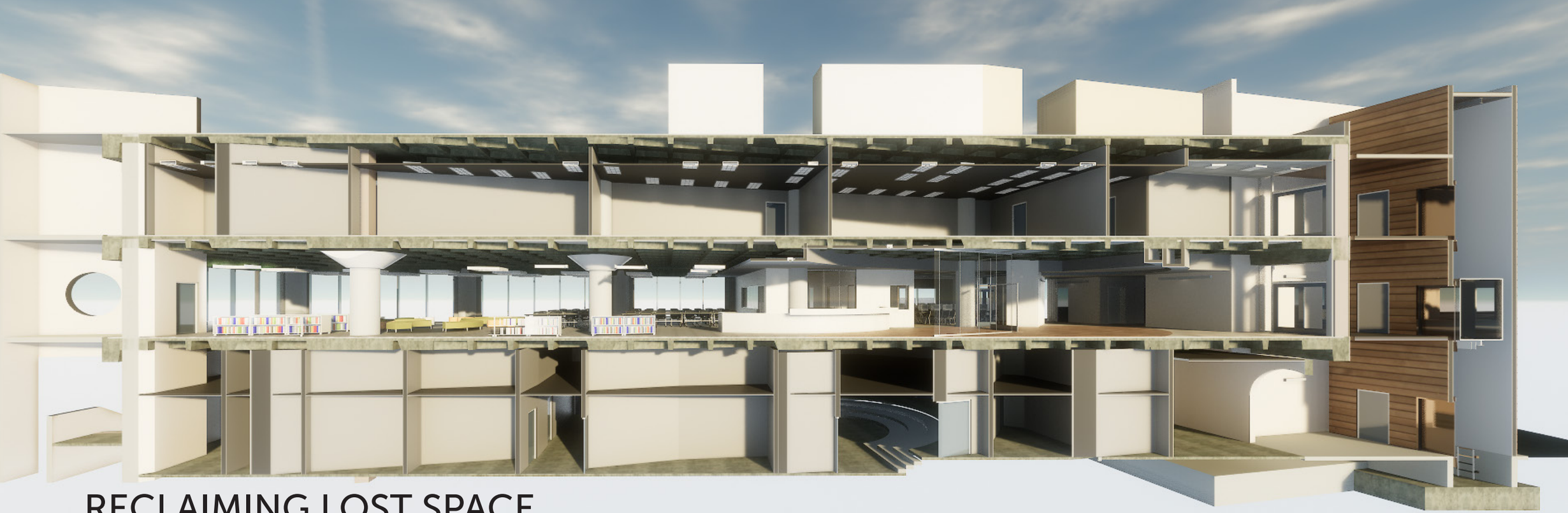

RECLAIMING LOST SPACE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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TRANSPARENCY

Transparency was an important design goal for the project. Making students aware of the opportunities of this special program on a large comprehensive high school campus An elliptical lobby area provides program unity and access to all spaces from one central area. The ellipse is defined primarily by glass partitioning that creates the transparency and attraction to the program for all campus students. In addition, the openness created allows for greater supervision of all areas making it possible for the teachers and industry volunteers to allow each class to use all of the spaces if necessary within one class period.

PHYISCAL ENVIRONMENT

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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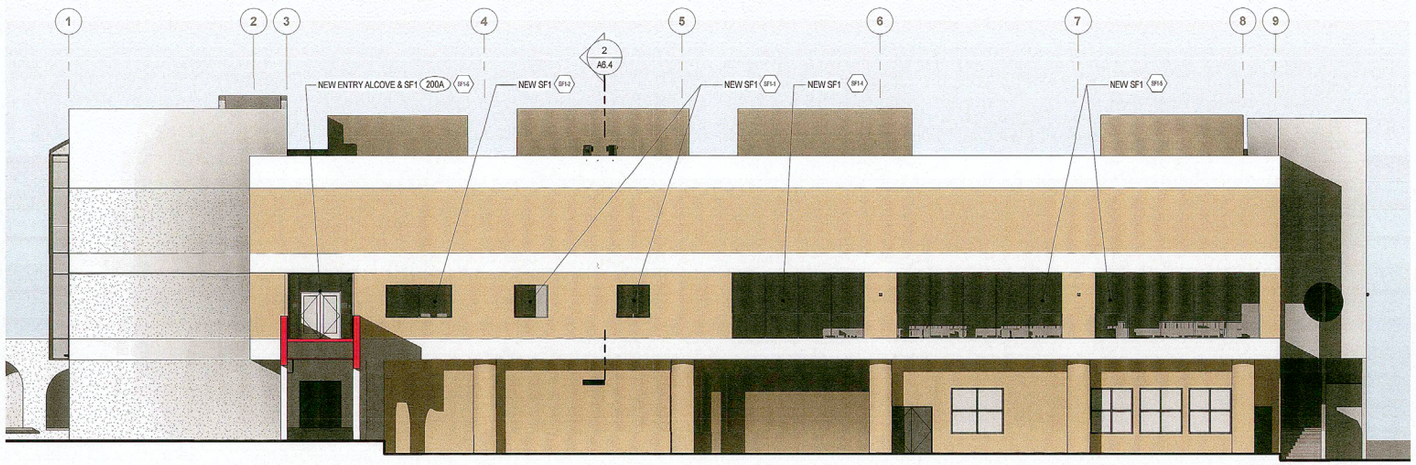

DAYLIGHTING

The existing building currently has no windows on any floor. The Cast-In-Place concrete structure makes use of concrete infill panels between the floors. In the Research Library and Digital Labs windows are being added to bring daylight into the second floor Film School. In the library the windows provide naturally lit areas for reading and study. Natural light is also rought in to the Flex and Digital Media Labs. The cast-in-place concrete structure makes use of non-bearing infill panels for the exterior walls, making the addition of windows a feasible option to improve the learning environment in these spaces.

EXPOSED STRUCTURE

The original space included a deep plenum space that acted as the return air pathway. By removing the plenum system, the existing, beautiful, Cast-In-Place waffle slab construction is exposed creating the most flexible environment and provide the additional height required to make an effective filming studio. Each of the primary spaces created will benefit from the added height.

HVAC SYSTEM

Two factors dictated the replacement of the existing HVAC system; the reclamation of the plenum space and the noise reduction desired for the recording areas. Filming areas require a mechanical system that is quiet enough to allow filming on sensitive industry standard equipment. The addition of the ducted return-air system reduced the noise to acceptable levels without sacrificing needed space.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CELEBRATION

A primary Goal for the project was that the school become a celebrated place on campus. This was a challenge given the non-descript nature of the existing facility to be modified. The elliptical lobby area provides a vibrant space that connects all of the components to the Film School in an active space without hierarchy in celebration of the opportunities within.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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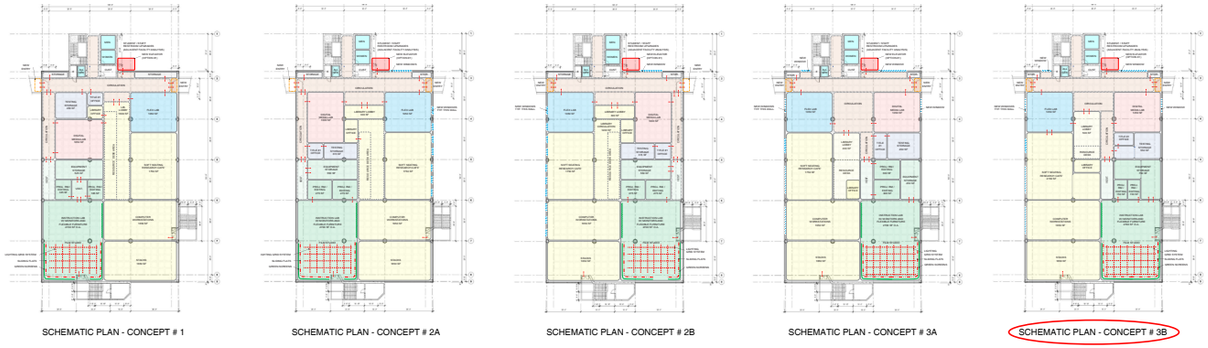
ENGAGE > LISTEN > DESIGN > CONFIRM

PLANNING

The planning process for this work was an exercise in efficiency. The district had limited space to devote to this effort and other interests as well that had to share the floor. A careful structured process of engagement was required to identify all of the needs and satisfy each of the stakeholders for their requirements. Numerous iterations were required to find the perfect balance of spaces and accommodation.

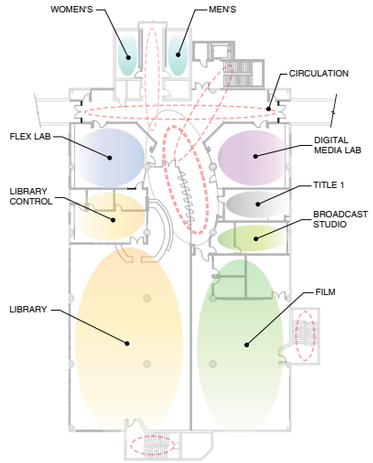
COLLABORATION

Working with the volunteers at the Latino Film Institute in a collaborative visioning session, the needs for the film school were outlined. Paramount was the finding that for the school to operate in a facility that was as close to acutal working conditions as possible. The schools library was to be reduced to half its original size. Still, the re-designed smaller library provides more functionality to the campus and is more efficient with its use of space.

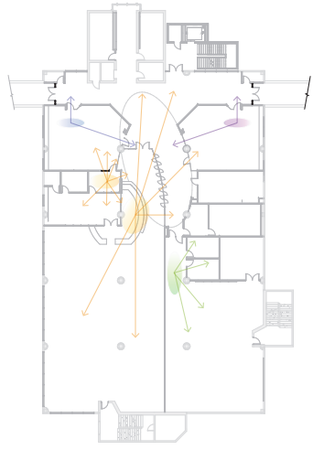


SCHEMATIC PLAN - CONCEPT # 1 | SCHEMATIC PLAN - CONCEPT # 2A | SCHEMATIC PLAN - CONCEPT # 2B | SCHEMATIC PLAN - CONCEPT # 3A | SCHEMATIC PLAN - CONCEPT # 3B

PLAN DIAGRAM - LEVEL 2 PLAN (119.0')



ZONING - LEVEL 2 PLAN (119.0')



SUPERVISION - LEVEL 2 PLAN (119.0')

RESULTS OF PROCESS AND PROJECT

Edward James Olmos School of Film and Cinematic Arts | SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL

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VALUE-ADDED OUTCOMES

By responding to the needs of this emerging program, a very desirable consequence has also been realized. The existing building is a large three-story structure in the middle of a predominantly single and two-story campus. The imposing structure divides outdoor student spaces and is very non-descript with no windows or exterior articulation of any kind. The exterior modifications included adding windows to the Library and Lab spaces and the creation of a new entry circulation tower that also brands the new School and celebrates the new educational opportunities provided.

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY GOALS:

Along with 31 other educational pathways provided by the District, the School for Film and Cinematic Arts is fully in keeping with the District vision of bringing staff, parents and community together to raise the achievement level of all students in preparation for success in college and career.

Local community goals are met by providing a unique pathway that is developed to support local industries and will challenge students to become "productive citizens, ethical leaders and positive contributors" to the local community specifically as well as the country and global society. FInding ways for students to be successful in life witrhin the Santa Ana community strengthens the community and provides lifeling success opportunities for students.

RESULTS OF PROCESS AND PROJECT