

2024 A4LE LE SOLUTIONS AWARD

Logan Memorial Educational Campus

Honoring Culture and Community





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From Protest to Applause

The existing Logan Elementary School and Memorial Middle School were rumored to be closing. The first master plan meeting hosted by the district opened with protest signs and news crews. Over the years, community members had instilled a sense of great pride in their neighborhood school and wanted their rich culture to be preserved in the new campus.

Historically, these culturally vibrant schools enrolled 89% socioeconomically disadvantaged students and had underperformed academically. The San Diego Unified School District had a vision to close the academic achievement gap by providing new and equitable school facilities along with new academic

programs and teaching methodologies. To meet this challenge, the district focused on offering high quality early education, a public Montessori program and creating strong partnerships with families and community members.

Seven public community-based meetings brought together teachers, administrators, and neighborhood patrons to define a solution. As a result, the community had a significant voice in planning the campus. With an open and transparent process, the resulting master plan reimagines the existing K-8 component and transforms the site into a single comprehensive TK-12 educational campus. It also houses the first high school in Logan Heights' history, making it a true neighborhood school.

Logan Memorial Educational Campus integrates with the surrounding community through on-site facilities including a CDC infant center, preschool, wellness center, externally run health clinic, community rooms and joint use of the local City branch library and community center. The architectural planning responds by providing spaces that promote collaboration, well-being, productivity, creativity and instills a sense of pride in the students. Building forms are simple and bold, yet scalable and inviting for students. Artwork is integrated into the building massing, allowing it to be compositionally showcased. The design draws from the rich cultural history of the neighborhood and fits into the surrounding context, creating strong community connections to the campus.

What started with protest, ended in applause.

SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET

Budget / Project Data

Completion Date: December 2022

Construction Cost: \$182,000,000

Building Area: 241,000 SF

Site Area: 19.3 acres

Enrollment Capacity: 1,905 students TK-12

Scope of Work

TK-6 Campus

7-12 Campus

Infant Child Development Center
(6 months to 2 years)

Athletic fields / synthetic track / field lighting

Community-Use Spaces

Community Room

Health Clinic

Wellness Center



History of Logan Heights



The Logan Heights / Barrio Logan neighborhoods are some of the oldest and most culturally rich neighborhoods in San Diego. Area development began in 1910 with an influx of refugees from the Mexican Revolution, who soon became the majority ethnic group. By the start of the 20th century, Logan Heights was predominately residential, with access to the beach and San Diego Bay. However, U.S. Navy and defense industry expansion during World War II eliminated beach and bay access.



Before: Logan Memorial Educational Campus



After: Logan Memorial Educational Campus

Rezoning that allowed industrial practices in the 50s and 60s, including ship building and maritime uses, resulted in the neighborhood's continual decline. Locating the new Interstate 5 through the heart of the community, along with the construction of the Coronado Bridge covering much of the neighborhood with a concrete roof, led to further degeneration. After years of public outcry, the site under Coronado Bridge was reclaimed by resident artists for park use, creating what would become Chicano Park in 1970.

Local artists covered the bridge pillars with murals. Cesar Chavez Waterfront Park was eventually established in 1990 south of the 10th avenue marine terminal, restoring beach and bay access. Today, the area is a hub for art, culture, and industry. Logan Heights is a living example of neighborhood evolution shaped by the residents' commitment to cultural heritage, combined with industrial development patterns and changing economic opportunities, resulting in a rich and vibrant social fabric.

Challenges

Logan Heights' storied past led to a deep distrust of authority, including San Diego Unified School District board members, administrators, and staff.

Community members were ready for action when rumors swirled regarding the closing of Logan Elementary and Memorial Middle School. They believed the decision was made without their input and they responded through protests during an initial planning meeting.

The community's willingness to fight for their children, as well as better academic opportunities and environments, will remain a highlight in the historic timeline of Logan Heights. It's their voices that led to a new campus filled with endless opportunities for learners of all ages, including the community's first high school and other support services that benefit all patrons.

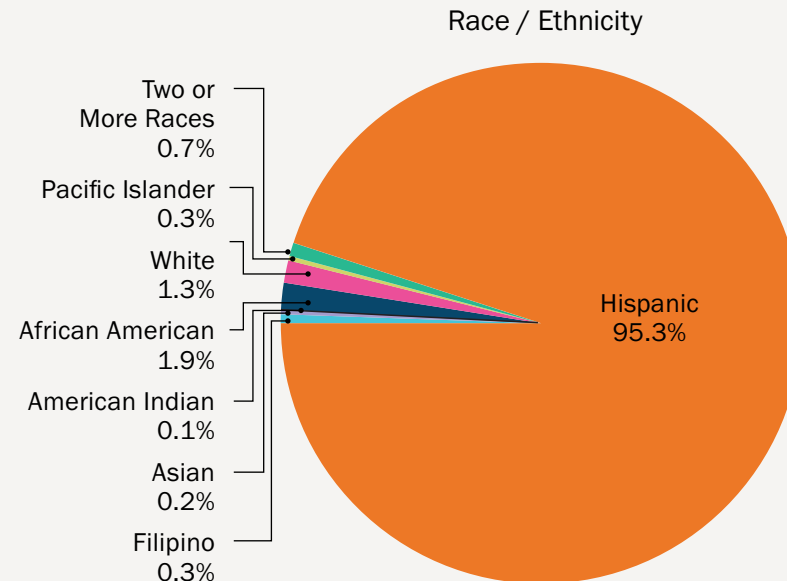
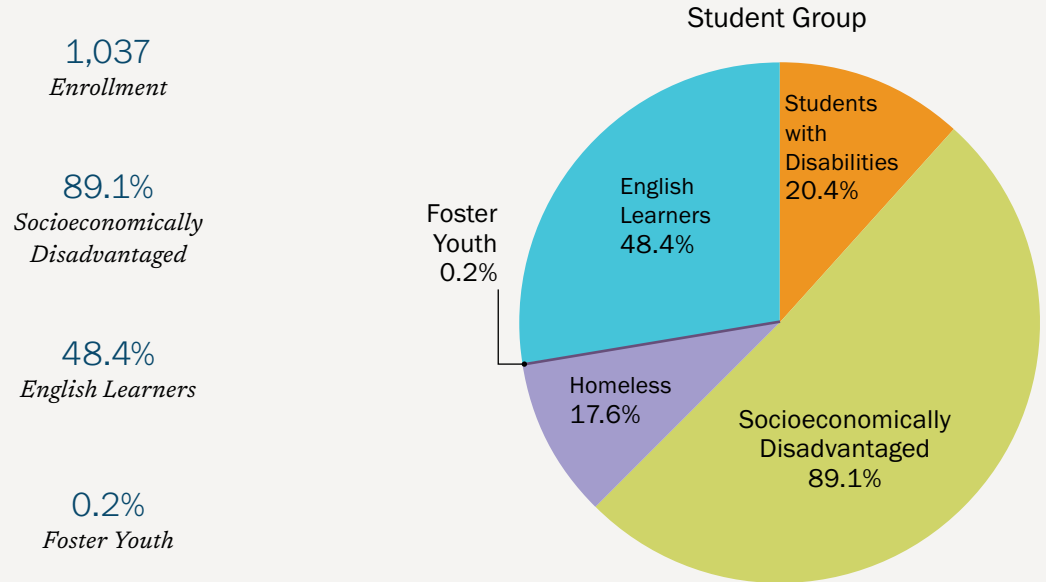
Assets

The new Logan Memorial Educational Campus includes the implementation of elementary grades while balancing the 7-12 campus needs. Using the existing campus footprint, it now serves infants through high school seniors, rebuilds the existing K-8 campus, and adds a secondary school component that was missing from the neighborhood. Three existing Memorial Middle School buildings remain. They were re-clad, fully renovated, and reimagined into environments that meet the needs of learners today and into the future.

“ I see a recommitment to the Logan educational program. I see how it elevates the neighborhood and the feeling around education.”

— Former Principal Antonio Villar

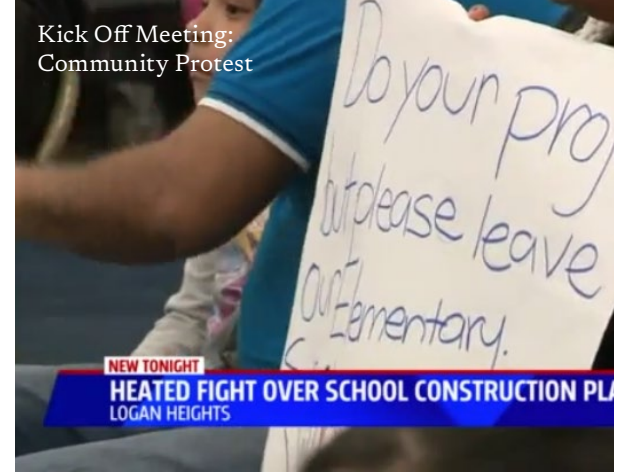
Student Population



Community Activation & Meeting

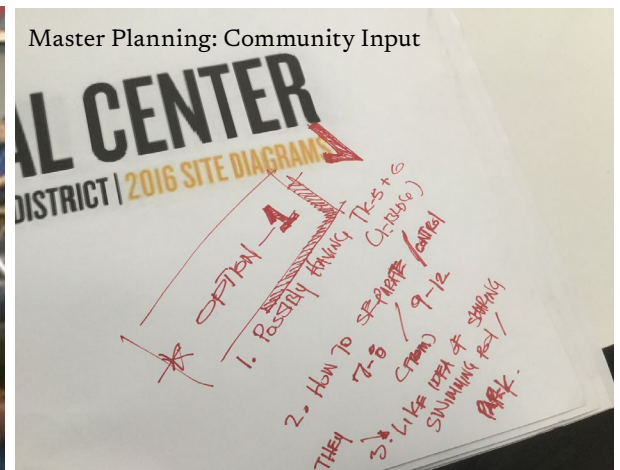
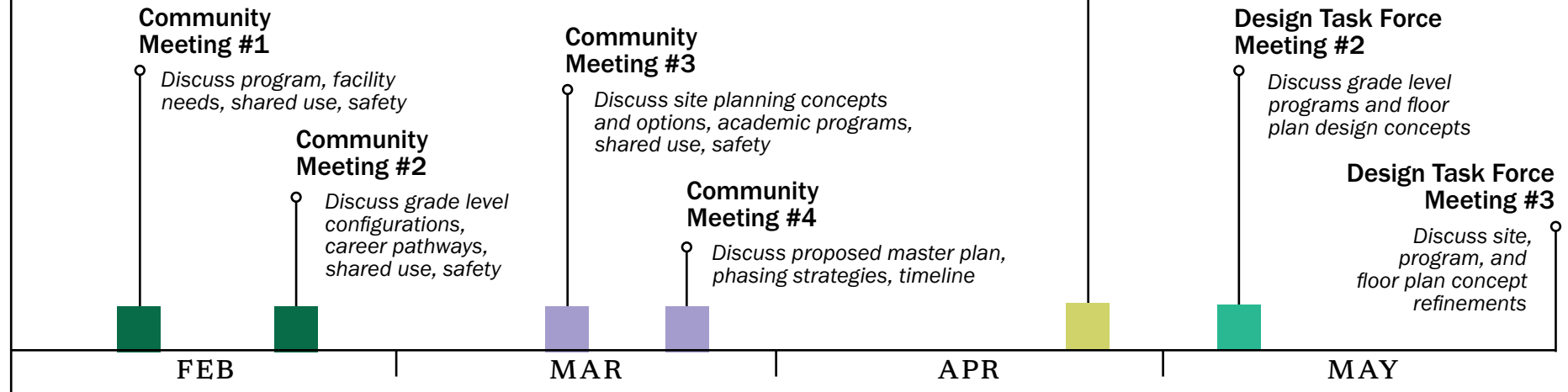
Community members who endured setbacks for decades viewed this as a turning point moment. They were a constant voice in the process to ensure their children had access to the same programs and facilities as other students across the district.

Seven public meetings brought together teachers, administrators, parents, students, and the entire community to develop the plan. Community members held a great sense of pride in their neighborhood, and they wanted that to be preserved in the plan. The result goes beyond an educational campus. It also introduces support services and new programs available to all Logan Heights residents. All community and design meetings were open to the public. Crowds of 20 to more than 100 patrons gathered for each meeting held during the four-month span.



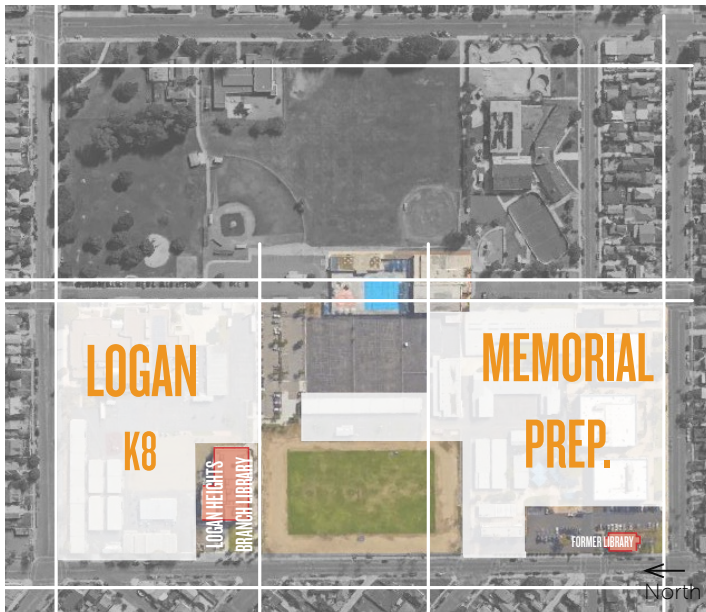
Kick Off Meeting

February 2016

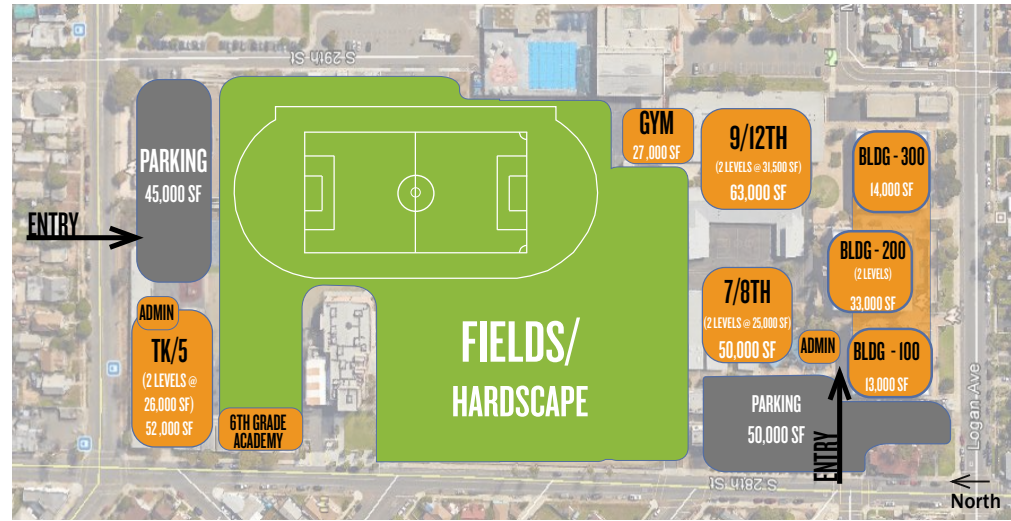


Site Planning

Stakeholders, including many who live in the neighborhood, partnered with the district and design team to review existing site conditions, adjacent land uses, traffic patterns, projected enrollments, budget, and schedule. After understanding the site and defining educational opportunities, this group established schemes that best fit the community and respond directly to the site and campus' educational goals.

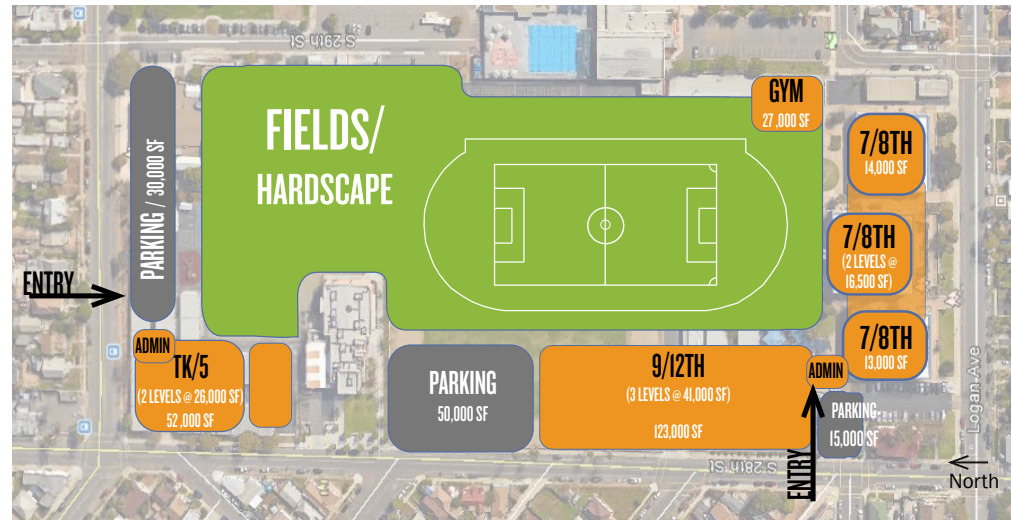


Existing Site



COMMUNITY COMMENTS OPTION 1

- Create separation between 7-8 and 9-12 grade levels.
- Fields should be highly visible from the street.
- Locate 7-8 grade classrooms in a separate building.
- Gym adjacency to existing rec center for joint use.



COMMUNITY COMMENTS OPTION 2

- Switch the location of the 9-12 grade and 7-8 grade
- TK-5 should get a larger area.
- 9-12 programs should be in the existing Memorial buildings
- Concern over the TK-5 being so close to a busy intersection/street.
- Fields to be open and accessible to the park.
- Move the large parking lot closer to the south side

RESULTS

Testimony

In his 20 years as principal, Antonio Villar led elementary staff at the K-5 Logan Elementary School. He experienced the evolution from the K-5 school to a K-8 model, and finally the full vision of Logan Memorial Educational Campus, a TK-12 model. Antonio participated in the onsite community-based master planning meetings and provided input that influenced the design and planning of the campus. He was a valuable liaison with the community, students, and staff throughout the design and construction of LMEC. Antonio beams with pride when describing his first-hand experience of seeing the real impact a new campus has on the neighborhood.

Antonio's Account:

“ One of the benefits of being on campus before and after the transformation is the ability to see its tremendous positive impact. I see a recommitment to the Logan educational program. I see how it elevates the neighborhood and the feeling around education. Several parents told me that this is something they had never seen before in the neighborhood, and they are so proud to be part of the Logan Memorial campus family. **The school is the heart of the community and is an integral part of the identity of the surrounding neighborhood.**

Community meetings at the beginning of the process were heated. Parents voiced very strong feelings about their elementary school, but it was the result of these open and sometimes animated conversations that the campus is what it is today. After people were given the opportunity to share their opinions, they were ready to open their minds and see the possibilities of new programs and a new campus. And when the campus was built, parents were comfortable because they saw themselves in the building, which was only possible through those contentious yet productive initial meetings.



Design Task Force: Concept Rendering



RESULTS



Some of the concerns I heard early in the process revolved around the high school. *How do you operate a high school on the same site and ensure the safety of younger students? How do you dissolve community apprehension of adding a high school - and all the activities associated with this cohort of students - into the neighborhood?* We ultimately always reverted to the initial vision around the educational experiences for the children in Logan Heights. We didn't want students to have to travel to other locations in the city for their high school years. Therefore, we flipped the conversation from concerns to the positive impact of having kids of all ages in the neighborhood and the energy they bring to the area.

Although there was genuine excitement around the opening of the campus, the timing was unfortunate. It opened during the pandemic. For years, community members were not allowed to visit to see their vision in full effect. The auditorium, which had been designed for school and community use, sat empty. Thankfully, now the auditorium is in use every evening. In addition to educational activities, the space hosts parent meetings, musical performances, professional development and teacher training, and other community functions.

Learning doesn't end at 3:30 p.m. every day; access to the campus shouldn't end there either.

Teaching and learning at Logan Memorial is different than anywhere in the district. Logan Elementary previously used multiple portable classrooms. We went from one extreme of 25 bungalow classrooms where teachers closed their doors to an environment where guest speakers are invited in and where learning can occur in nature. And everyone had to adjust. When high school students were first introduced to the campus design, they were hesitant. Here, spaces are collaborative. Kids can move about. Furniture is flexible. This was a space they had never experienced and didn't exactly know how to use it. They soon began to embrace the freedom and ability to explore through learning, and now they own the space. It's their space. Adults don't own it; the students do.



Historic Campus Mural

LOGAN MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS HISTORY

CLASS PHOTOS

Historical class photos from Logan Elementary and Memorial High School. The school Memorial was opened in the collection established in 1922, and the school Logan class photos from 1922.

MEMORIAL IN THE NEWS

On display are news clippings that showcased Memorial in major publications and the San Diego Union. Some of the stories include student awards, performances, student activities, and yearning.

FACULTY

From one of Logan's original high school teachers and staff members to 1922, Christine Wenzling is teacher at Memorial, who in 1922 was one of Logan's original teachers. Others who have been at the City Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The campus was thriving with student activities. Over the years, clubs have included photography, dramatics, and more. Student body officers served on the All-Union Board, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and more. The organization's activities, including student body officers, provided a platform for students to showcase their talents and leadership skills.

YEARBOOKS

Memorial's yearbooks have a rich history. The first yearbook was published in 1922, and the school has since published yearbooks annually. The yearbooks provide a historical record of the school's activities and student life.

EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Memorial has a long history of community events. The school has hosted numerous events, including fundraisers, performances, and more. These events have brought the community together and supported the school's mission.

LITERARY MAGAZINES

The "Quest" was Memorial's first literary magazine. The magazine showcased student writing and provided a platform for students to express their thoughts and ideas. The "Quest" has since become a well-known literary magazine in the district.

GIRLS OF THE QUARTER

A group of Memorial's young ladies, the Girls of the Quarter, have been a source of pride for the school. They have participated in various activities and events, showcasing their talents and leadership skills.

STATE SCHOOL REGISTER FOR LOGAN

On display are some copies of the State School Register for Logan. The register provides a historical record of the school's activities and student life. It is a valuable resource for researchers and historians.

RESULTS



Also in the first month, teachers asked for permission to use the maker space or to go outside during their class period. Today, the maker space is an extension of the classroom and is where a lot of learning occurs. Students learn outside much of the day.

The school is being used exactly as we envisioned.

UNINTENDED RESULT

For LMEC to realize its full capacity potential, we knew that students from other feeder schools must attend. This is a challenge the staff and community met with open arms. Teachers invited parents who live outside the Logan Heights neighborhood to visit the campus. Students attending other feeder schools were encouraged to tour the campus. Staff worked diligently to build a perception of excellence at LMEC, and it worked. **Since opening, more than 80% of the students attending a nearby elementary school have transferred to Logan Memorial. Enrollment doubled in its first three years. The way the community responded is noticed by everyone – both staff and school families.**

They all agree that this is a special place."



Historic Cultural & Performing Arts Mural

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

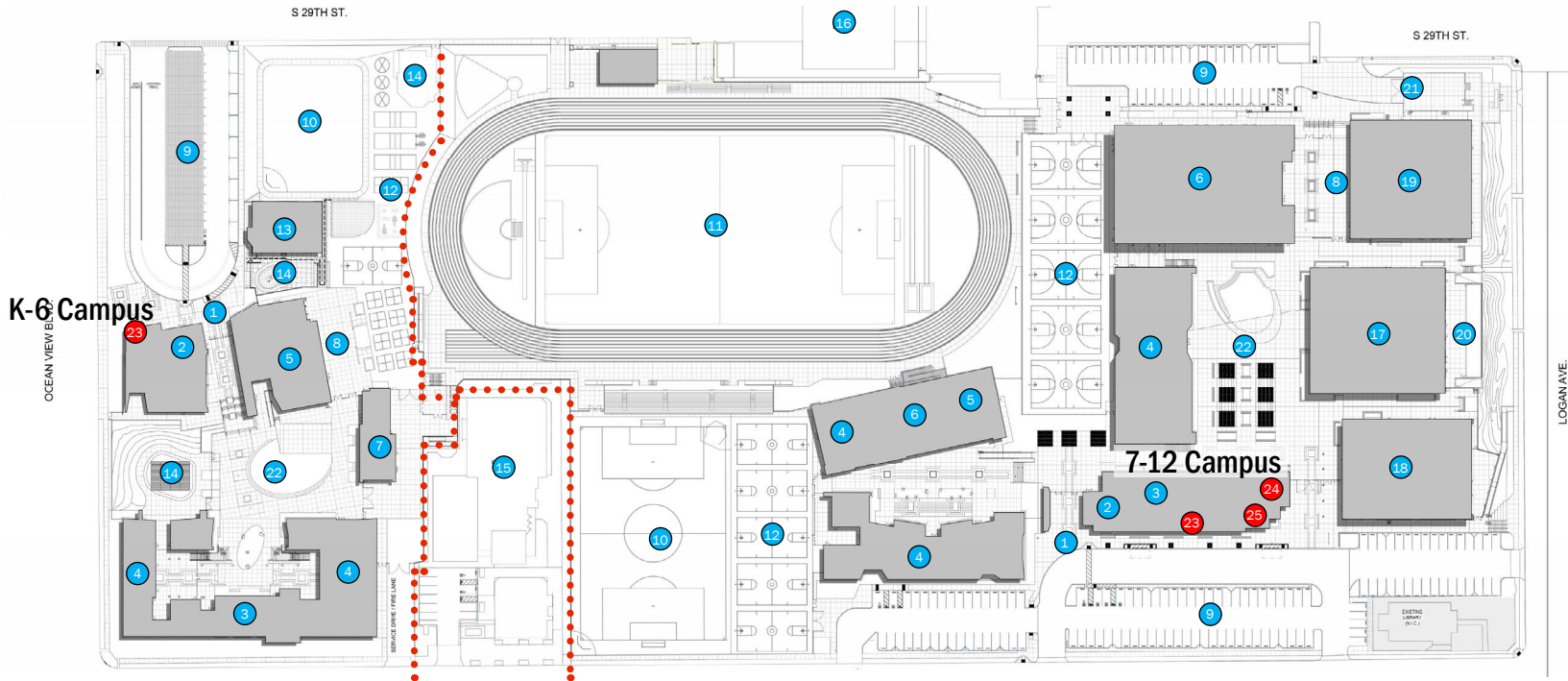
Site Plan

This campus is a walkable neighborhood learning center, inspiring students and engaging parents. Student-focused learning environments are designed to support hands-on activities, teamwork, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills for learners of all ages.

- 1. Main Entry
- 2. Administration
- 3. Learning Commons
- 4. Classrooms
- 5. Multi Purpose Room
- 6. Gym/ Gym Pavilion / Locker Room
- 7. Food Services
- 8. Outdoor Dining
- 9. Parking
- 10. Mixed Use Fields
- 11. Track & Field
- 12. Hard Courts
- 13. Infant Child Development Center
- 14. Playground
- 15. Existing Community Library
- 16. City Rec Center/ Memorial Park
- 17. Repurpose Existing Building - CTE Classrooms
- 18. Repurpose Existing Building - Theater
- 19. Repurpose Existing Building - Multi-Purpose Room/Food Services
- 20. CTE Outdoor Work Yard
- 21. Service Yard
- 22. Plaza / Commons

On-Campus Use

- 23. Community Room
- 24. Health Clinic
- 25. Wellness Center



23. Community Room

Community Rooms support parent involvement, as well as various programs and activities offered by the district.

24. Health Clinic

The Health Center and Clinic is staffed with a physician and nurse practitioners. It includes exam rooms and offers childcare and pediatric and adolescent medicine.

25. Wellness Center

The Wellness Center is a family resource center where coordinated district and community support services are accessible and customized for the neighborhood.

The fields, gym, theater, and multipurpose spaces are carefully located along the campus exterior to provide direct public access and use. This placement allows the campus to be secured after hours.



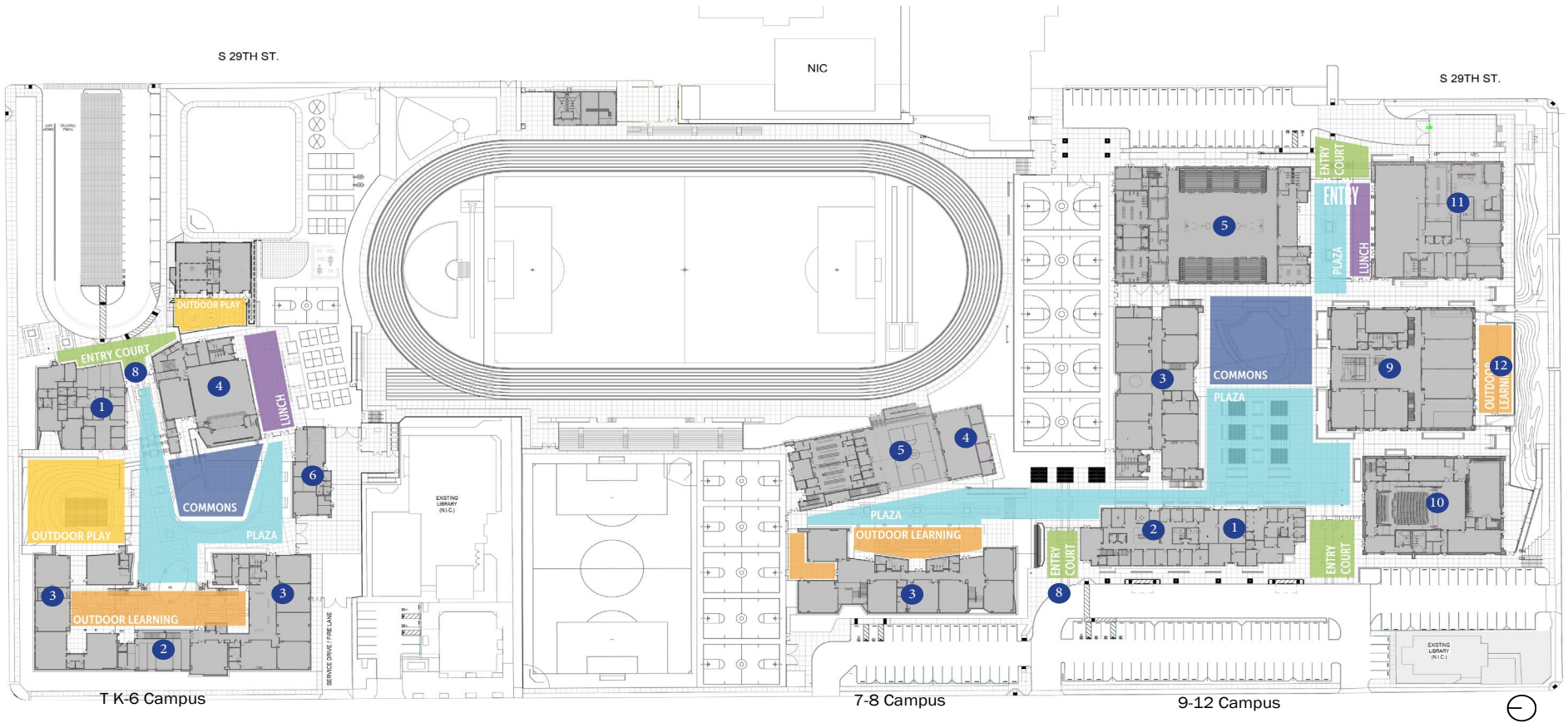
The way the campus is designed to function for more than an educational environment makes it a true community asset. Community members feel comfortable on campus and want to use the amenities like the community room and clinic. Organizations from all over the city think of LMEC as an option that wasn't there before."

— Former Principal Antonio Villar

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Campus Planning

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Main Entry | 5. Multi Purpose Room | 9. Repurpose Existing Building - CTE Classrooms |
| 2. Administration | 6. Gym/ Gym Pavilion / Locker Room | 10. Repurpose Existing Building - Theater |
| 3. Learning Commons | 7. Food Services | 11. Repurpose Existing Building - Multi-Purpose Room/Food Services |
| 4. Classrooms | 8. Child Development Center | 12. Outdoor CTE Work Yard |

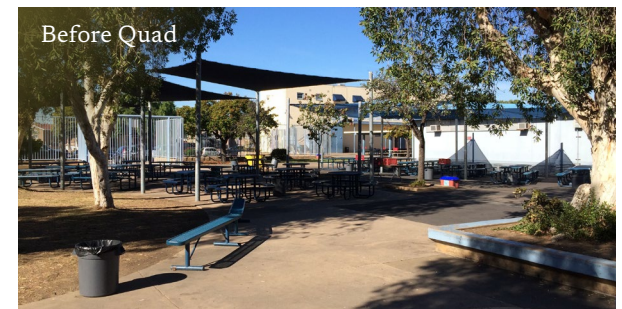
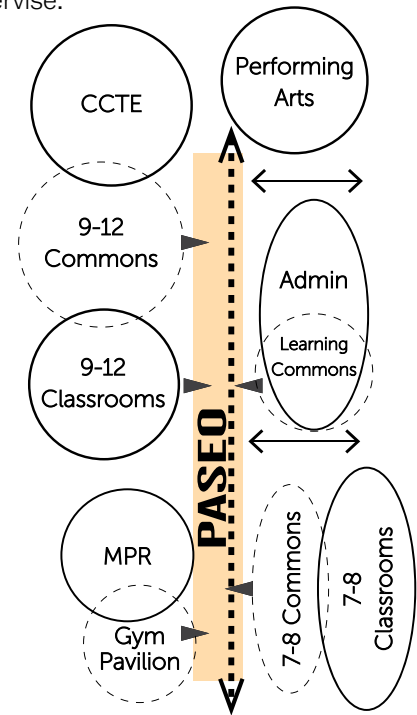




PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Campus Connections

The campus entries and activities are arranged around the campus paseo, which connects the buildings and outdoor student spaces together. These connections create outdoor environments that are active, comfortable for students, and easy to supervise.



“The main attraction is the large display of LMEC letters at entry. The colors and branding are magnificent. Most elementary schools don't have the signage and murals that we display at Logan Memorial. These letters, branding, signage, and murals all immediately changed the perception of the school for the neighborhood. Parents are proud that their children attend this beautiful campus.”

— Former Principal Antonio Villar



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Campus Brand Identity

An art master plan integrates murals, signage, and ornamental metal into the design to celebrate the significance of the local arts scene.

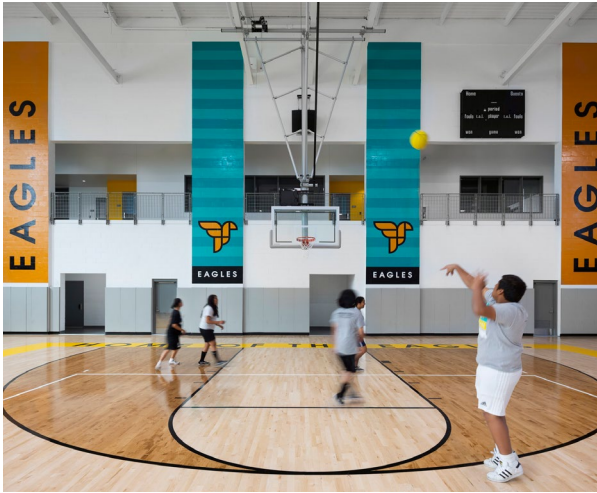
A new campus brand identity includes logos, typography, monument signage, existing and new murals, and custom ornamental metal work.

Each of the eight large-scale exterior building panels abstractly represent one of the core concepts of the school: community, compassion, creativity, growth, leadership, collaborate, inspire, and innovate.



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Campus Brand Identity



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Campus Brand Identity

Lunch Shelter & Multi-Purpose Room

BEFORE AFTER



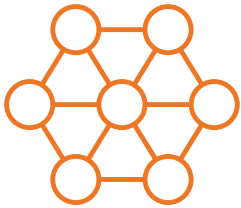
In a survey conducted in March 2024, secondary students identified their preferred alternative learning spaces:

- 36%** Outdoor Commons
- 30%** Collaboration Spaces/ Hallway
- 25%** Library/Learning Commons

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Academic Concepts

The design focuses on three primary academic concepts: continuous student relationships, integrated learning experiences, and student-centered environments.



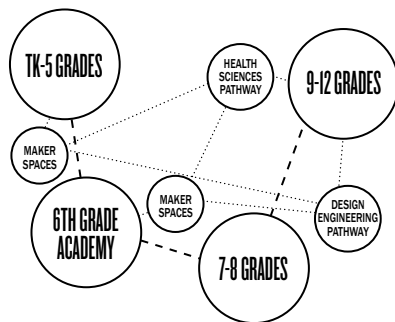
Continuous Student Relationships

By removing the burden of moving from school to school, students have an opportunity to develop long lasting relationships with administrators and educators during their TK to 12th grade journey. This familiarization also allows administrators to personalize the learning experiences based on independent student needs.



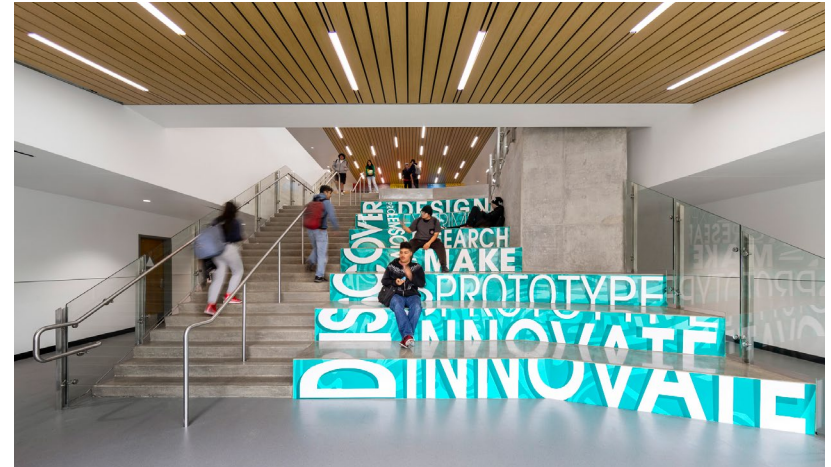
Integrated Learning Experiences

The Montessori program supports the whole student and allows students to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills they'll use beyond school. Career pathways in healthcare and engineering offer real-world opportunities and internships to advance student learning in these areas.



Student Centered Environments

The campus is a place students want to be. Learning commons for all grades feature maker spaces where students create, research, think, and present. The learning commons for 9-12 grades is adjacent to the career and counseling center, creating a space that supports socialization and more.



EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Vision & Goal Supports Curriculum

TK-8 Academics - A Montessori School

As a public Montessori school, the TK-8 campus puts students at the center of learning. Montessori focuses on the whole student including social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. Students learn and explore at their own pace to become critical thinkers. Additionally, the TK-8 campus offers classes that integrate with career pathways at the high school located on the same site. The learning commons is adjacent to two STEM spaces, resulting in a vibrant environment where young students create, research, think, and present to their peers. Classroom villages are designed around collaboration spaces to promote flexible learning. The TK-8 educational environments are designed to support hands-on learning, teamwork, communication proficiency, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills. The traditional library is re-envisioned as a collaborative learning commons, where students gather, socialize, and showcase their work.

In a survey conducted in March 2024, primary students identified their preferred alternative learning spaces:

43% Library

33% Collaboration Spaces/ Hallway

29% Outdoor Learning Areas



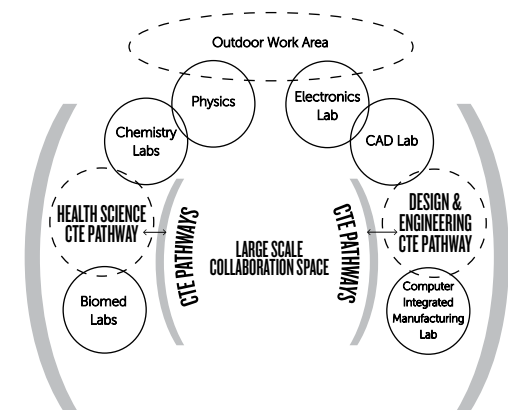
EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Vision & Goal Supports Curriculum

High School - New Beginnings

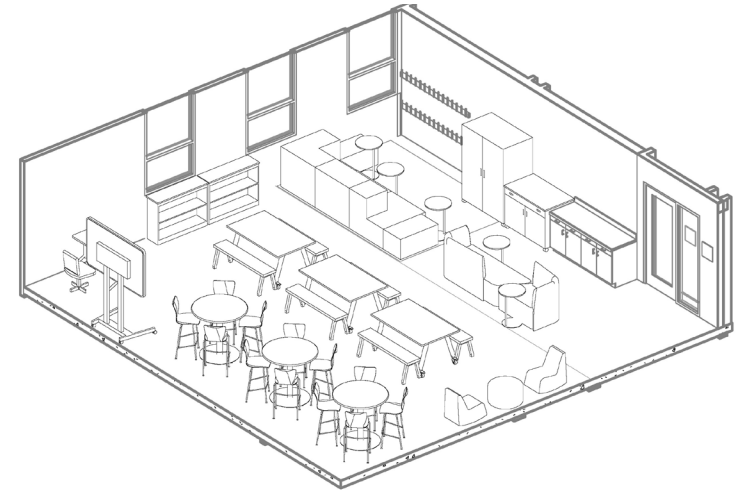
Logan Memorial Educational Campus offers students something previously missing from their educational journey – a high school in their local neighborhood. The 9-12 school features career pathways in health sciences and design engineering, areas of exploration defined in partnership with community members during the planning phase. The two programs come together at the center of the building in a large tiered collaboration space that accommodates group presentations and is a social area for students before and after class. Throughout the entire campus are maker spaces and design labs with 3D printers, laser cutters, and other equipment to prototype and create manufactured work. Roll up doors connect the design labs to outdoor covered work areas where welding and construction type activities happen. By locating the learning commons adjacent to the career and counseling center, our design creates a space that supports socialization, on-line course work, and ultimately is a place where students want to be.

Before Circulation Space

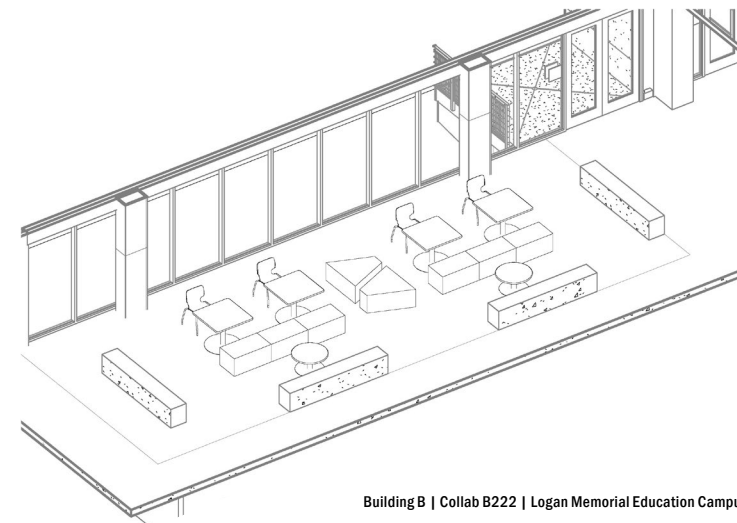


EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Students and teachers have a choice in how teaching and learning fits best in their new environment.

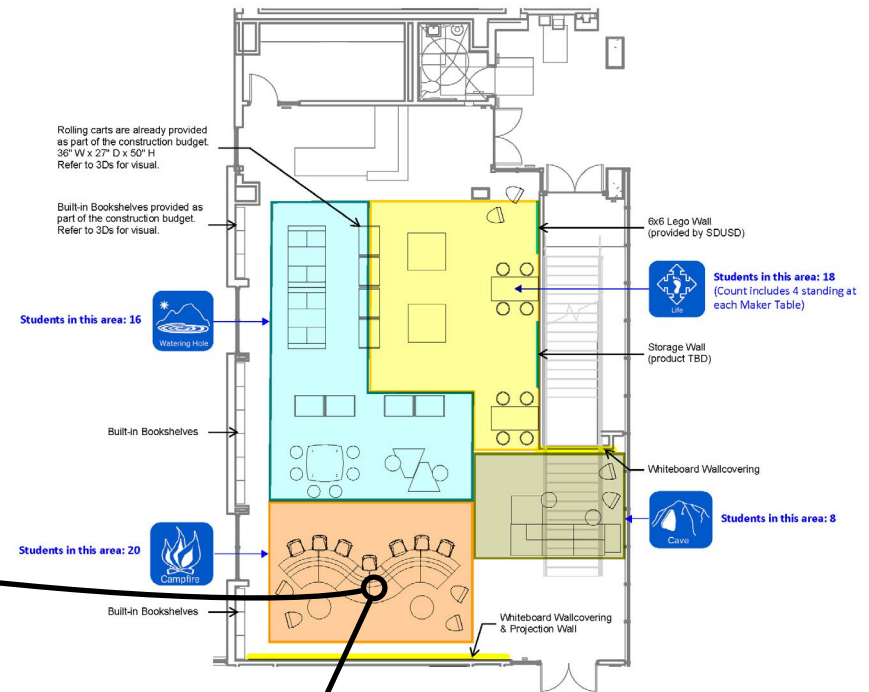


Building B | Regular Classroom Layout | Logan Memorial Education Campus



Building B | Collab B222 | Logan Memorial Education Campus

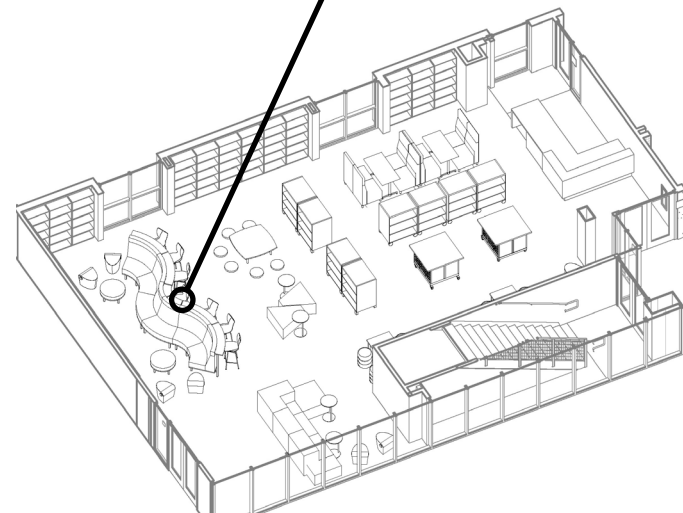
EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



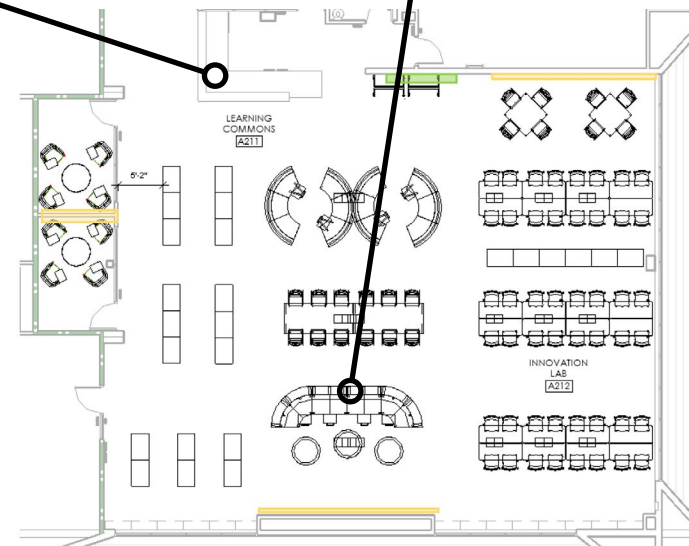
Building B | B100 Learning Commons | Logan Memorial Education Campus

Learning Commons

The district re-envisioned the library as a collaborative Learning Commons. It is a loud and lively space for students to socialize, to showcase work, and connect with peers.



EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



Learning Commons

The Learning Commons replaces the traditional library. It is a blend of traditional stacks, computer stations for online learning, and soft seating for informal student collaboration. Adjacent the career and counseling center, this space connects students with career and or college opportunities and counseling services.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The existing Memorial Arts building was renovated to provide a state of the art theater and music facility. The space accommodates 225 students and is a treasured resource in the community.



BEFORE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability & Wellbeing

Sustainability was a key factor in design decisions regarding the creation of learning environments. The project is Collaborative for High Performance Schools-designed, a holistic sustainability program focused on student health and wellbeing combined with energy and resource efficiency in California's K-12 educational facilities. In addition to Collaborative for High Performance Schools, the district is eligible to receive financial incentives based on project performance for new construction and renovation projects through Savings by Design, a program offered by San Diego Gas & Electric.

The design focuses on student wellbeing. High performance attributes for the campus include natural ventilation, and materials that promote energy and water efficiency, maximize use of natural daylighting, improved indoor air quality, products made from recycled materials, and create acoustical conditions conducive to optimal learning environments. The project is targeting net zero energy use with over 55,000 SF of photovoltaic panels with an annual energy production of 1,289,690 kWh, resulting in a planned 92% energy offset.

Three existing buildings are repurposed to new uses to reduce the campus' carbon footprint.

