

ASSOCIATION FOR  
**LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS**

**CHICAGO**

**LearningSCAPES 2023**

# Place-Driven Education

Using Experiential Learning to (Re)engage Students

Track: Resiliency



Presented by

**PRK**



# Your Presenters



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AIA, ALEP, LEED AP BD+C  
Principal  
PBK



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Principal and  
Design Director  
PBK



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Director of Early  
Childhood Education  
LEMON GROVE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



ANDREW VOSKO  
Associate Provost and Director  
of Transdisciplinary Studies  
CLAREMONT GRADUATE  
UNIVERSITY

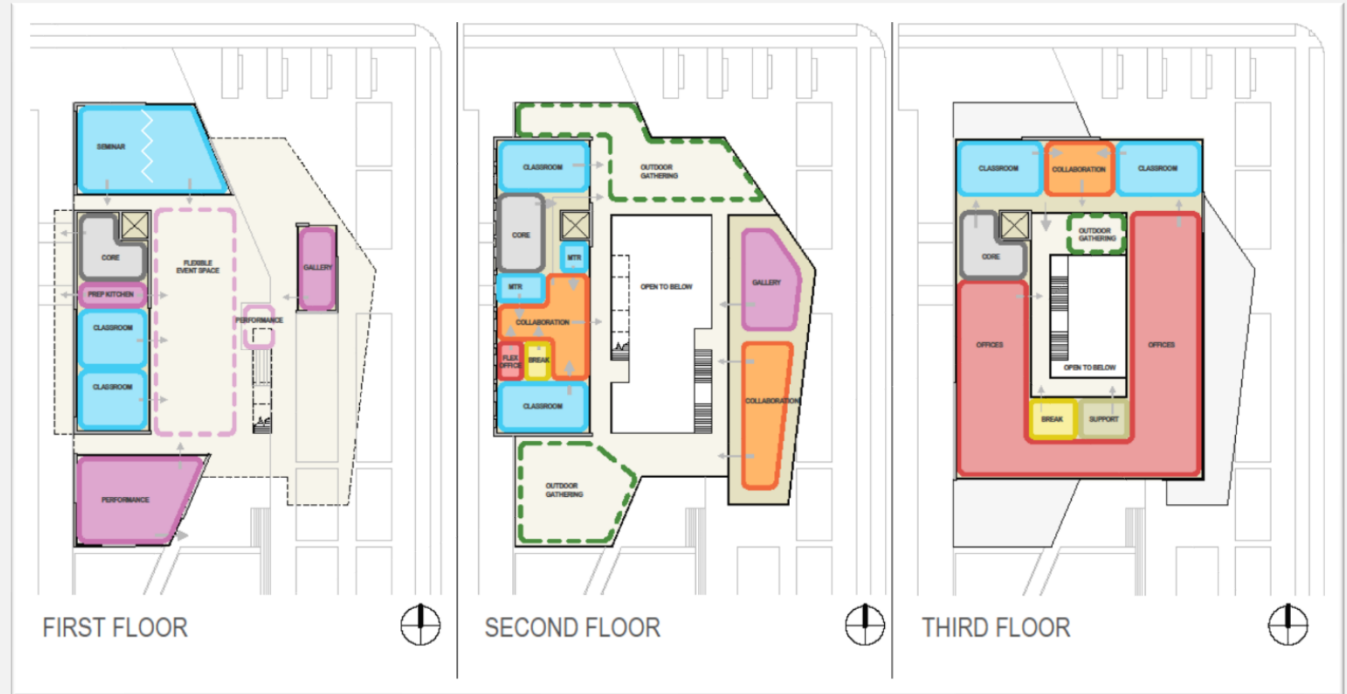


# Cadigan Building



## Started here...

- 3-Story Division
- Distributed Large-Format Space
- Clustered Offices
- Central Courtyard

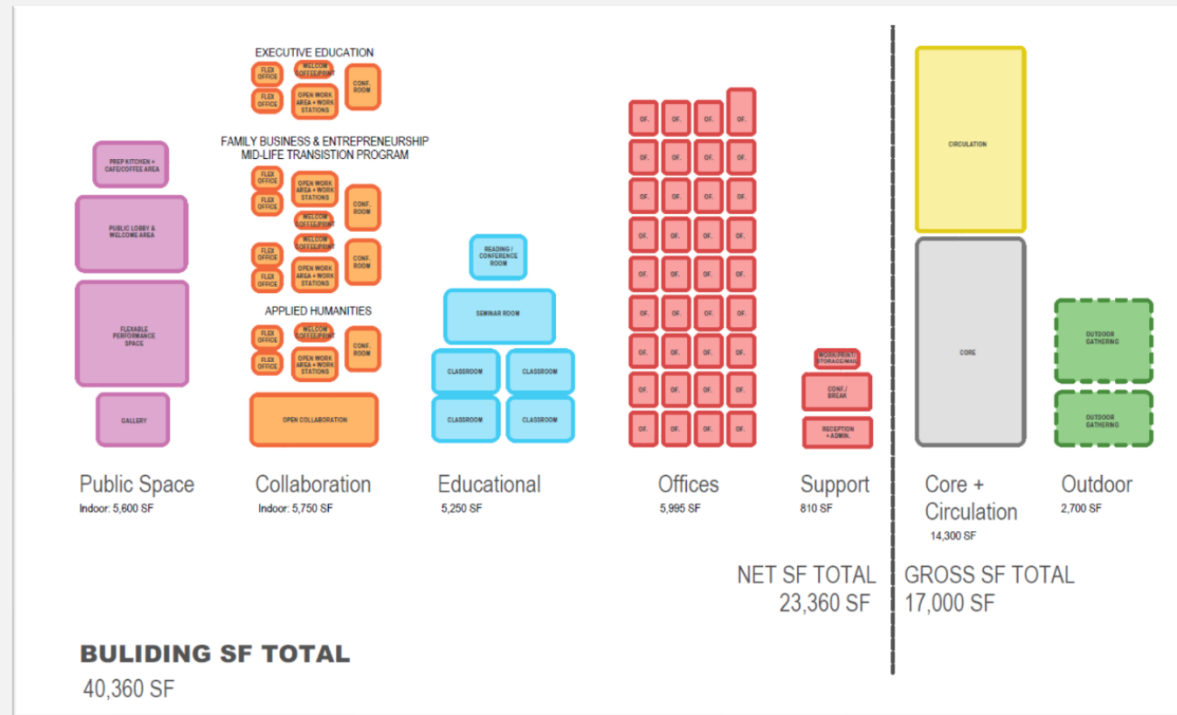


**Previous Floor Plans + Adjacencies**



## Updated...

- Amplified collaboration spaces.
- Dedicated institute/center “pods” with unique entries, administrative, and meeting areas.
- Reading Room and Incubation Spaces.
- Distributed offices adjacent to key spaces.
- Reconfigured, fully flexible classroom/gathering areas that may be customized to any size program.

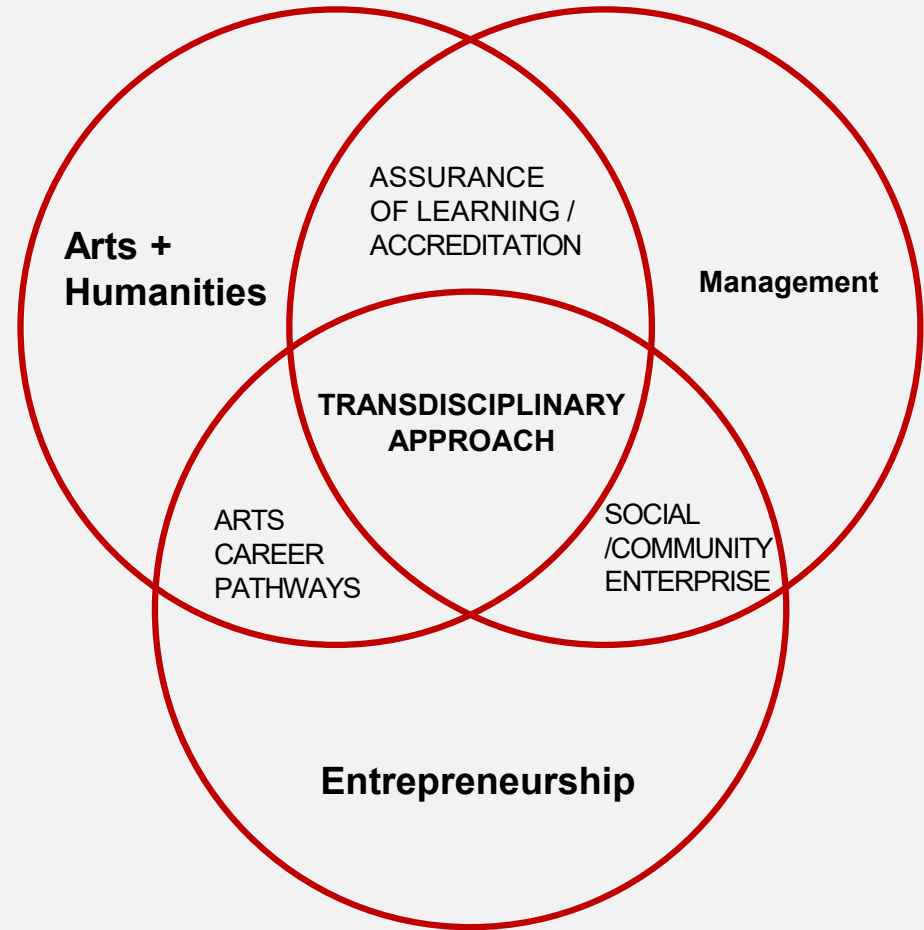


### REVISED Space Analysis



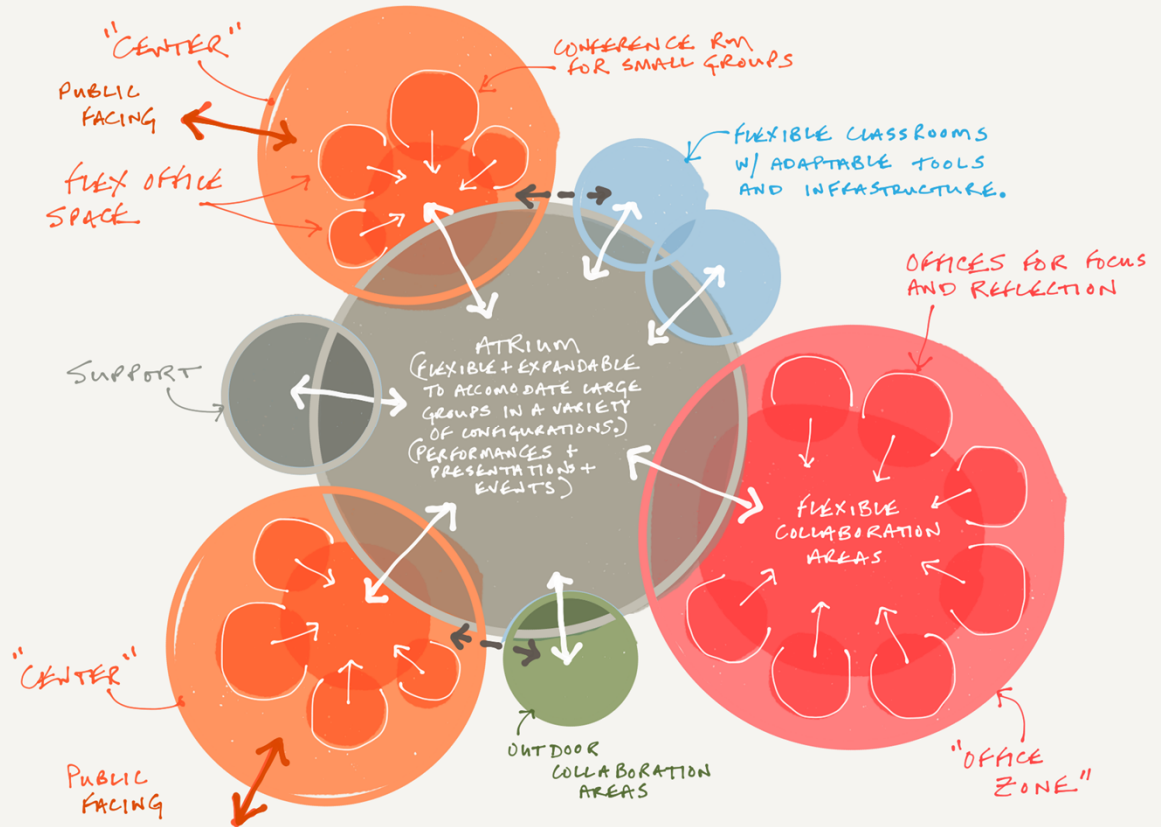
## What we heard...

- Home for School of Arts + Humanities
  - Unified Faculty Offices
  - Central Collaboration
  - Flexible Gallery and Performance Space
- Central Campus Gathering
- Accommodate Multiple Programs, Class Types, and Institutes



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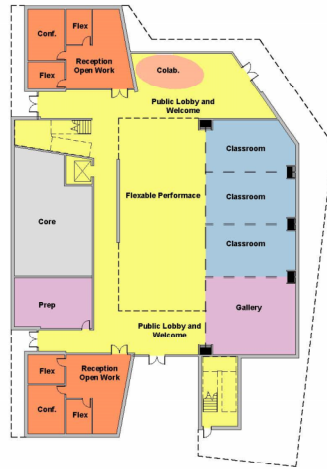




# What's new...

Interactive interior space.

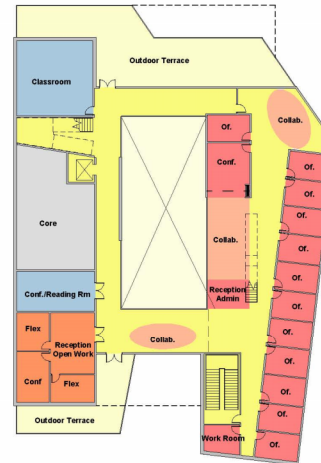
- Movable walls = adaptability.
- Ample central gathering /performance space.
- Impromptu collaboration spaces on all floors.
- Right-sized pods capable of hosting multiple institutes and centers.



**Department Legend**

- CIRCULATION
- CLASSROOM
- COLLABORATION
- CORE
- INSTITUTE
- PERFORMANCE

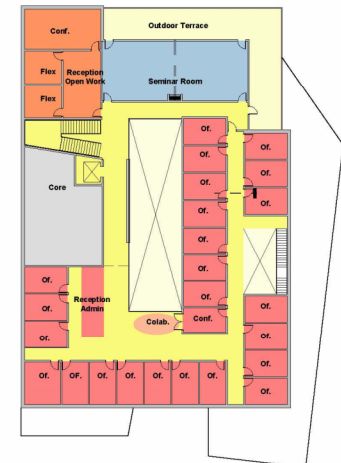
First Floor



**Department Legend**

- CIRCULATION
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- CORE
- EXTERIOR
- INSTITUTE
- OFFICE

Second Floor

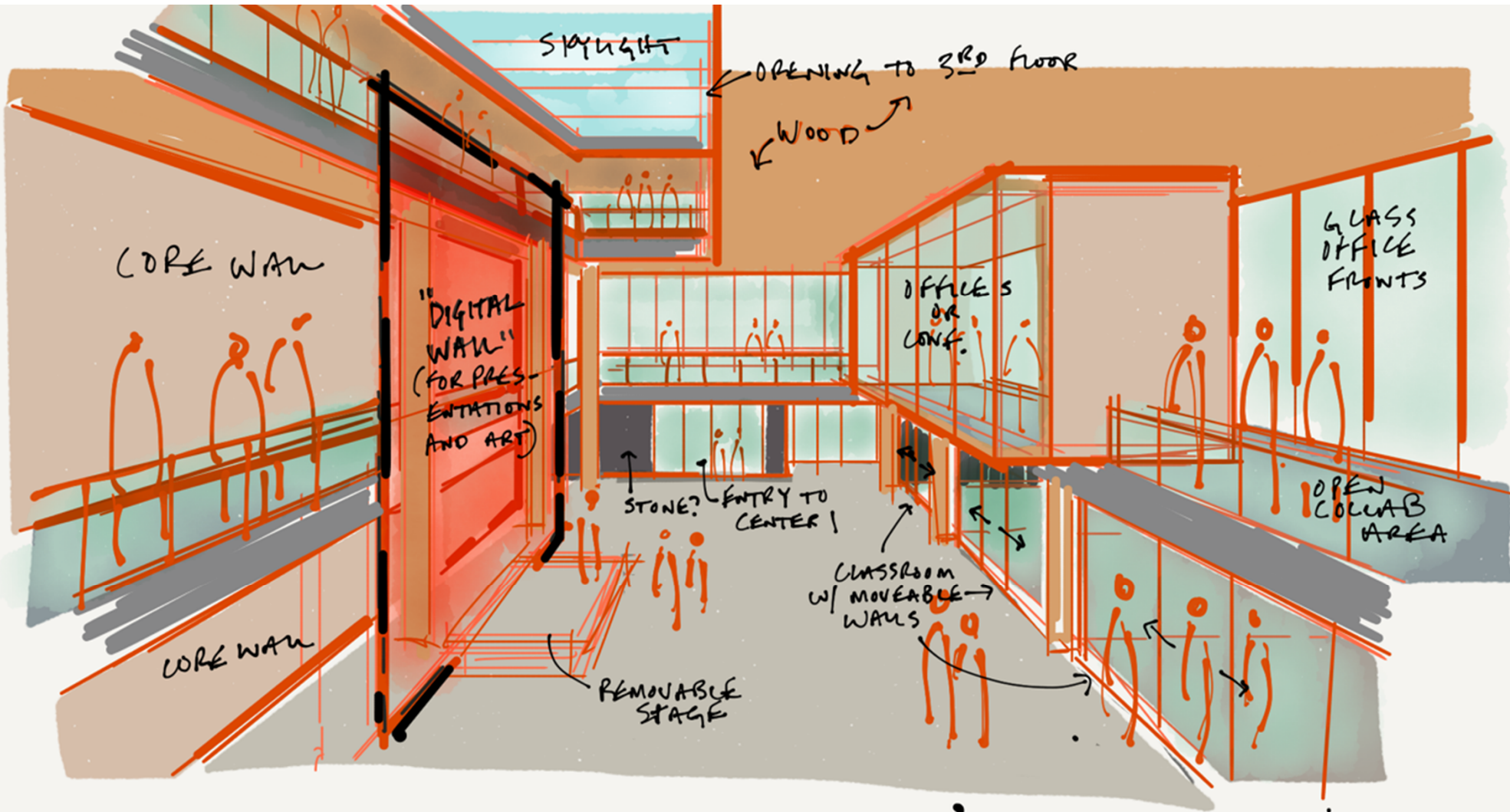


**Department Legend**

- CIRCULATION
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Third Floor





ATRIUM VIEW LOOKING NORTH

08/11/2022



Envisioning Cadigan Hall

## Last Time...

- A gateway concept with a prominent northern corner.
- 3-Story Building
- Future Land Bank
- Central Courtyard



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- 3-Story Building
- Future Land Bank
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## What we heard.....

- Like the materials!
- Iconic?
- Openness to elements is concerning.
- Circulation is challenging.
- Community connection.
- Spaces should be open, shared, collaborative, and enticing.









## Landscape Design

- Seamless indoor /outdoor spaces.
- Mandated water restrictions necessitate limited turf.
- Shade grove plantings.



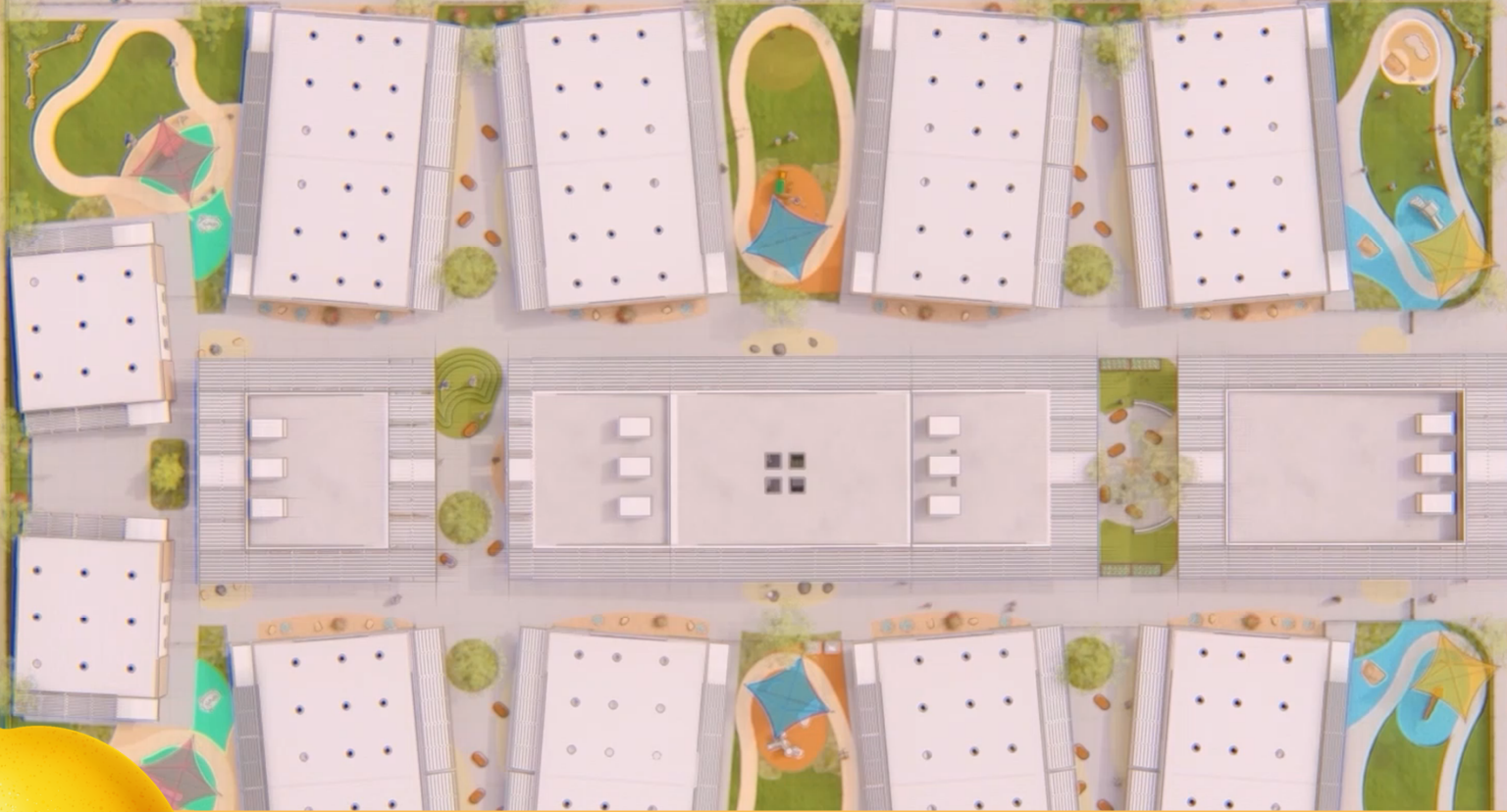
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# Outdoor Learning

PRK



Lemon Grove  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CORE | PRK

# Outdoor Learning

## Improved Education Outcomes



**BETTER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**  
Learning in natural environments can:

- BOOST PERFORMANCE** in reading, writing, math, science and social studies <sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>
- ENHANCE** creativity, critical thinking and problem solving <sup>6</sup>

Seeing nature from school buildings can foster academic success <sup>7,8</sup>

**ENHANCED ATTENTION**  
Spending time in nature can help children focus their attention:

- ↑ FOCUS AND ATTENTION** <sup>10,11,12,13</sup>
- ↓ ADHD SYMPTOMS** <sup>14,15</sup>

The greener the setting, the better the focus <sup>16,19</sup>


**INCREASED ENGAGEMENT & ENTHUSIASM**  
Exploration and discovery through outdoor experiences can promote motivation to learn:

- ↑ INCREASED ENTHUSIASM FOR LEARNING** <sup>1,16</sup>
- ↑ GREATER ENGAGEMENT WITH LEARNING** <sup>17</sup>

**IMPROVED BEHAVIOR**  
Nature-based learning is associated with reduced aggression and fewer discipline problems: <sup>18,19</sup>

- +** MORE IMPULSE CONTROL <sup>10</sup>
- LESS DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR <sup>20</sup>

## Improved Health



**HEALTHY BABIES**  
Nature exposure for mothers can promote:

- ↑ BETTER FETAL GROWTH** <sup>1</sup>
- ↑ HEALTHIER BIRTH WEIGHTS** <sup>1,2</sup>

**NATURE CONTACT IS** especially beneficial for mothers of lower education and socio-economic levels <sup>3,4</sup>

**HEALTHY EYES AND VITAMIN D LEVELS**  
Time spent in bright sunlight can:

- ↓ REDUCE NEARSIGHTEDNESS** <sup>5,6,7</sup>
- ↑ INCREASE VITAMIN D LEVELS** <sup>8</sup>

**INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**  
Access to parks and greenspace can foster:

- ↑ INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** <sup>9,11</sup>
- ↓ REDUCED RISK OF OBESITY** <sup>15</sup>

**OUTDOOR PLAY** increases the likelihood that girls will remain active into adolescence <sup>9</sup>

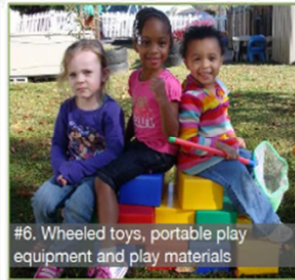
**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**  
Learning in nature can support:

- ↑ IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SKILLS** <sup>17,20</sup>
- ↓ REDUCED STRESS** <sup>17</sup>
- ↓ ANGER** <sup>18,19</sup>
- ↓ AND AGGRESSION** <sup>18,19</sup>

Children are better able to cope with stress when they live near trees and other greenery. <sup>15,16</sup>



# Best Practices





**Unicorn Playground**  
Unique

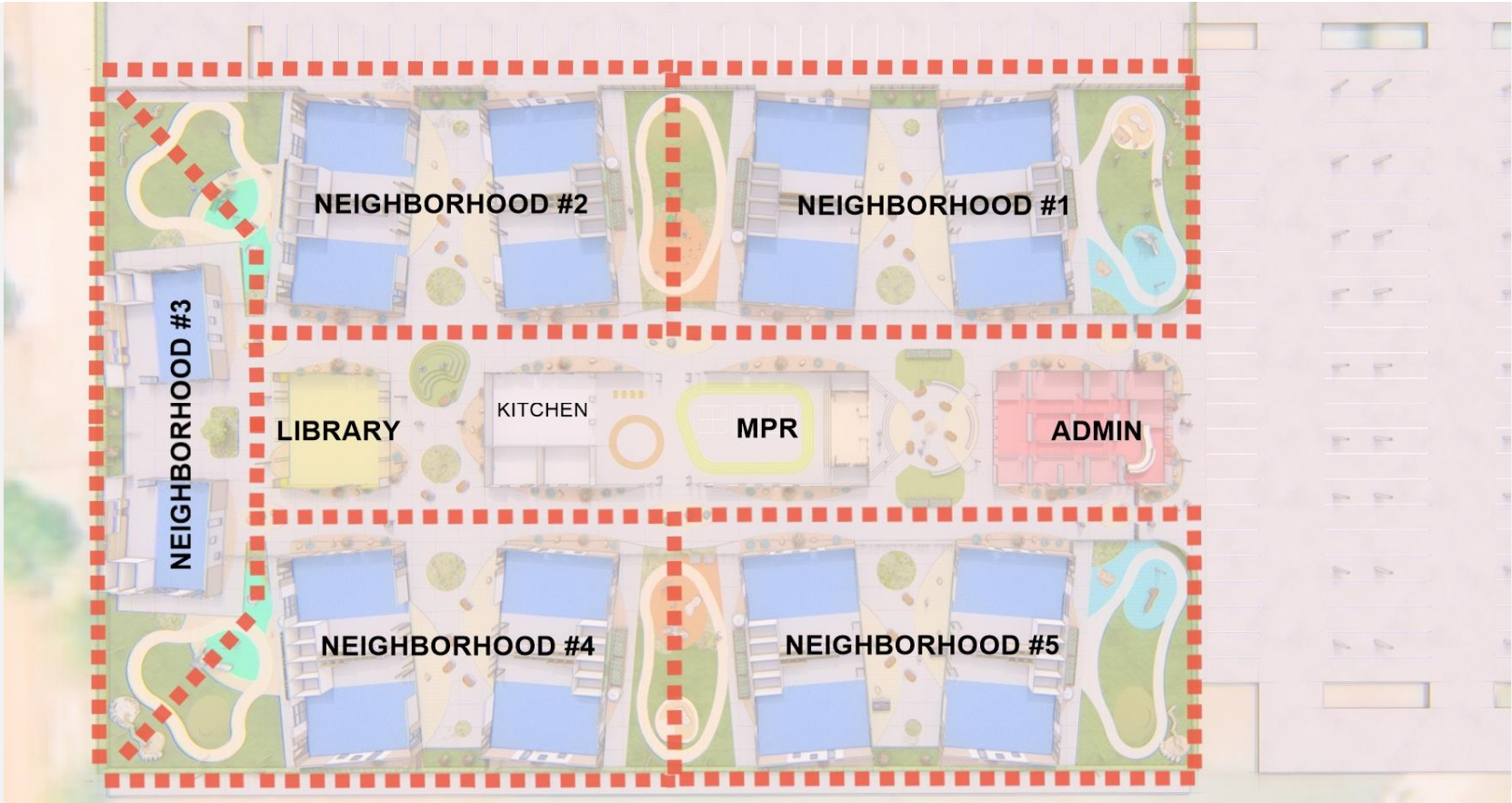
# Unicorn Playground



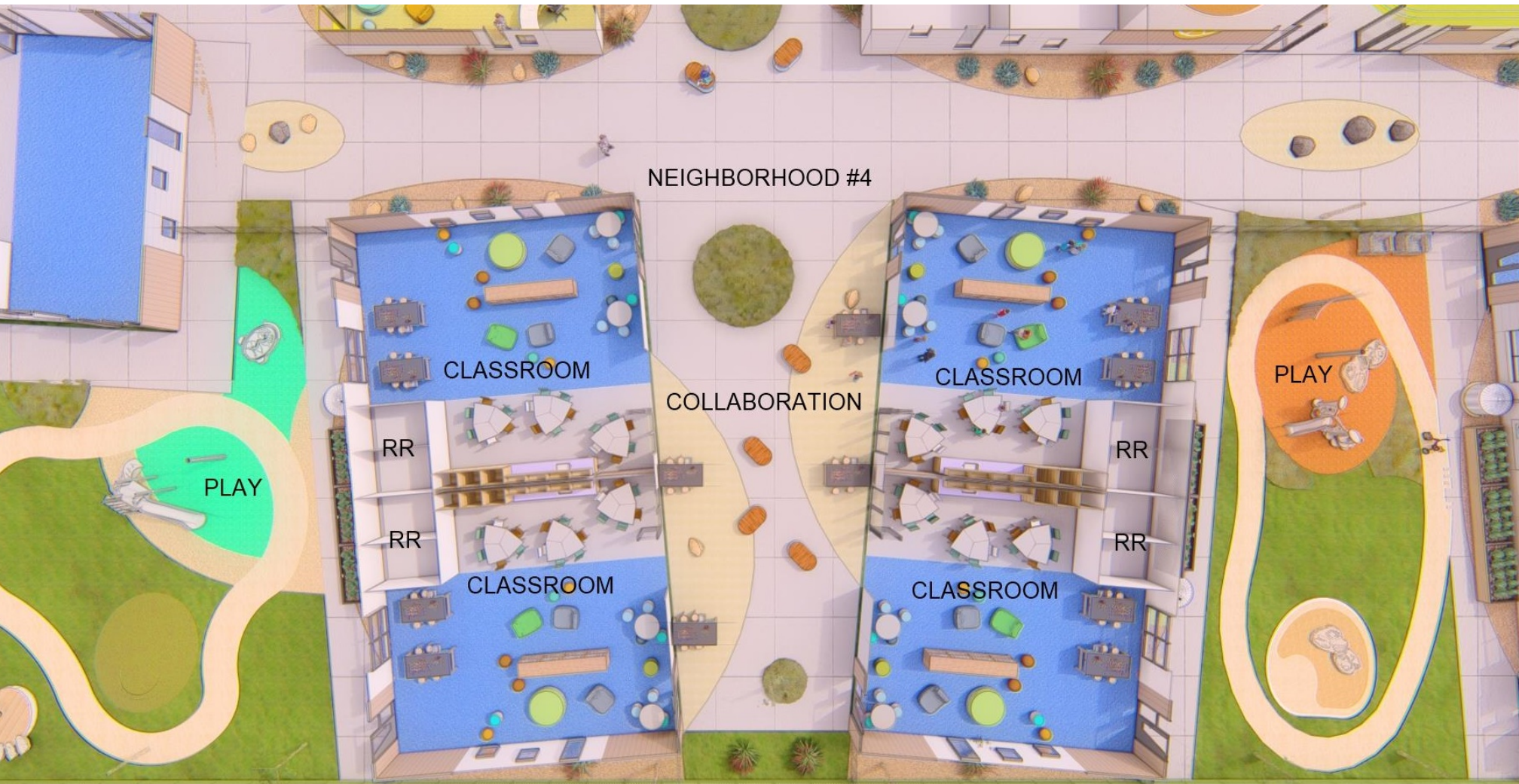
The Unicorn Playground uses free form play to allow children to invent their own games and structures. Items as simple as large sticks and blocks are used to stimulate the imagination.











NEIGHBORHOOD #4

CLASSROOM

RR

PLAY

RR

CLASSROOM

COLLABORATION

CLASSROOM

RR

PLAY

RR

CLASSROOM

LAYGROUND

STEAM

COLLABORATION

EXPLORE & INTEGRATE

CONSTRUCTION

DISCOVERY

LITERACY

SMALL GROUP

DRAMATIC PLAY

READING NOOK



NEIGHBORHOOD #2

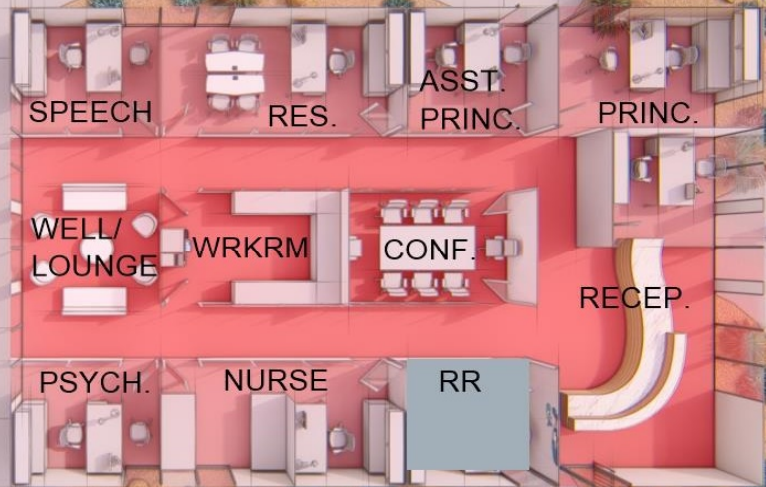
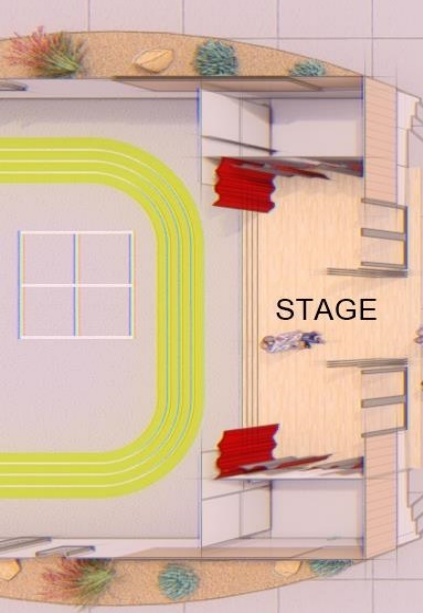
LEARNING GARDEN

LIBRARY

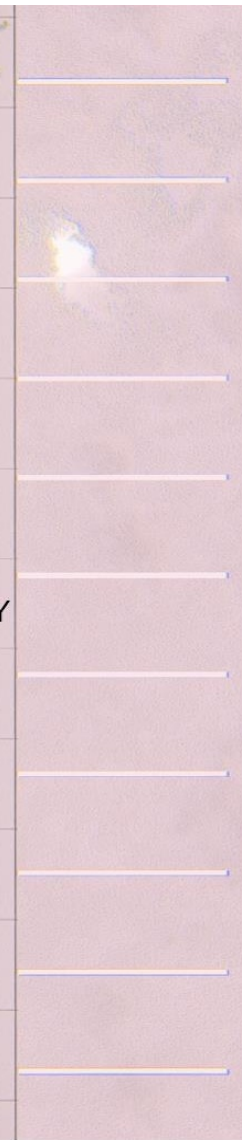
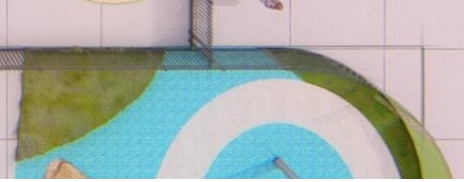
NEIGHBORHOOD #3

NEIGHBORHOOD #4

NEIGHBORHOOD #1



NEIGHBORHOOD #5



















**PRK**

**THANK YOU!**