

Burnside Commons: Maker Center



street perspective from MAX line heading East along Burnside

A CULTURE OF MAKING

A cultural resource center can be interpreted in many ways. It can be a center based on the culture of the arts, a culture of the culinary, or even a culture that is simply about a neighborhood. This project attempts to identify architectural solutions to various cultures within the Portland African American community,

In discussions with organizations such as Black Male Achievement and Self Enhancement Inc (SEI), there was an interest for such a center to benefit the community as a space for job training and as well as offering spaces for the arts. Two students of Portland State University's School of Architecture collaborated to generate a space that answers both of these goals in the form of a creative campus. Called the "Burnside Commons," this would be a space for after school activities for younger generations, as well as a space for people to share their skills through collaborative learning environments. This project focusses on the making center, a space where people can have a creative outlet as well as a space to help those seeking crafting skills. To the right are goals arrived to through my interviews.



To offer mentorships and keep older generations involved in community development.

Older generations will mentor younger people in this space in an effort to pass on skills and historical knowledge. This will allow elders to still feel relevant in the neighborhood's changing dynamics.



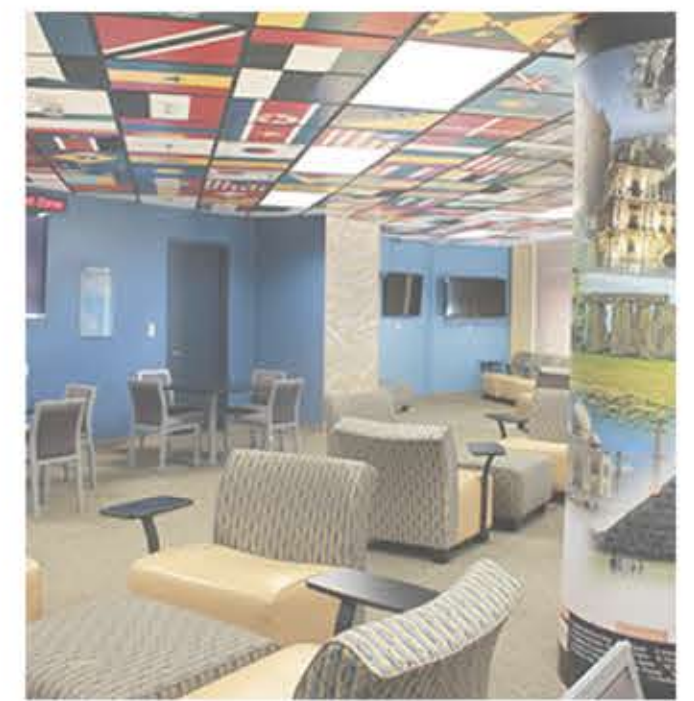
To include other ethnic groups that are also suffering social and economic disparity.

In addition to primarily focusing on black culture, this new center take into account other peoples that are struggling today. This would include hispanic and native american populations.



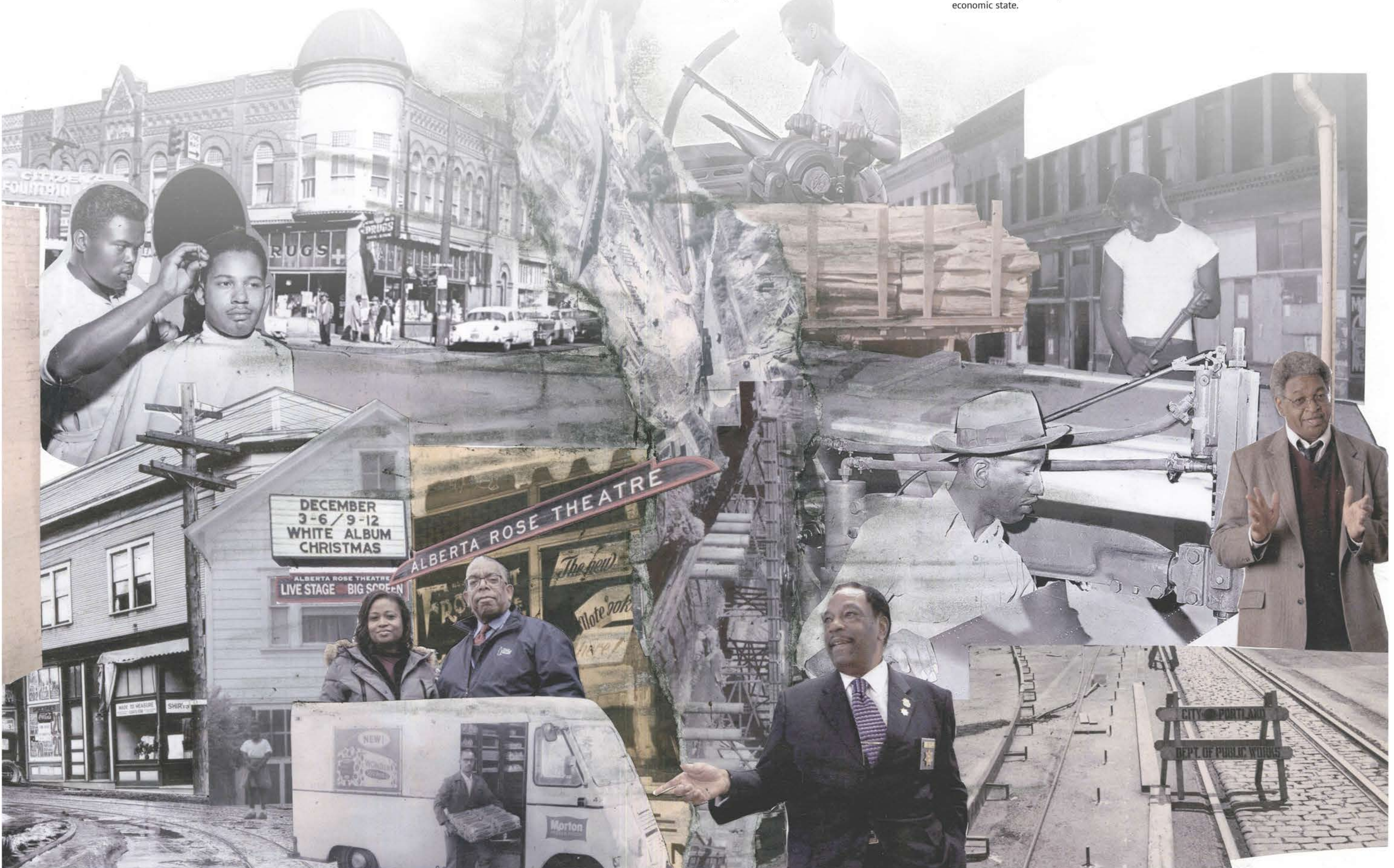
To offer opportunity for workforce development.

This center would have job training classes and counseling to broaden employment opportunities for the black population. Community workshops will be held to have an increased regional impact on the area's economic state.



To include educational resources for those still in school.

The space will include study areas as well as a computer lab for younger people needing a space to study outside of school.



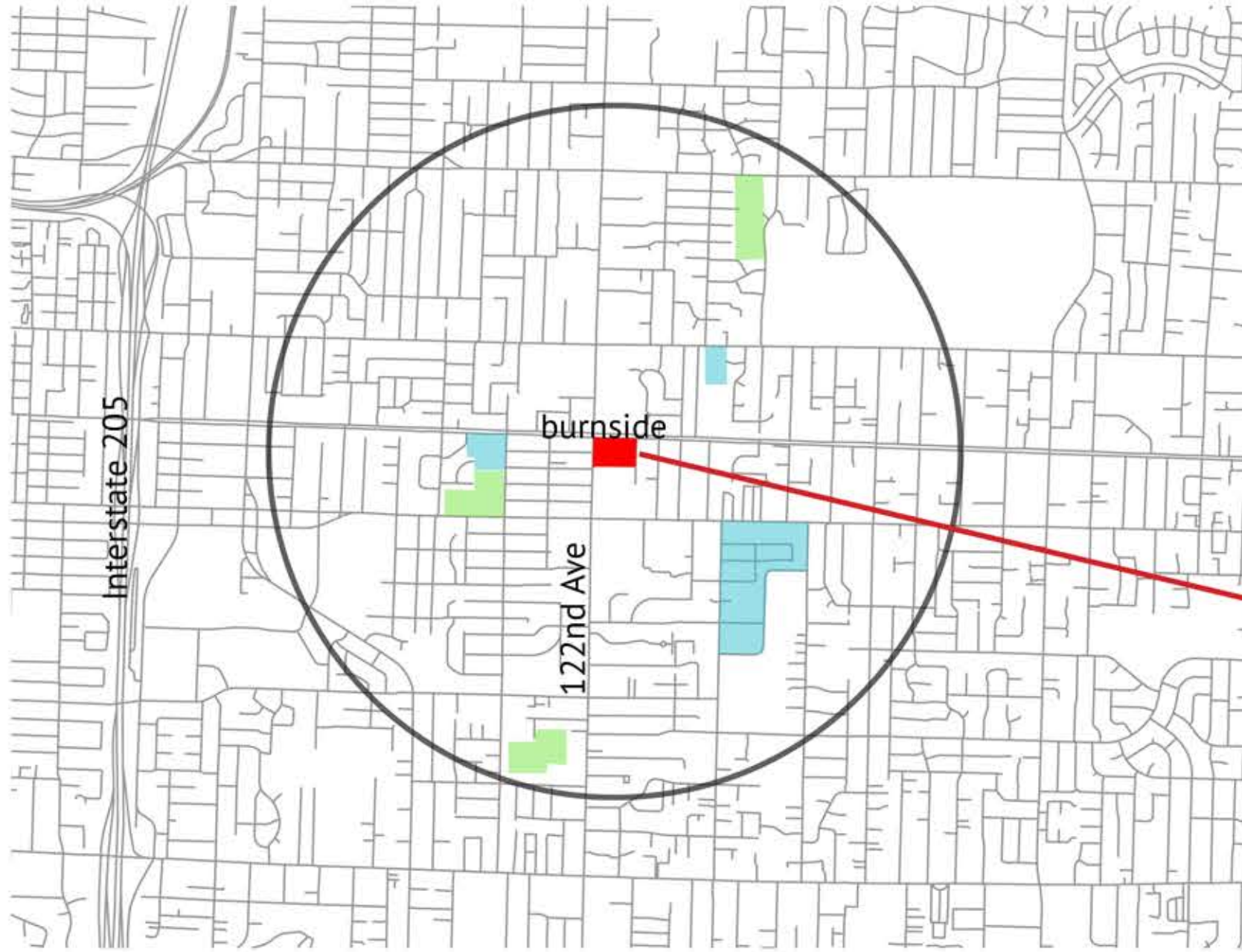
taskscape: a culture of work and making

A PLACE TO BE

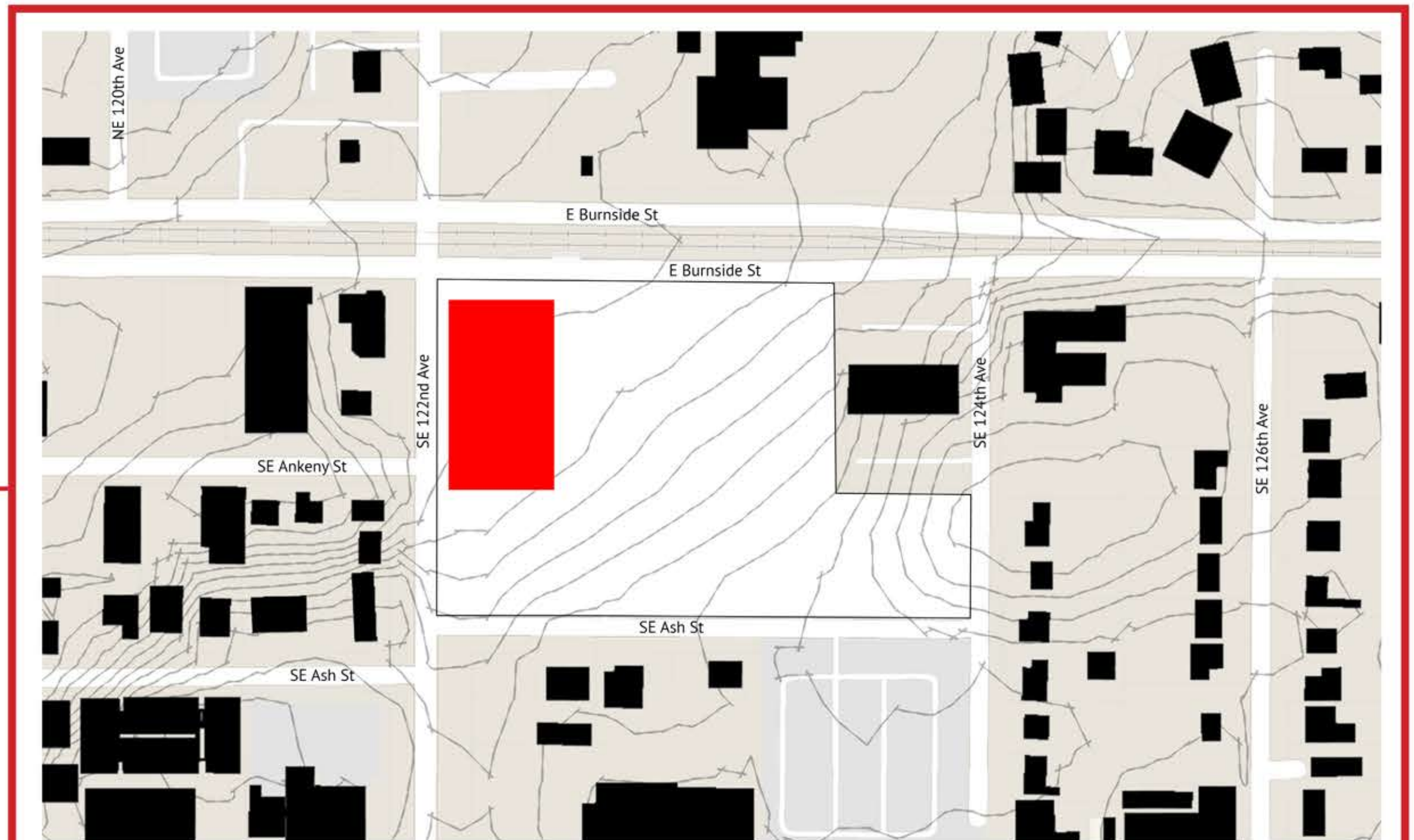
SITE LOCATION: 122ND & E BURNSIDE ST



The chosen site is a park and ride lot nearly seven miles from downtown Portland. Much of Portland's African American population now lives East of Interstate 205.



The above map indicates parks (green) and schools (blue) within a mile radius of the site. David Douglas High School is the large blue area Southeast of the site.



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Location:
SEC/122nd & E Burnside St
Portland, OR 97233

Owner: Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon

County: Multnomah

Neighborhood: Hazelwood

Regulatory Conditions:

Zone: CX - Central Commercial
Floor to Area Ratio (FAR): 4 to 1
Max Height: 75'
Min Setback: 10' on Transit Street
Campus Land Area: 4.23 acres
Property ID: R320136

TRAVEL TIME

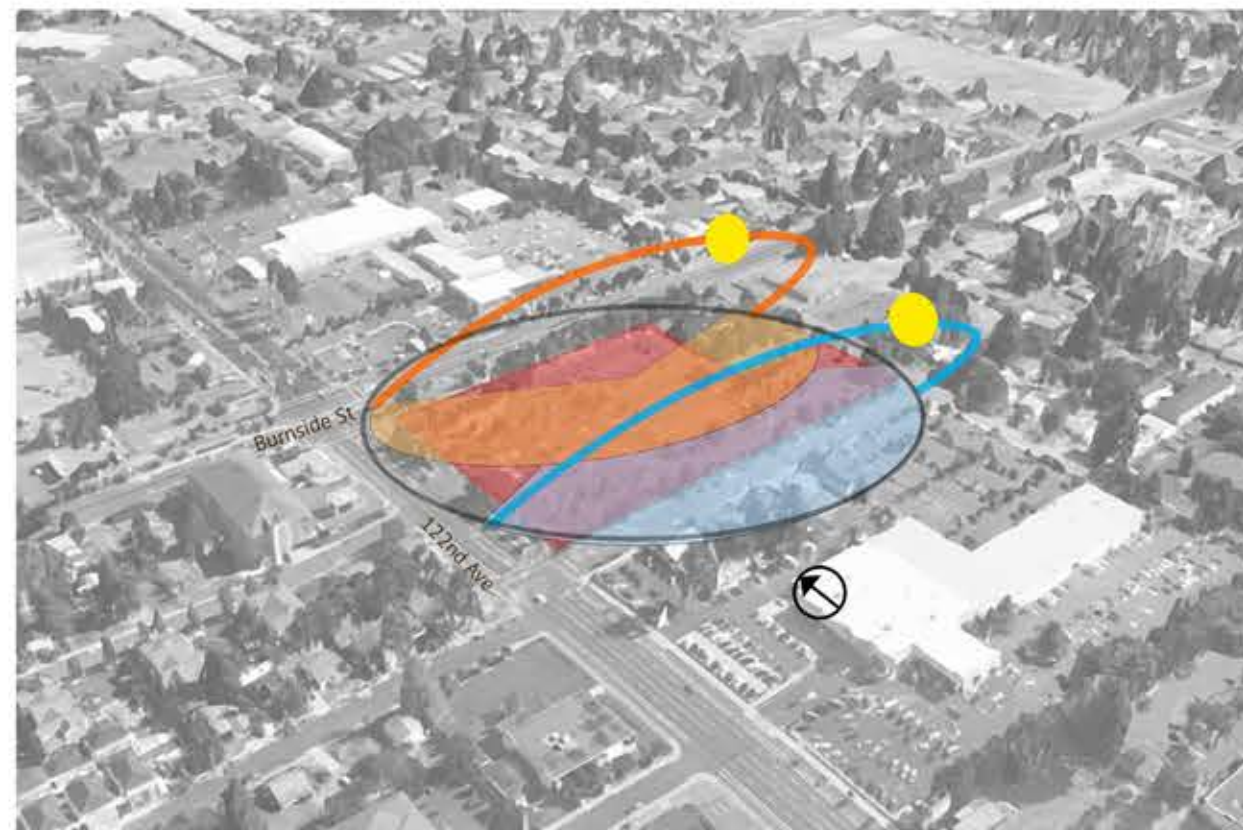


Proximities

Destination	Travel Time	Park	Distance from site
Historic Vanport	20 min (car), 1 hour (bus), 1 hour 15 min (bicycle)	Ventura Park	0.47 mi
PDX Airport	15 min (car), 34 min (bus), 39 min (bicycle)	Midland Park	0.52 mi
Union Station	16 min (car), 36 min (bus), 49 min (bicycle)	Holladay Park	0.94 mi
Downtown Portland	16 min (car), 40 min (bus), 53 min (bicycle)	Peace Community Garden	0.97 mi
Gateway TC	5 min (car), 9 min (bus), 11 min (bicycle)	Hazelwood Community Garden	0.98 mi



Site Massing: Zoning permits construction up to a maximum height of 75 feet.



Sun Trajectory: Orange path indicates summer sun, blue winter sun



Traffic: Blue lines indicate traffic along 122nd Ave, Orange along Burnside. Burnside's Traffic has only single lanes going either direction, but a TriMet Max line runs along this street.

The site is removed from the central parts of Portland. Youths in the area do not have very many afterschool spaces available to them outside of the area's schools and parks. The site is, however, at a critical junction between major flows of traffic, in addition to being along a TriMet MAX line.

Based on the the site analysis and interviews with community organizations, this site looked like an opportunity to be a skill training and community site, as well as a space that could be heavily integrated with David Douglas Highschool. In addition to being a place for training in new skills, the Maker Center would also have storefront spaces where people could display and sell the goods they craft.

CORE SERVICES

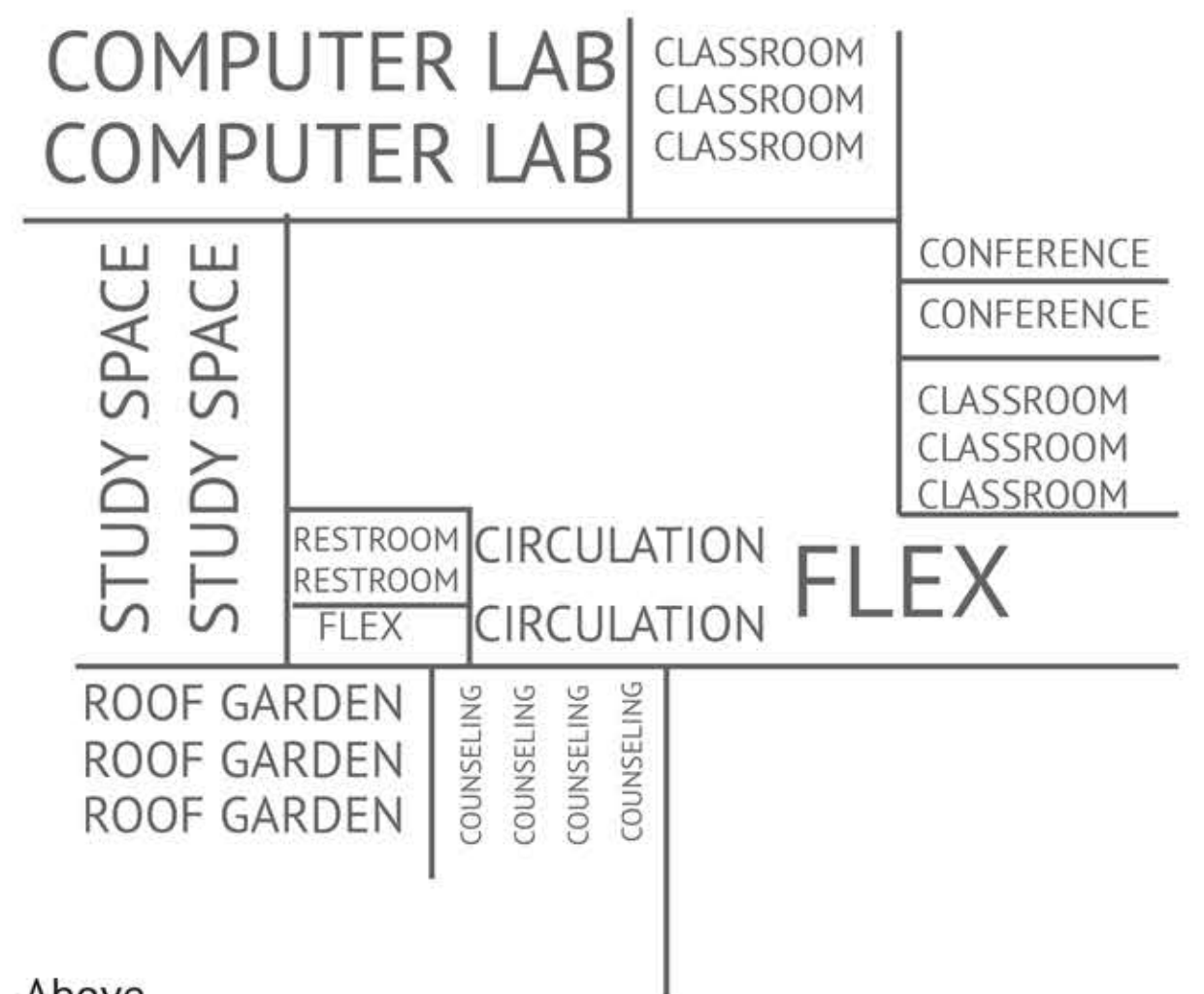


ADJACENCIES



Ground

The storefronts and making spaces project outward from the building, intended to generate interest from passers-by in a busy commercial district. Social gathering takes place within the center of this building. This space serves as a public realm where issues affecting the community can be discussed in a forum or another type of social event. A small kitchen is present to cater larger events, as well as space outside for mobile food carts just outside this central gathering space.

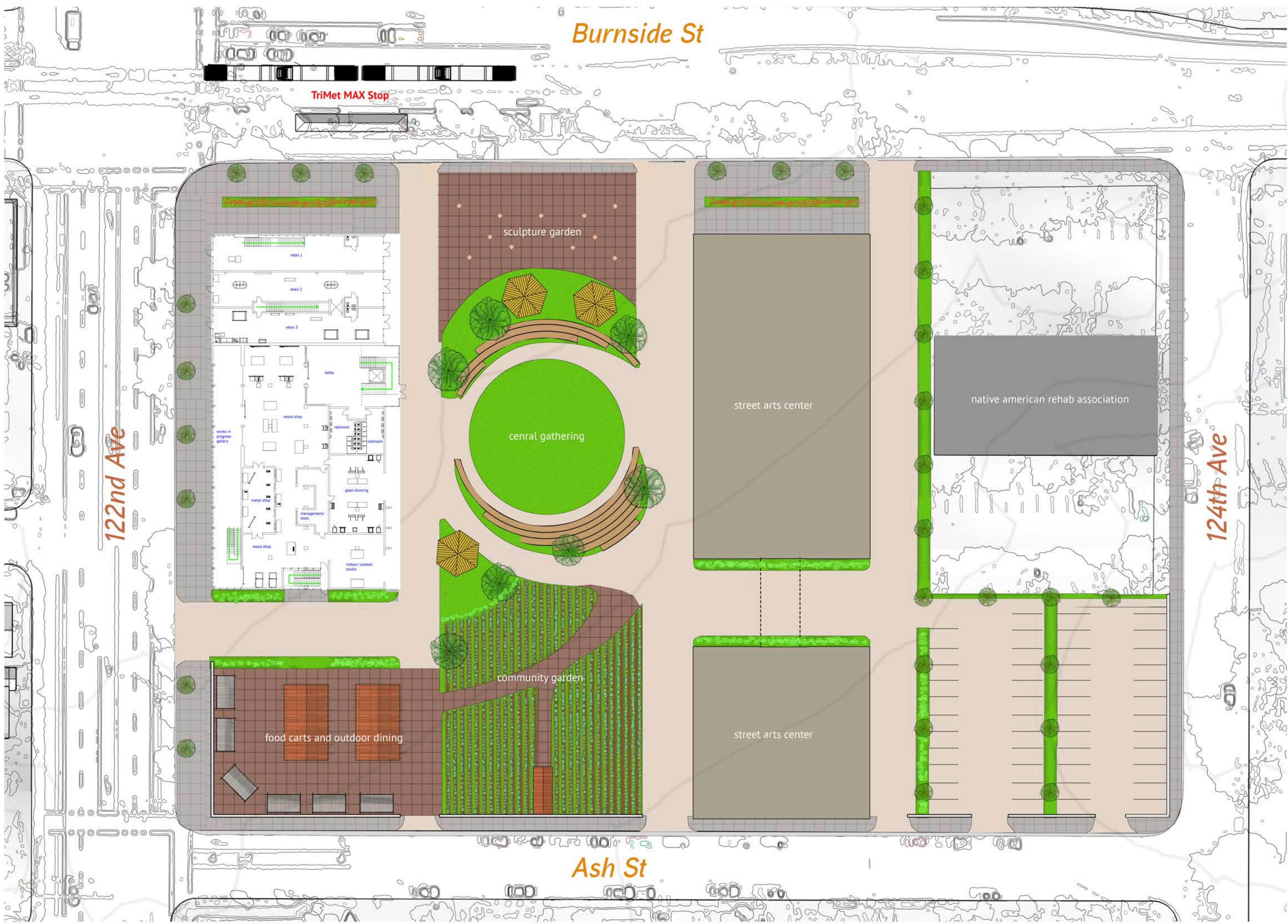


Above

Educational resources such as a computer lab and study space occupy a large portion of the upper floor. Classrooms and conference spaces are added to the perimeter of the program. Counseling and additional staff spaces provide social services. Small gathering and flex spaces are present in the middle, overlooking the gathering space on the floor below. This middle space is a large atrium, offering natural light and openness.

travel time chart produced by Tina Taeb

A PLACE TO BE



site plan: 1" = 32'



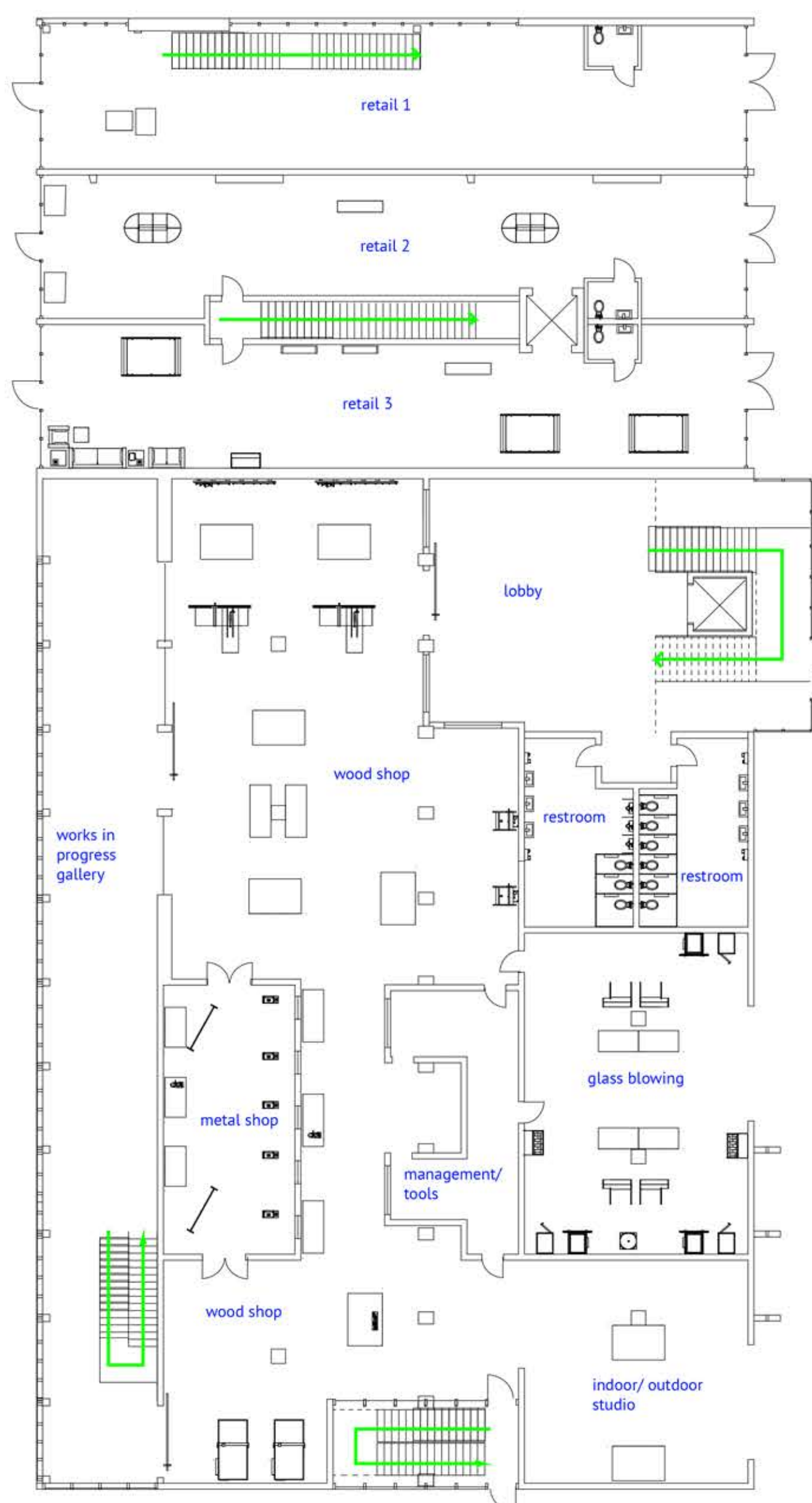
Through several reviews, it was determined that this campus should only focus on the making and street arts aspects, with a central courtyard acting as a space for larger outdoor gatherings. The Maker Center was positioned at the Northwest corner of the site, where its storefronts would have the most visibility from passing traffic. The Street Arts Center, was situated at the Southeast corner to allow for a more quiet setting that is in tune with the surrounding neighborhood.

The middle of the site takes on several roles. Sculptures can be created at the Maker Center, and so a sculpture garden was placed at the Northern portion of this site to filter the entry experience from the MAX station into the campus.

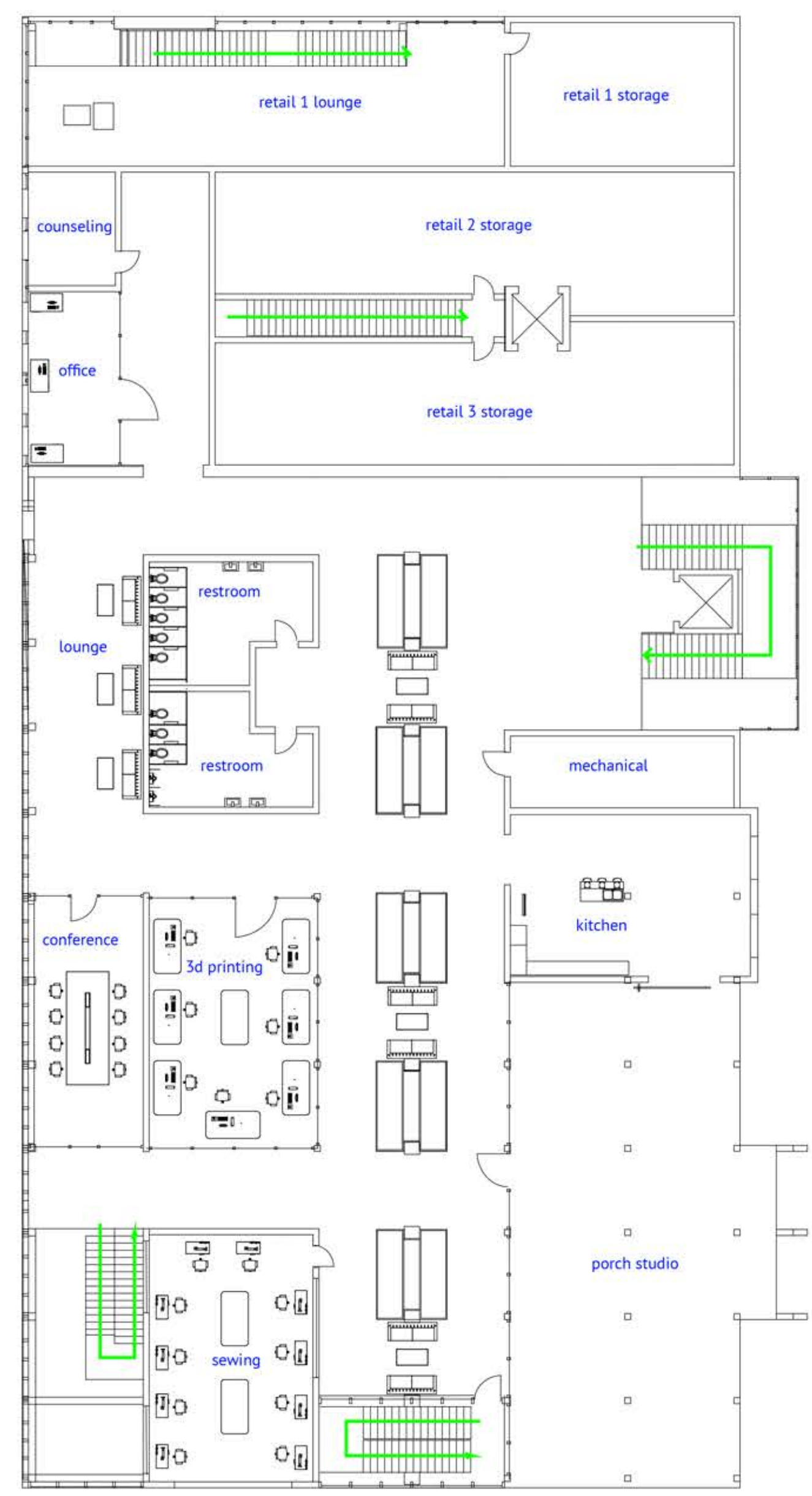
The central courtyard acts as a space where both the Maker Center and the Street Arts Center can participate in festivals and other gatherings in an outdoor setting. The main gathering space in the middle features rowed seating that circles around a large grass field.

A space for food carts was also included just South of the Maker Center. This is a region surrounded by many businesses, making it a viable possibility that food carts would thrive as a lunch option in the area.

The site also has a community garden aimed as both a food resource for the neighborhood and an educational amenity for the area's surrounding schools.



first floor: 1" = 16'



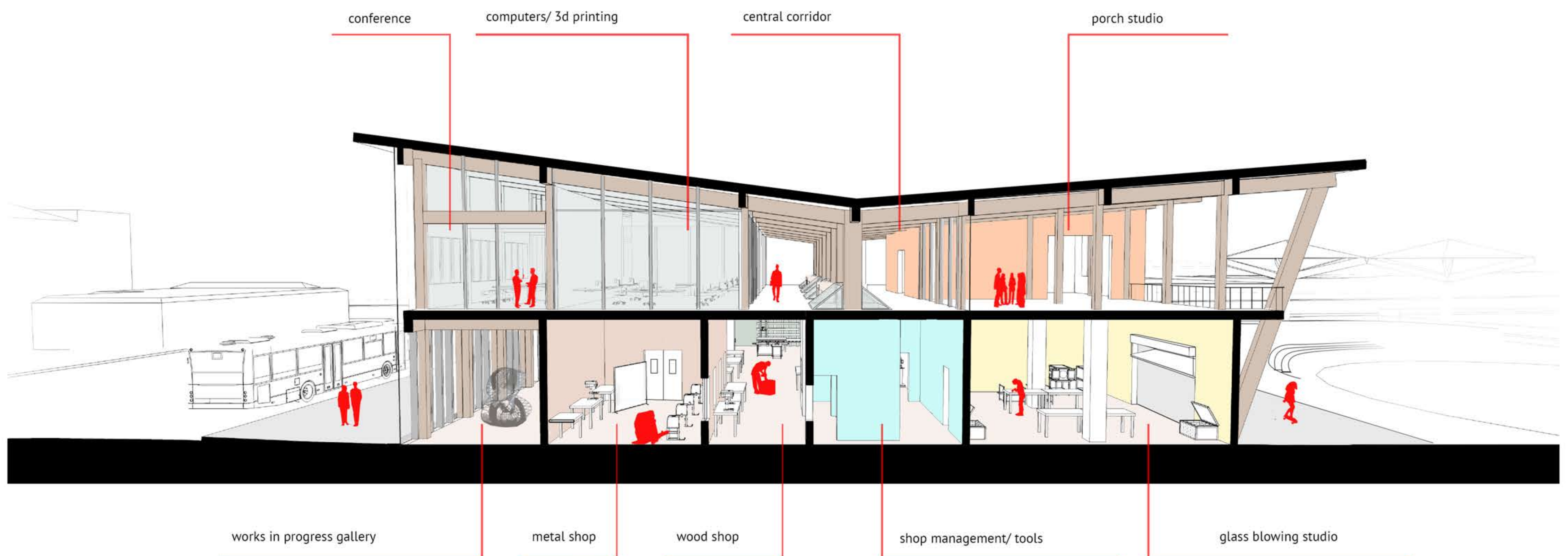
second floor: 1" = 16'



A PLACE TO BE



street perspective looking at the indoor/ outdoor studio and the porch studio



section perspective: 1" = 8'



The Maker Center would serve as a space for afterschool activities, skill training, as well as entrepreneurship. On the first floor, visitors to this center can learn a number of trades, from welding, to wood working, to glass blowing. In recognition of works in progress needing to be stored somewhere, a process gallery along the west displays the works being done at this center out to the public.

Works created at this center can then be showcased at one of the three independently operated retail stores along the North wing. The retail stores have an abundance of storage space, making it so items not showcased can still be stored in house.

The second floor of the Maker Center houses the administrative elements of the building: an office, a conference room, and a room for counseling. It is designed for less dirty trades to take place, such as 3d printing and sewing.

The porch is a significant part of the African American culture. A large open space on the Southeast corner of the second floor acts as an area for outdoor gathering and independent projects in a covered setting that is separated from the noise of the activities on the first floor.



aerial perspective looking from the intersection of Burnside and 122nd Ave: Maker Center in Yellow, Street Arts Center in Brown



A PLACE TO BE



perspective looking down central corridor on the second floor



perspective looking down the wood shop on the first floor

Connectedness was an important consideration in this project. On the second floor, the central corridor has immediate access to the majority of the floor's program. Visitors can lounge in this space and can look to either side of the corridor to see 3d printing taking place, or a class being held on the porch studio. Skylights along the corridor function as a buffer from the noise of the wood shop, but also allow for a visual connection between the upper and lower floors.

The lower floor is arranged where management is in the center. For safety reasons, this lets employees working at the management center have a view of all the activities taking place in the wood shop, metal shop, glass blowing studio, and indoor/ outdoor studio. The arrangement is also designed to have people of different professions cross paths, giving them an opportunity for dialogue.

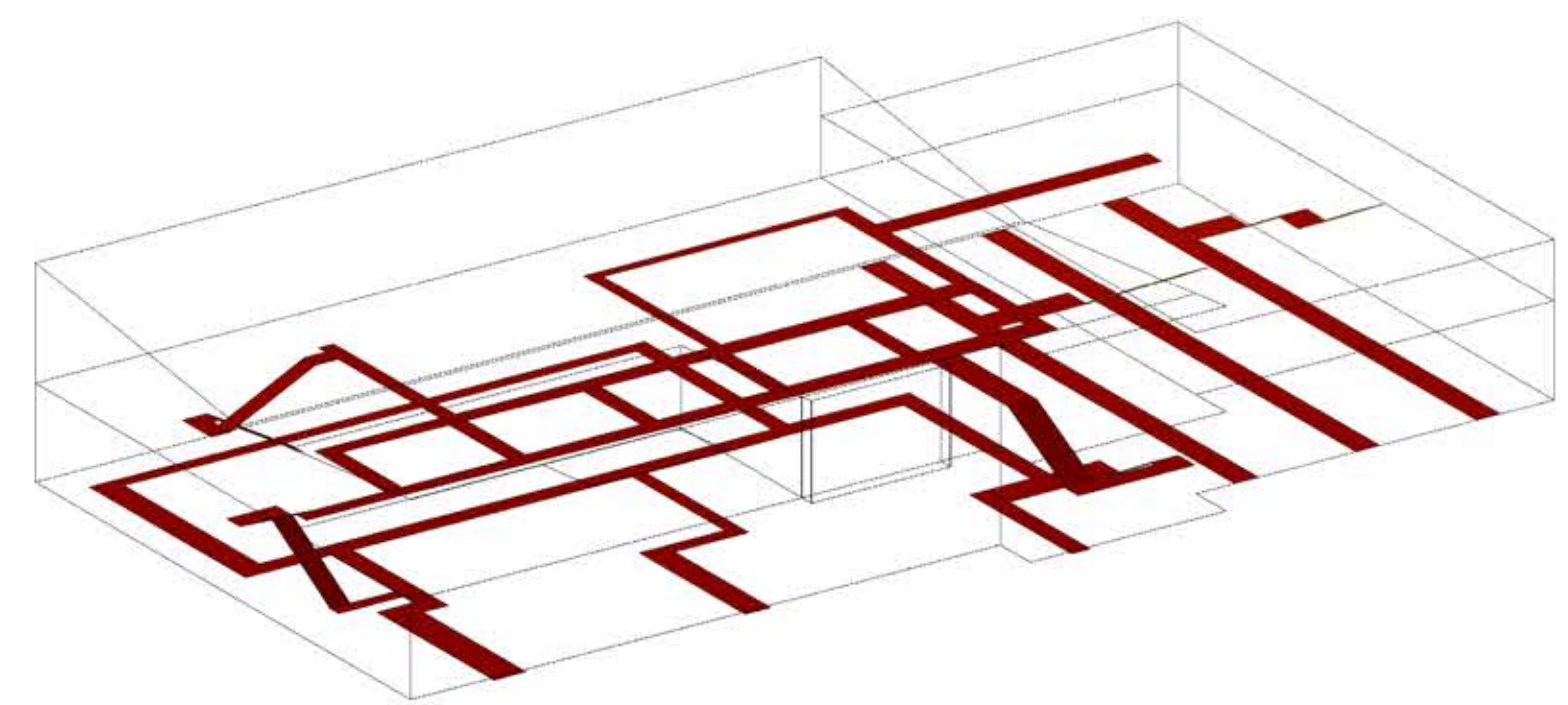


diagram: circulation

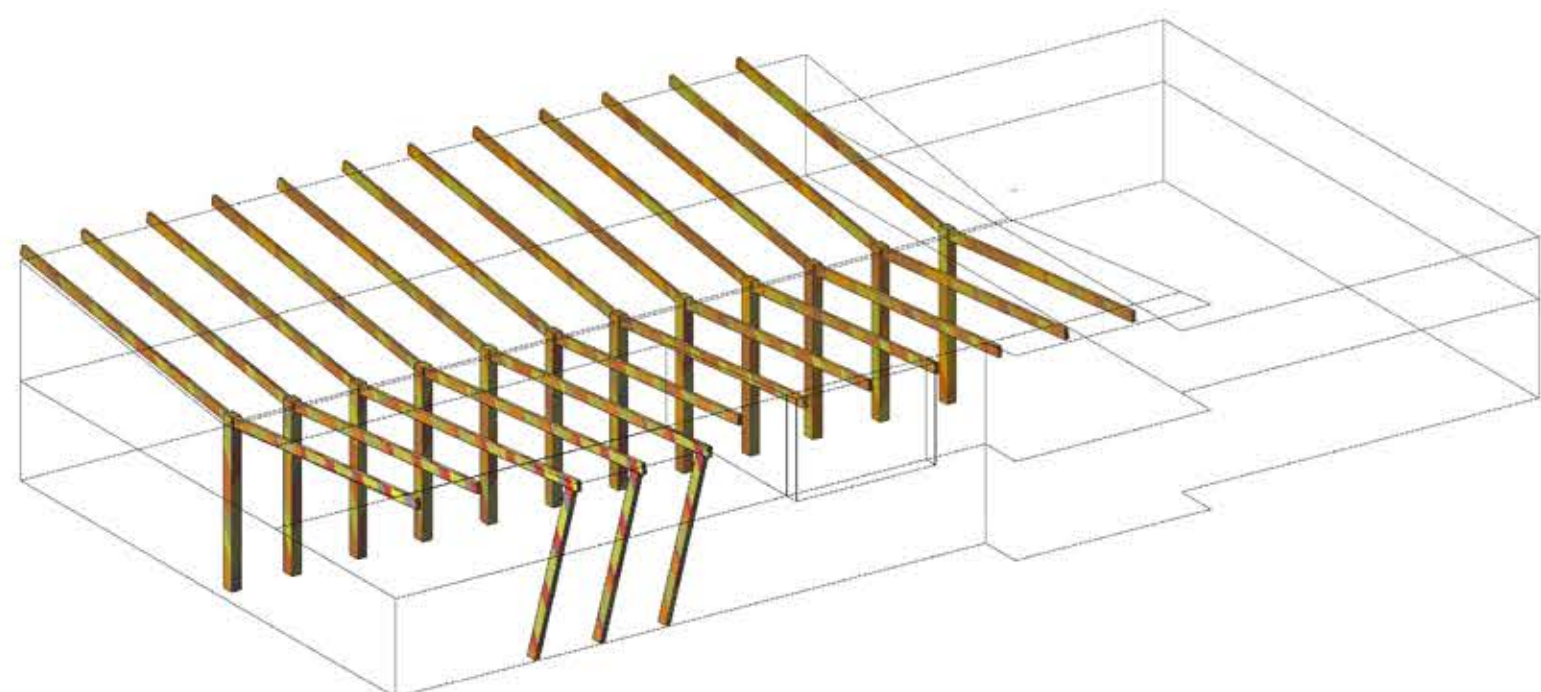


diagram: wood structure

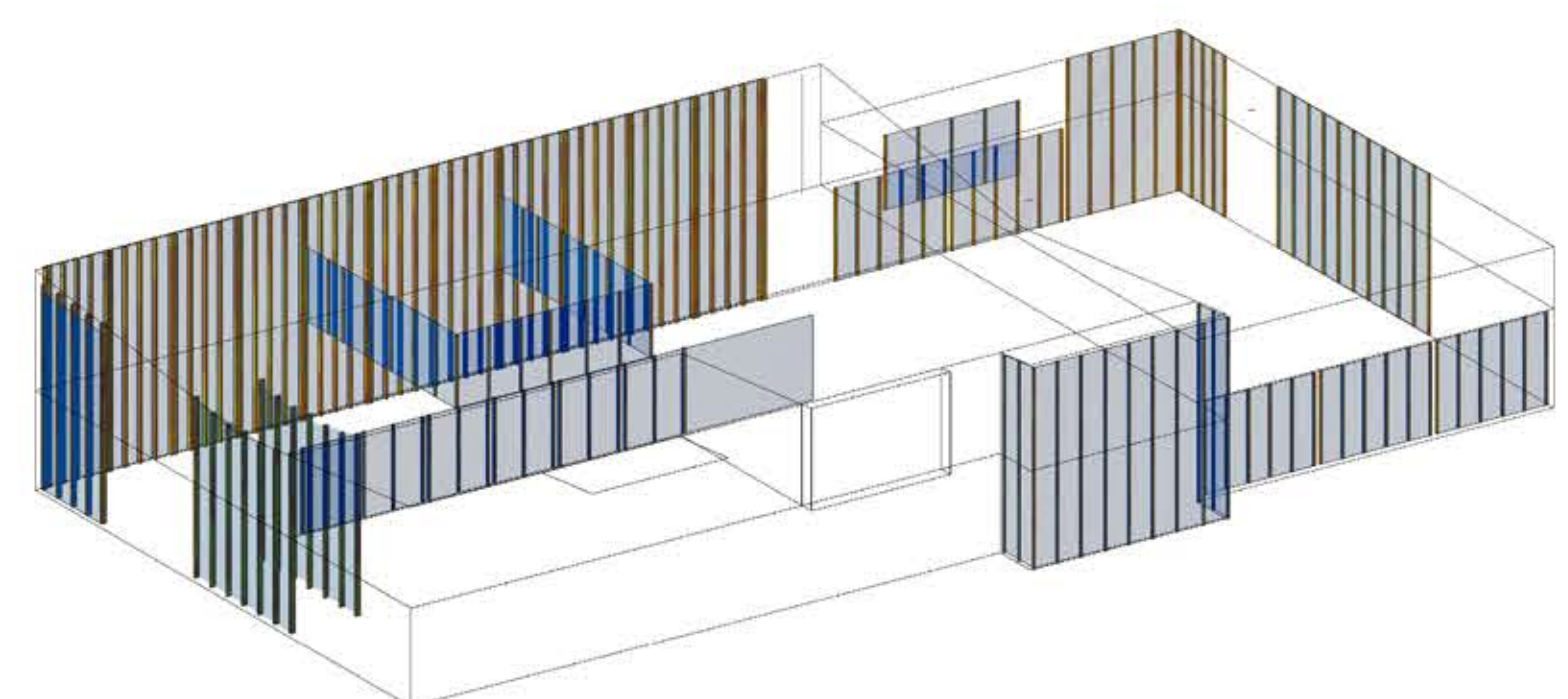


diagram: glazing