Bridging Generations

EXPLORING INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SITES TO COUNTERACT AGE SEGREGATION

Taylor Amble

North Dakota State University

"If you only talk to people like you, you'll never learn anything new." – Albert Einstein

INTRODUCTION

THE PROBLEM

Age segregation has become a norm, preventing interactions between generations.

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"us vs them"

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"us vs them"   isolation

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"us vs them"

isolation

prejudices

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loneliness

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Develop an intergenerational daycare center that provides daily services to young children and older adults.

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- Promote and facilitate relationships between the two generations.

- Allow for mutual learning and collaboration.

- Provide spaces that ensure interaction but also give separate spaces for each age for time alone or services that need to be complete.

BACKGROUND

Agricultural Dominated Economy

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One-Room Schoolhouses

PRIOR TO INDUSTRIALIZATION

Agricultural Dominated Economy

One-Room Schoolhouses

Birthday Celebrations

(Freedman & Stamp, 2018)

INDUSTRIALIZATION

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(Freedman & Stamp, 2021)

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This new American life created laws and institutions that put young people with young people and older people with older people.

As a result, age became the driving force of social organization.

(Freedman & Stamp, 2021)

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

AGE SEGREGATION

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This is leading to a lack of essential opportunities for these two generations to meet and interact.

(Levy & Banaji, 2002).

RESULTS OF AGE SEGREGATION

It can increase the risk of individuals becoming isolated later in life and prevent socialization between the young and old.

It can trigger a contradictory view of each other.

It does not allow for the creation of a generative society.

HOW CAN WE BRING TOGETHER THE YOUNG AND OLD?

INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SITES

WHAT ARE INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SITES?

Intergenerational shared sites are programs that intentionally unite younger and older generations in a physical location with activities that bring them together.

QUICK HISTORY OF I.G. SHARED SITES

One of the first known programs in the U.S. was the Foster Grandparent and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs created in 1965.

In 1986, Generations United was created to help improve the lives of youth and older adults through intergenerational programs.

These two programs have been leaders in the development of intergenerational programs around the United States and continue to advocate for the interaction between generations.

(Generations United, 2023)

INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SITES

Youth assist older adults, older adults assist youth, youth and older adults work towards a mutual goal or serve the community together, and shared care sites.
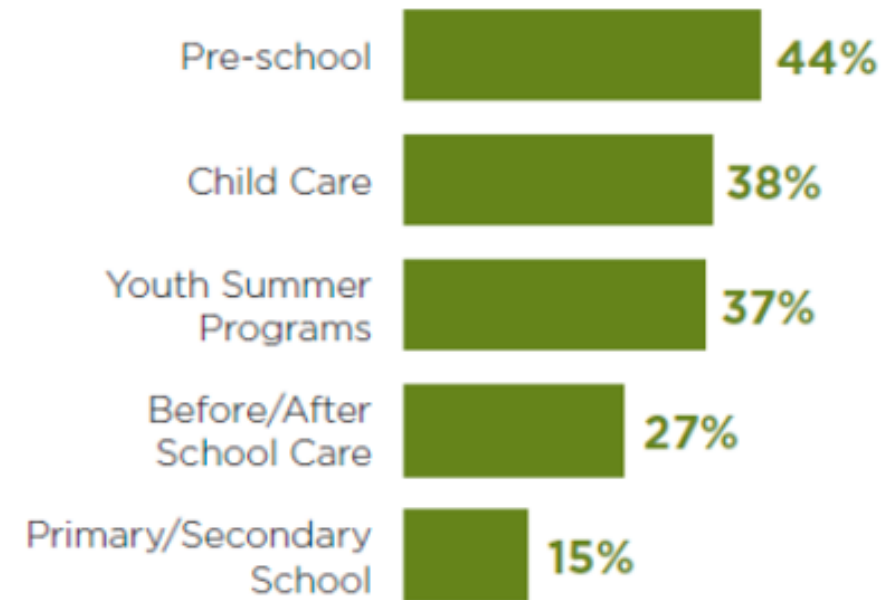
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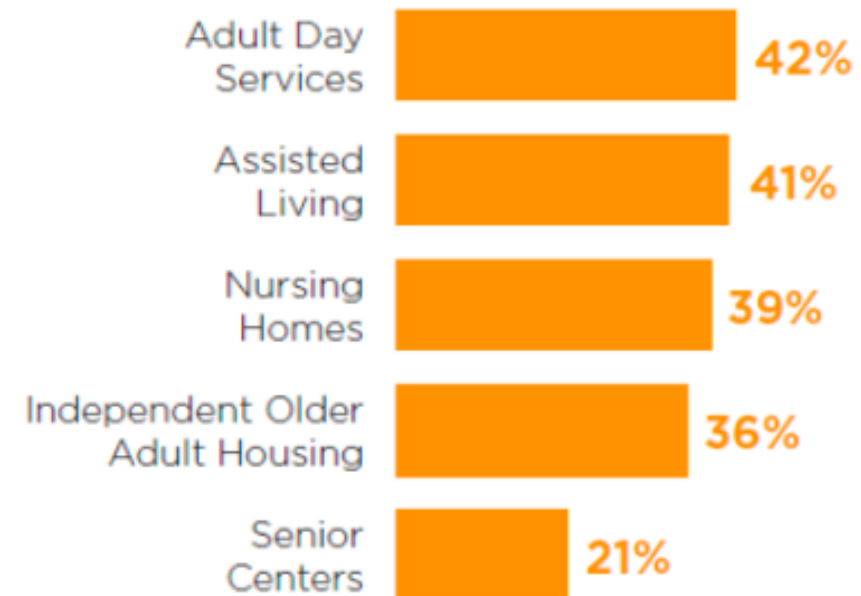
This types of programs can share rooms, resources, staff and can be ran by the same organization or a different entity.

(S. E. Jarrott & Lee, 2023)   (Gilchrist, n.d.; S. Jarrott & Bruno, 2007)

INTERGENERATIONAL
SHARED SITE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Most Common Children/Youth Programs

Program	Percentage
Pre-school	44%
Child Care	38%
Youth Summer Programs	37%
Before/After School Care	27%
Primary/Secondary School	15%

Most Common Older Adult Programs

Program	Percentage
Adult Day Services	42%
Assisted Living	41%
Nursing Homes	39%
Independent Older Adult Housing	36%
Senior Centers	21%

Source: Generations United/The Ohio State University 2018 Survey of Shared Site Intergenerational Programs sponsored by The Eisner Foundation and included in "All In Together: Creating Spaces Where Young and Old Thrive."

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

BENEFITS OF I.G. SHARED SITES

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Education and Learning

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Education and Learning

Health and Wellness

BENEFITS OF I.G. SHARED SITES

Education and Learning

Health and Wellness

Community Building

(B, 2021)

WHAT IS NEEDED?

DEVELOPMENT

FOUR PHASES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHARED SITES:

Creating the Vision **1**

2 Making it Work

Maintaining Momentum **4**

3 Building Intergenerational Relationships

Note: This model was produced in a report by Generations United and The Eisner Foundation on the development of shared sites. From The Best of Both Worlds: A Closer Look at Creating Spaces that Connect Young and Old, by The Eisner Foundation and Generations United, 2019. Copyright 2019 by The Eisner Foundation and Generations United.

DEVELOPMENT

Incorporate Mechanisms for Friendship

Select or Set the Environment

Provide Training to Staff or Participant Groups

Foster Empathy

Offer Meaningful Roles

Be Mindful of Time and Scheduling

Offer Something Novel

Convey Equal Group Status

Use Technology

Train Facilitators to Promote Interaction

Structure Activities for Flexibility

Promote Cooperation

Ensure Authority Figures Endorse Intergenerational Contact

(S. E. Jarrott et al., 2021; Generations United, 2021)

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DESIGN ELEMENTS

Accessibility and Universal Design

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Spatial Layout

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Accessibility and Universal Design

Spatial Layout

Indoor Spaces

DESIGN ELEMENTS

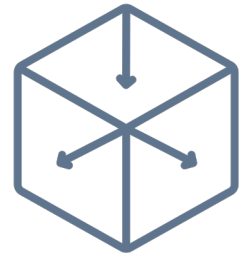Accessibility and Universal Design

Spatial Layout

Indoor Spaces

Outdoor Spaces

Note: This is a shared garden at Ebenezer Ridges, a senior living facility in Burnsville, MN. From Designing, by Generations United, 2021. (http://www.sharingourspace.org/designing/). Copyright 2021 by Generations United.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Accessibility and Universal Design

Spatial Layout

Indoor Spaces

Outdoor Spaces

Interior Design
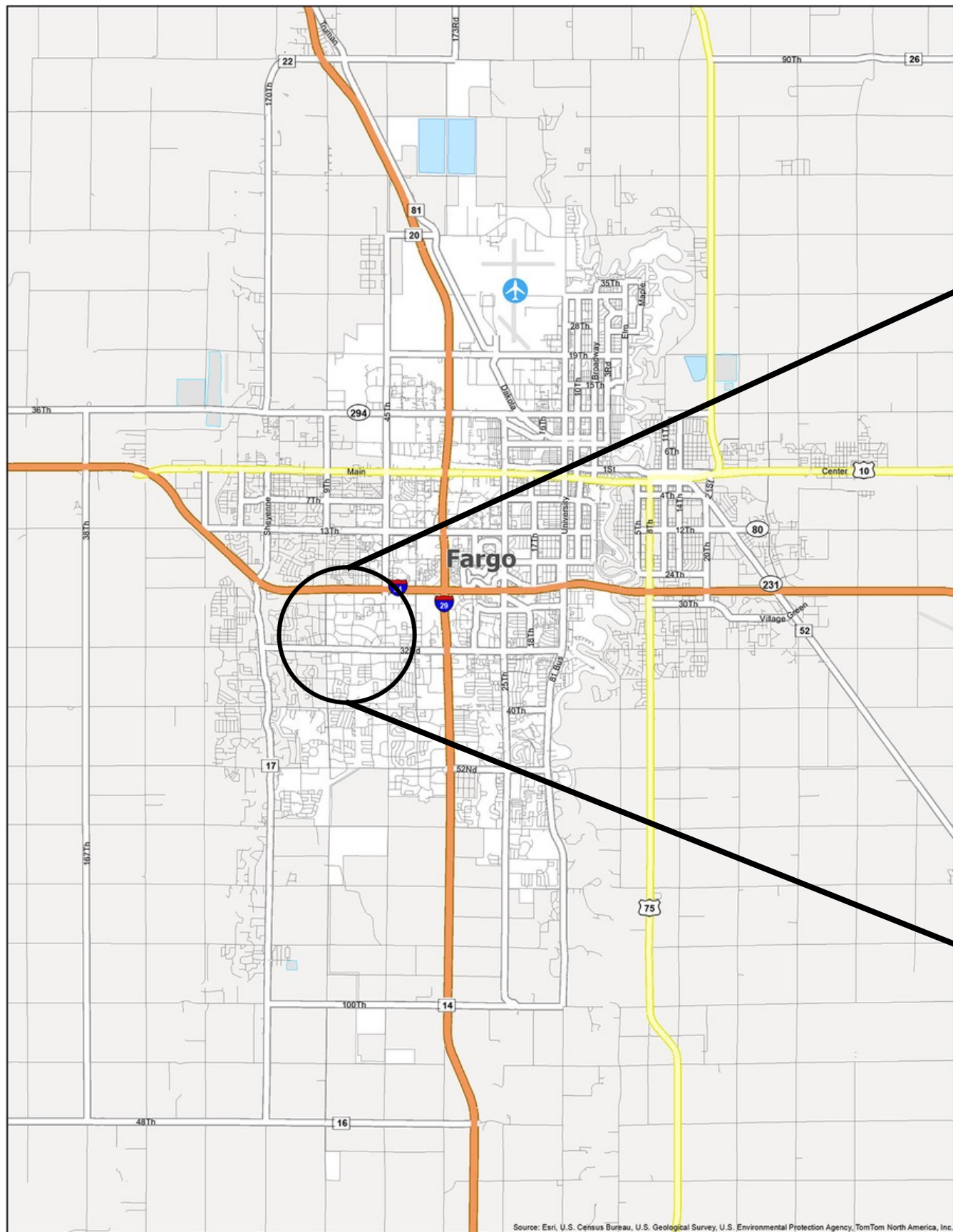
PROJECT GOALS

RELATIONSHIPS

COMMUNITY

EDUCATE

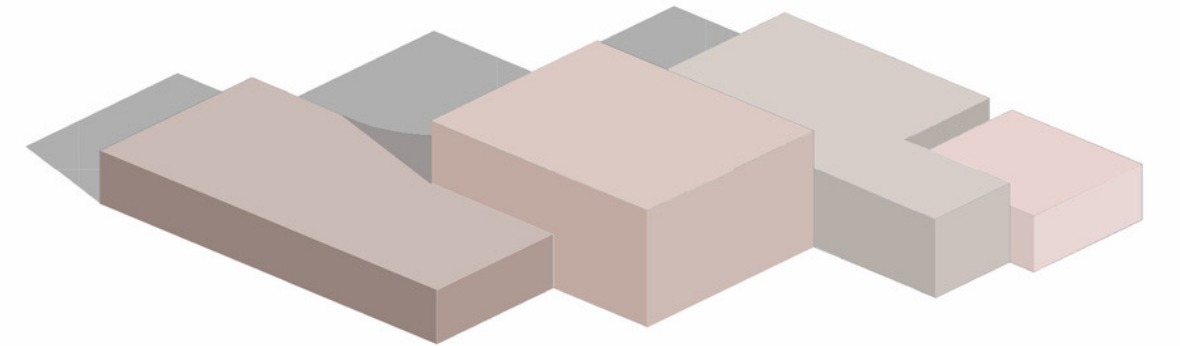CONNECTION
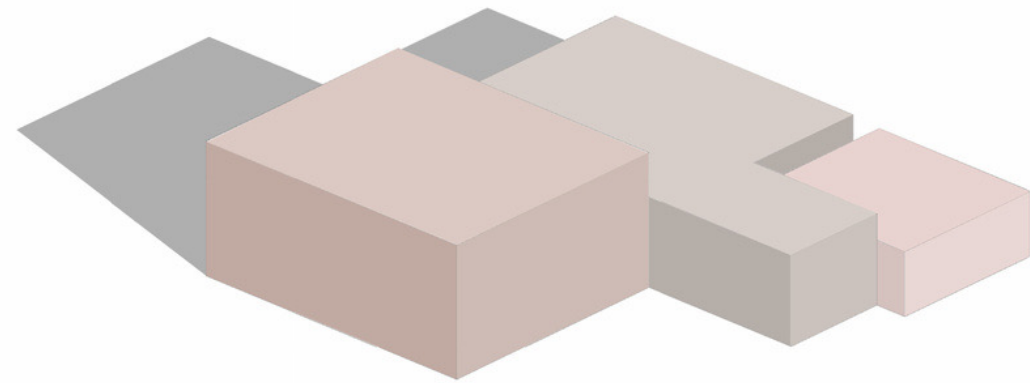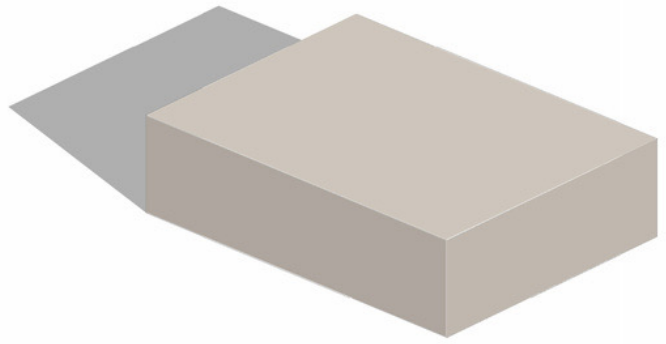
SITE

LOCATION

Fargo

The selected site is located in the Urban Plains neighborhood in Fargo, ND. The site was selected for its location near the Scheels Arena, residential housing, Sanford Hospital, the YMCA Learning Center, Urban Plains Park, and easy access to 32nd Avenue.

SANFORD HOSPITAL

23 AVE S

23 AV

55 ST S

51 ST S

PARK & WALKING PATHS

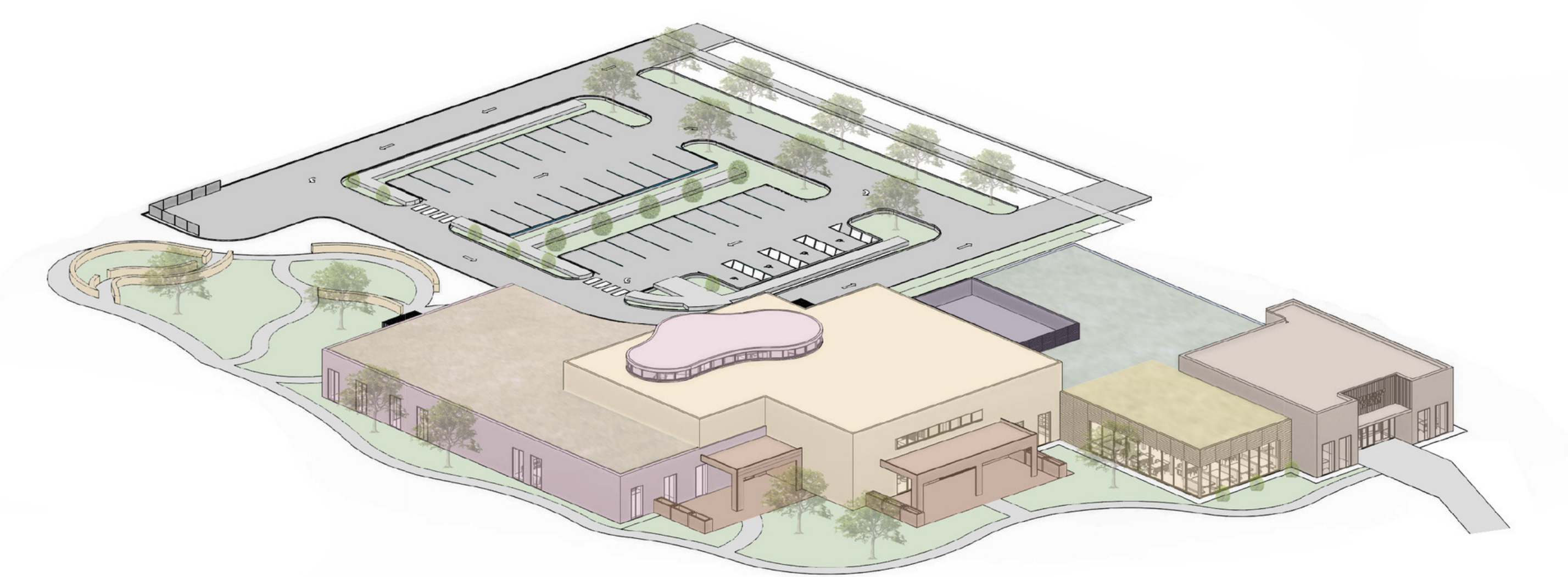SCHEELS ARENA

32 AVE S

N

45 ST S

SCALE 1:18,000

PROGRAM

MASS TRANSFORMATION

PROGRAMMING

CHILDREN'S AREA

ADMINISTRATION

INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SPACES

SHARED PATIOS

OLDER ADULT'S AREA

MECHANICAL

MASTER PLAN

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

YMCA LEARNING CENTER

URBAN PLAINS PARK

72'   144'   288'
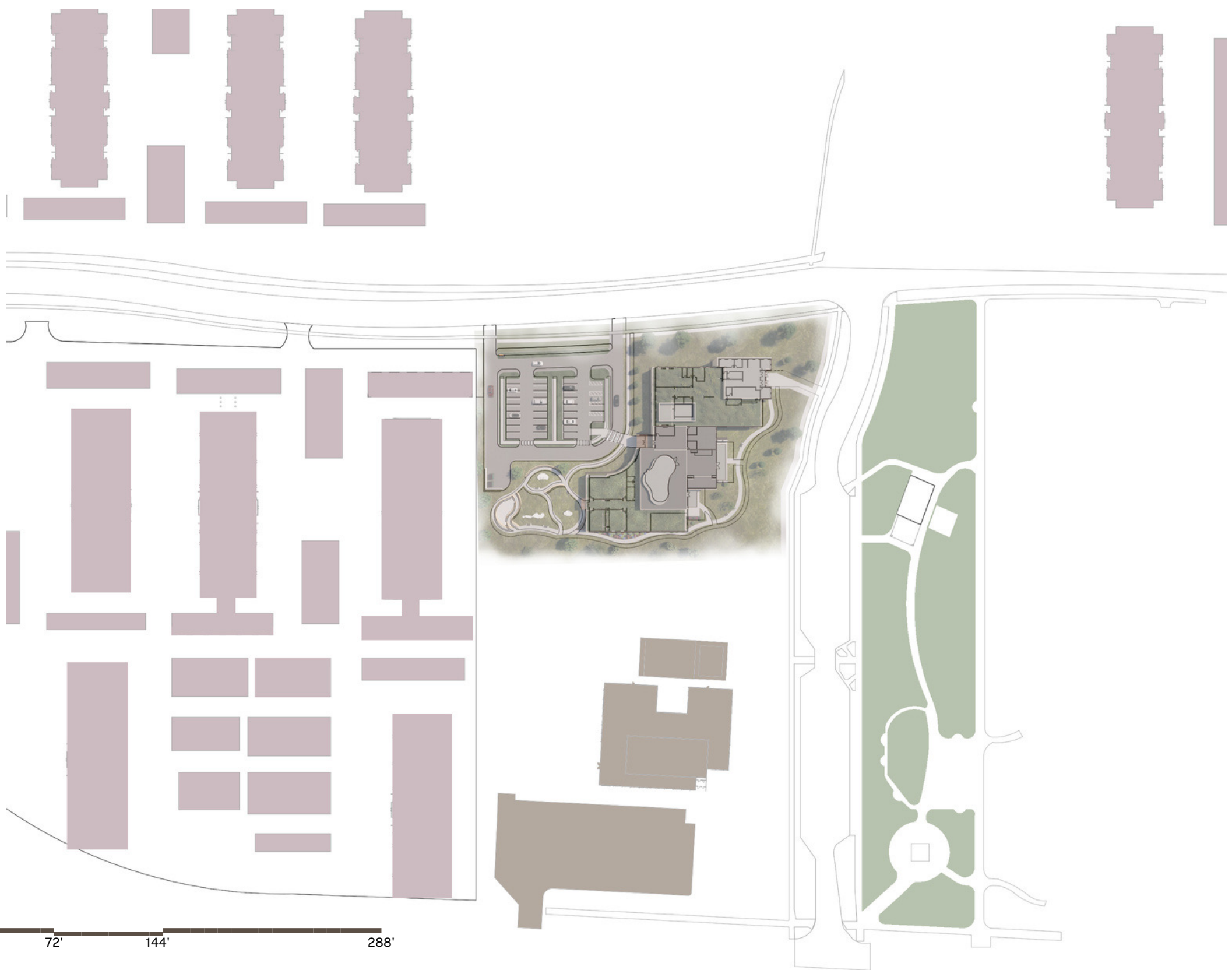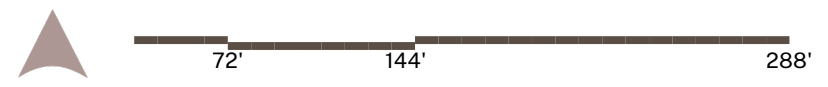
DESIGN

HARMONY HAVEN

FLOOR PLAN

PROGRAM ROOM

ADMINISTRATION

DINING ROOM

THEATER

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

INDOOR PLAY AREA

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

PHYSICAL THERAPY

LIBRARY

OLDER ADULT REC AREA

NURSE

COFFEE BAR

MEDIA ROOM

RESTROOMS

MECHANICAL

CIRCULATION

24'   48'   96'

FLOOR PLAN

PROGRAM ROOM

ADMINISTRATION

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24'   48'   96'

12'   24'   48'

HARMONY HAVEN
bridging generations.

LOBBY

KID AREAS

12'   24'   48'

PROGRAM ROOM

HALLWAY

INDOOR PLAY AREA

OLDER ADULT AREAS

12' 24' 48'

OLDER ADULT RECREATION ROOM

MULTIMEDIA ROOM

GYM

12'   24'   48'

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

LIBRARY

DINING ROOM

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

OLDER ADULT RECREATION

INDOOR PLAY

MULTIPURPOSE RECREATION

MASS

URBAN PLAINS
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

BRIDGING GENERATIONS:

EXPLORING INTERGENERATIONAL SHARED SITES TO COUNTERACT
AGE SEGREGATION

PROGRAMMING

- CHILDREN'S AREA
- INTERGENERATIONAL
- SHARED SPACES
- OLDER ADULT'S AREA
- ADMINISTRATION
- SHARED PATIOS
- MECHANICAL

ENVIRONMENT & SITE

REDUCED PARKING TO UTILIZE
CITY PROVIDED STREET PARKING

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

OUTDOOR PATIOS

GREEN ROOF

NATIVE PLANTINGS

MASTER

- RESIDENTIAL HOUSING
- YMCA LEARNING CENTER
- URBAN PLAINS PARK

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA
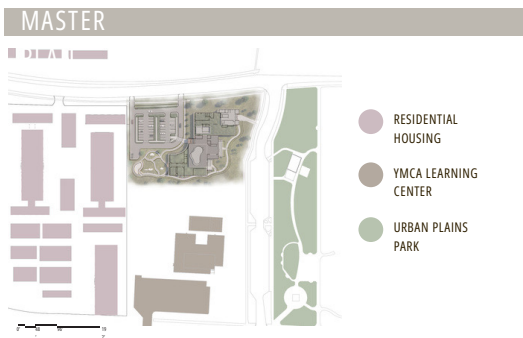
HARMONY HAVEN

Age segregation is a growing concern in the United States. The young and old can facilitate meaningful relationships to bridge the gap that has formed between these two generations. This leads to the formation of stereotypes and prejudices that reduce understanding and empathy.

Pairing together the young and old can facilitate meaningful relationships that push to keep societies together. Intergenerational shared sites offer services with a shared program between youth and older adults. These sites can address topics such as physical, cognitive, mental health, social isolation, and loneliness in both parties involved. In addition, children can benefit from having relationships with an older adult who can provide care and mentoring that correlate to developmental skills that are essential in young people.

Harmony Haven is an intergenerational day care center that provides daily care to older adults and young children while providing spaces that allow for activities that provide learning and collaboration between participants. The program ensures that are separate spaces for each age to allow for time alone or separate services while also providing spaces that allow for the overlap between generations.

PROJECT GOALS

- RELATIONSHIPS
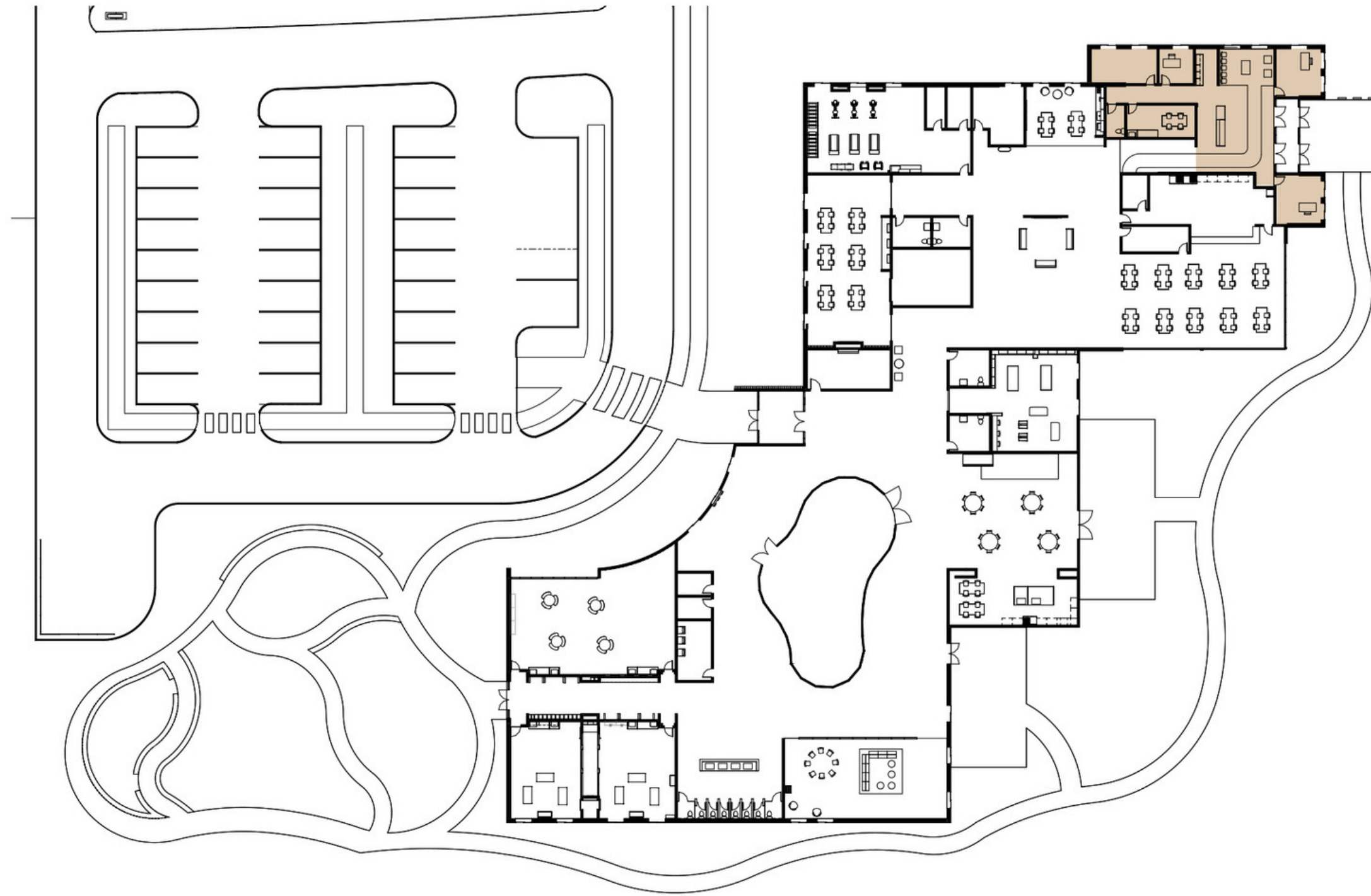- COMMUNITY
- EDUCATE
- CONNECTION

FLOOR PLAN

- PROGRAM ROOM
- ADMINISTRATION
- DINING ROOM
- THEATER
- MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
- INDOOR PLAY AREA
- COMMUNITY KITCHEN
- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- LIBRARY
- OLDER ADULT REC AREA
- NURSE
- COFFEE BAR
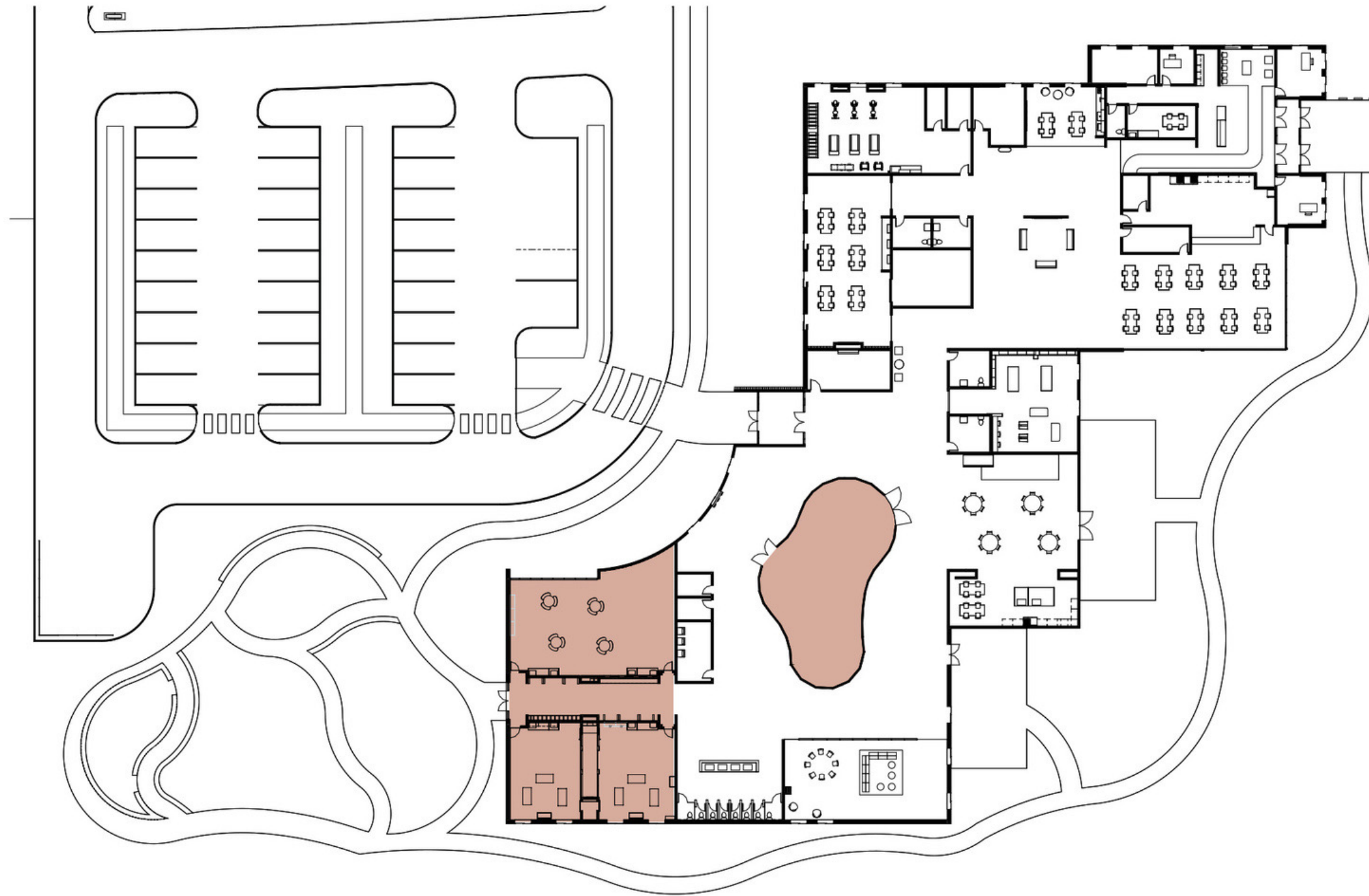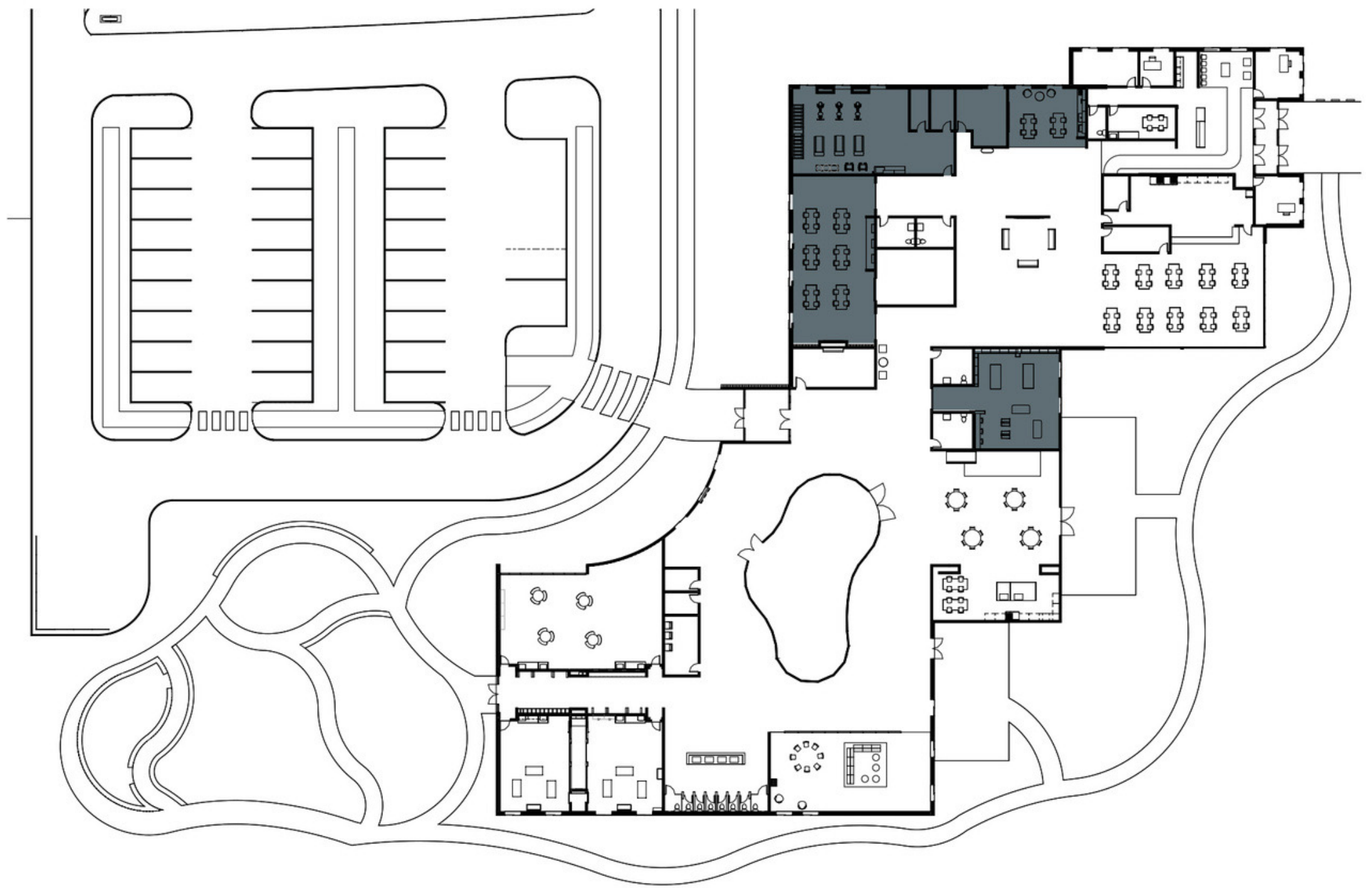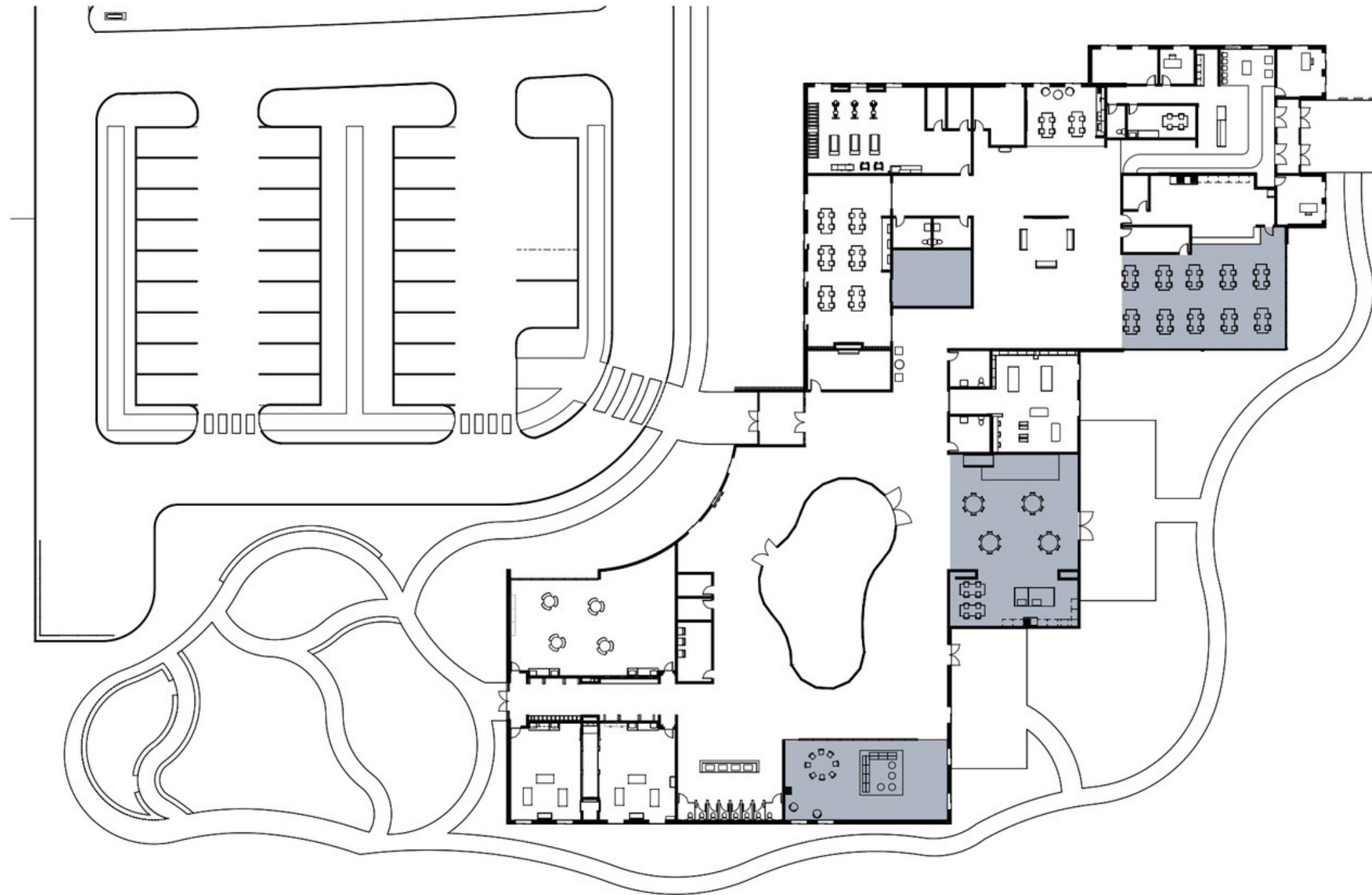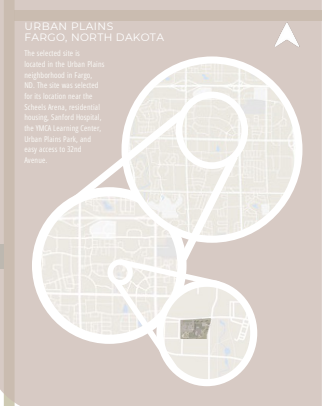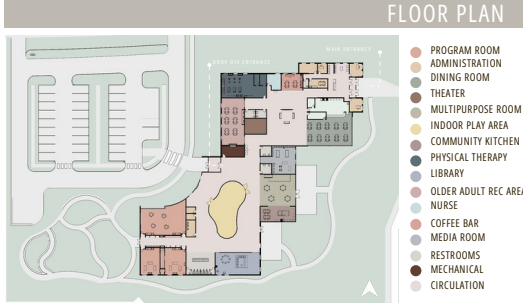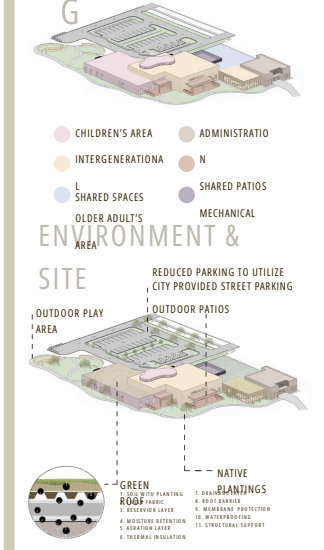- MEDIA ROOM
- RESTROOMS
- MECHANICAL
- CIRCULATION

LOBBY

PROGRAM

PHYSICAL THERAPY

ELEVATION

INTERGENERATIONAL SPACES

DINING

The dining room provides the opportunity for the young and old to enjoy a meal together and have conversations that can be educational and meaningful.

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM & COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The multipurpose room becomes a space to hold intergenerational activities. The stage can allow for performances and the community kitchen can bring generations together to cook and learn side by side. Window seating and tables allow for this space to be transformed for different events or ease of access.

THEATER

The theater can allow for different movies to be watched together, along with informational videos for both the young and old.

LIBRARY

The library provides a space for both generations to come and read together. Older adults can read to the younger generation, or the young can learn to read. With a comfortable seating areas are provided for larger group events or small one on one time. In addition to the main library space, there is a media space more aimed for older adults for a quieter reading or media time.

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AREA & OUTDOOR PATIOS

Harmony Haven provides different outdoor spaces for both generations to gather. On the east side of the building, there are covered patios for use in the outdoors. This allows for the opportunity for older adults and children to plant and garden together. On the west side of the building, there is an outdoor play area with different play equipment for children along with seating and walking paths for older adults. There are ample walking paths around the building that can be used at any time.

NORTH ELEVATION

WEST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION

Thank you!

Taylor Amble

North Dakota State University

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