Decreased funding has led to a diminished role for arts in children's lives, even though arts education is known to be a crucial component in academic achievement, emotional development, civic engagement and sensory stimulation. Creative Core restores and reasserts arts education in neighborhoods that lack arts-based facilities.

Located at the border of the Auburn Gresham and Englewood neighborhoods, the proposed program capitalizes on a neighboring playground and roller skating rink as an area where young people already gather.

Community engagement begins with the "Front Porch," a place for neighborhood events and a public showcase for art produced at Creative Core. The next layer of engagement is an openly planned interior that houses educational programs hosted by volunteer local artists. These flexible spaces support activities for culinary, performance, music and visual arts activities.

The Enclosed Garden not only provides respite, but also a source of edible ingredients for the culinary programs. These combined spaces provide the ideal environment for programs focused on creative engagement, and allow for varying levels of involvement by community members.
SHED is a modern grange that celebrates Sonoma County's rich agricultural heritage. With a shared passion for food and farming, founders Cindy Daniel and Doug Lipton sought to create a space that celebrates the complete food cycle—the growing, preparation and enjoyment of food.

The building's open, light-filled barn-like design has received local and national acclaim, garnering a design award from the James Beard Foundation. Visitors can choose various levels of engagement, from sampling the region's diverse produce to purchasing locally crafted farming tools to learning the tricks of the trade at workshops hosted by various artisans. A large, flexible event space acts as a community resource, a setting for talks, exhibits, film screenings, seed exchanges, farmer meet-ups, dinners and more.

SHED reaffirms the oft-severed connection between farming and people and seeks to re-engage and educate the community on its age-old traditions.