

1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1403
Tel: 215.564.6004
Fax: 215.564.1865



June 26, 2024

Via E-mail

Rebuild Project: **Vogt Recreation Center**
 4131 Unruh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19135

Project User: **Community Ventures**

Re: Conceptual Construction Approval from the Art Commission

To the Art Commission Members:

Community Ventures, the project user for the Rebuild Vogt Recreation Center project referenced above, is submitting this letter for your consideration to review the design of the Vogt Recreation Center project during the scheduled Art Commission Meeting on July 10, 2024. This letter is preceding the presentation package which will be submitted on July 03, 2024.

The Vogt Recreation Center, an existing 15.83-acre site with playground, swimming pool, spray area, hockey rink, tennis and basketball courts, baseball fields and batting cages. and a recreation building which has gymnasium, offices and multi-purpose rooms for activities. The Vogt Recreation Center was selected by the City of Philadelphia's Rebuild initiative to receive improvements. The facility is in the Tacony neighborhood of Philadelphia. The multi-block site is bordered on the north by rowhomes, to the east by Knorr Street, to the south by Cottage Street, and to the west by Unruh Avenue. The construction budget for the project is \$6,250,000.

The Vogt Recreation Center building is in fair condition. The 16,000-sf split-level brick and concrete masonry structure has a partial basement and was built in the 1960s with an addition in the 1980s. However, many of its building components have exceeded their useful life. The interior renovations will include improved ADA toilet rooms; a new roof; upgraded mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; and general refresh of the finishes. The exterior will receive new ADA ramps at entrances, lintel repair and replacement, and energy efficient windows.

Through community engagement the proposed renovations at the playground will include new playground equipment, shaded seating areas, group/free play areas, and gathering spaces.

Through the Rebuild process, the project includes an allocation for a Percent for Arts intervention.

Community Ventures and the Percent for Arts facilitator have been in communication and will continue throughout the design and engagement process.

For all communication regarding decisions by the commission and questions, please contact:

Linda To
Development Project Manager
Community Ventures
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.564.6004
lto@community-ventures.org

In addition, please include Morris Zimmerman, the design principal in charge, and Kathy Lent, the project manager/architect, for all communications which include questions about the project:

Morris Zimmerman
Principal in Charge
O Z Collaborative
(215)386-8191 ext. 210
mzimmerman@ozcollaborative.com

Kathy Lent
Project Manager/Architect
OZ Collaborative
(215)386-8191 ext. 208
klent@ozcollaborative.com

We look forward to discussing and receiving your feedback.

Please let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda L. To". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" being more prominent than the last name "To".

Linda L. To
Development Project Manager



VOGT RECREATION CENTER

ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 10, 2024

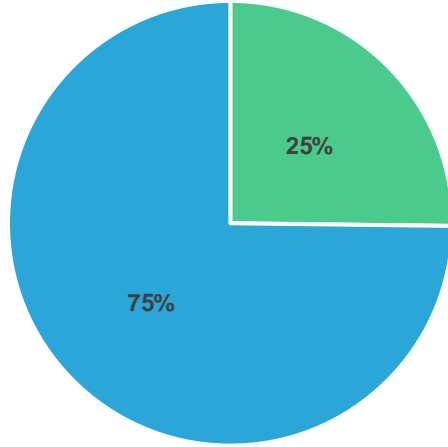




What's at Vogt now?

VOGT RECREATION CENTER
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024

\$6,250,000
Construction Budget



- Playground
- Building

GENERAL SCOPE OVERVIEW



REC CENTER BUILDING

New Restrooms
New Signage
New Roof
New Doors
New Windows
HVAC Improvements
Accessibility Improvements



PLAYGROUND AND FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

New Playground Equipment
New Safety Surface
New Seating
New Trees
Security Improvements



Note: Designing to LEED Gold certification

CE PROCESS

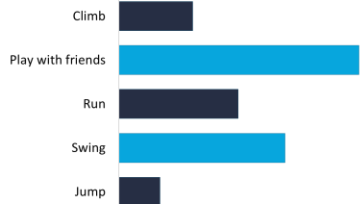


Key Community Findings

- Overwhelmingly positive response to the layout concepts, equipment, and amenities.
- Preference for an organic, circular layout.
- Desire for shaded seating areas designed to foster community and enhance supervision.
- Interest in an active playground with a variety of equipment and amenity options.

Student Survey Data

Students Most Like To...

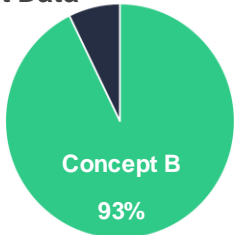
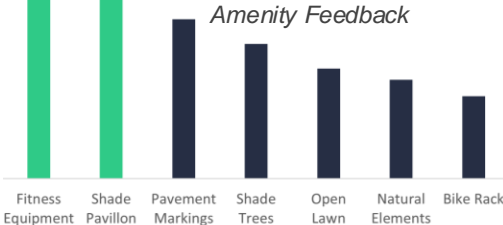


Online Feedback

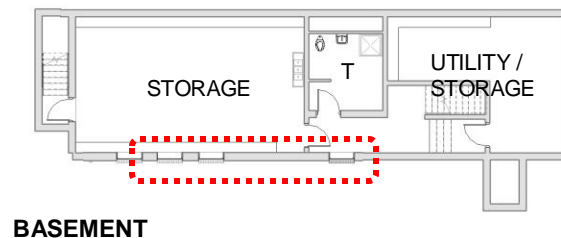
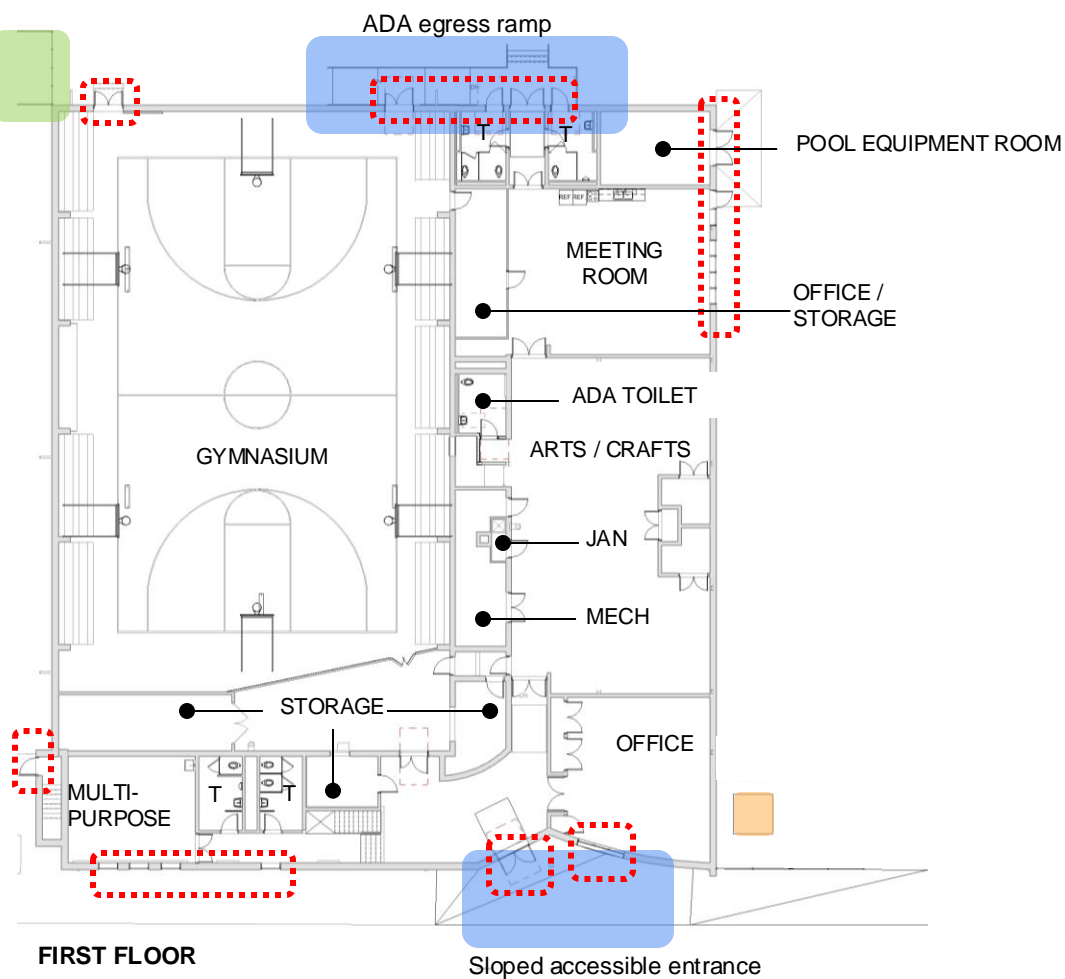
Additional Comments...

"I would like plenty of shaded areas for the summer."

Community Events Select Data



Preferred Layout



-  Replace windows and exterior doors
-  New transformer & gate
-  Modify trash enclosure for security and aesthetics
-  Accessible entry and exit ramps



A - Entry

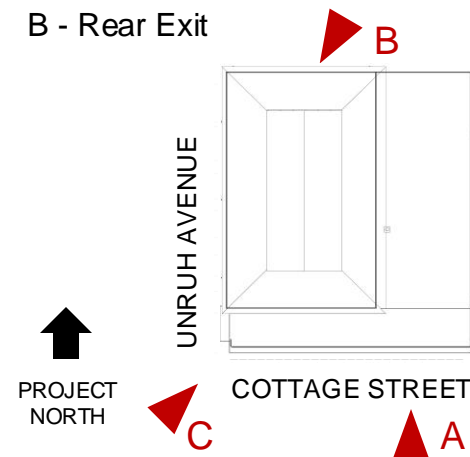


B - Rear Exit



C - Overall Orientation

Existing building images(facades)



VOGT RECREATION CENTER

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Building Program



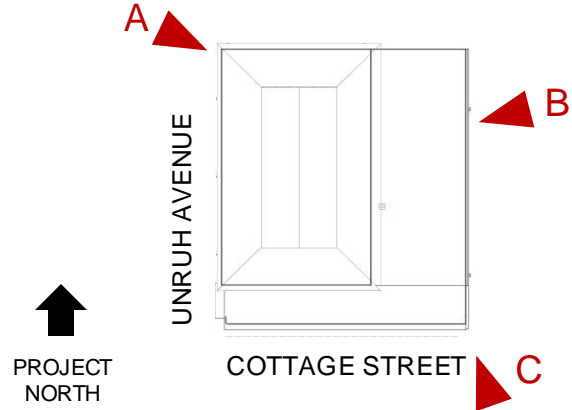
A. Existing Trash Enclosure

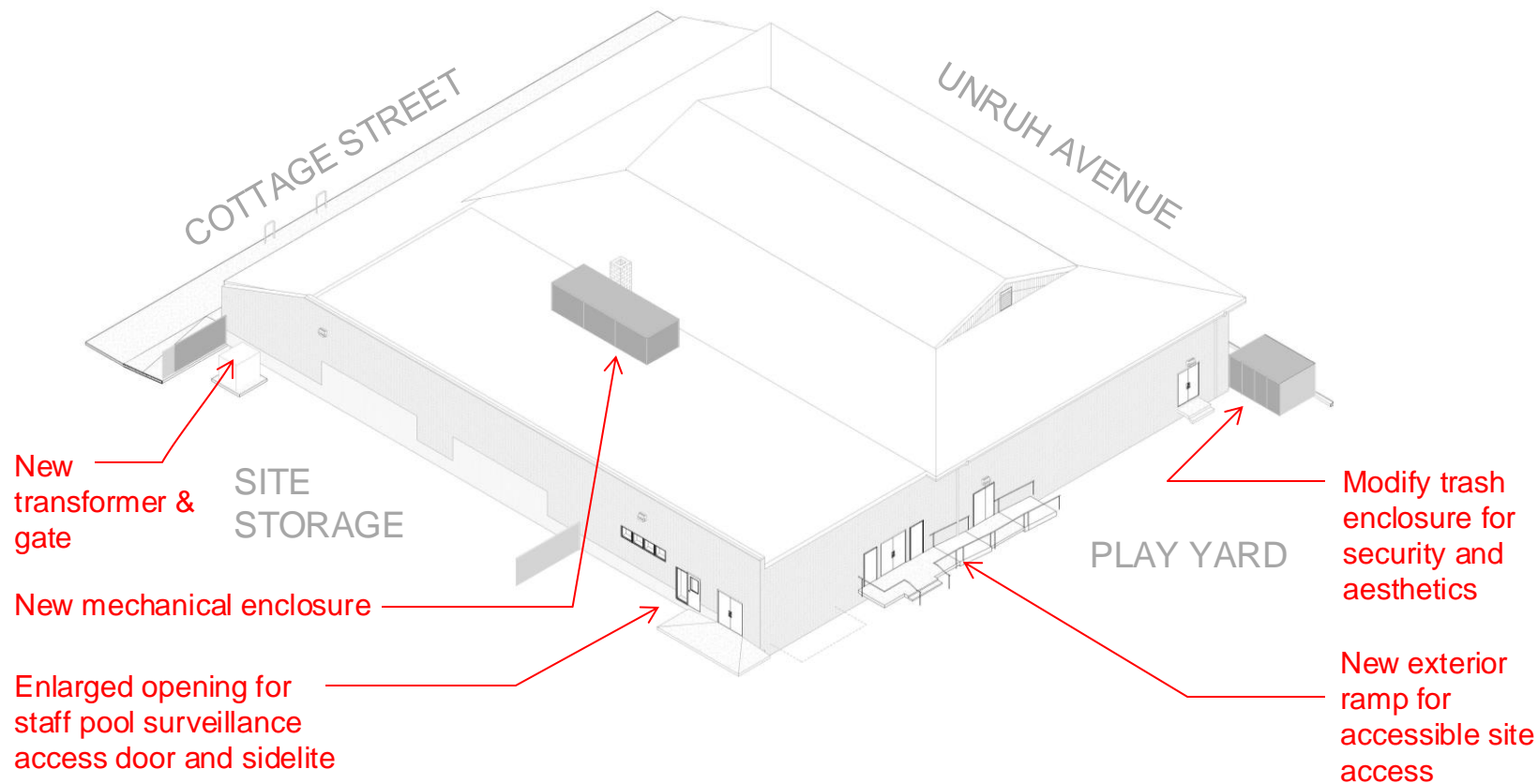


B. Existing surveillance opening & masonry damage, building-mounted exterior lights





C. Existing cages





Building Program

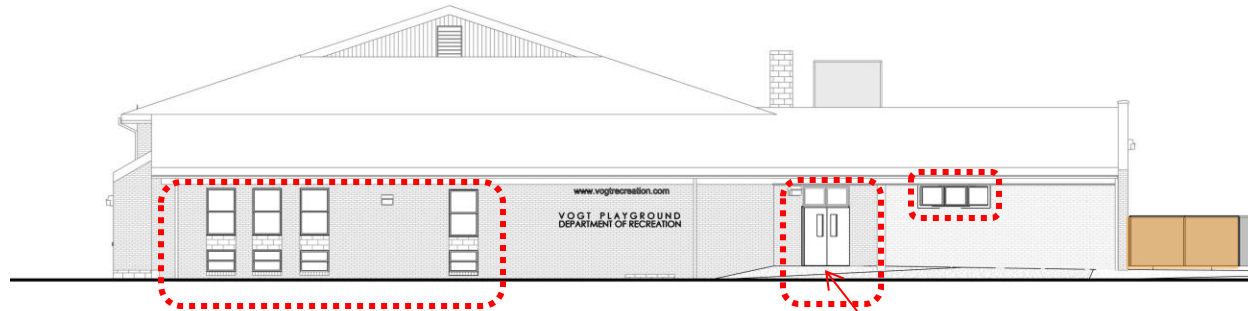
 Replace windows and exterior doors

 New transformer & gate

New roof offset to step down from roof insulation

Replace exterior building-mounted light fixtures

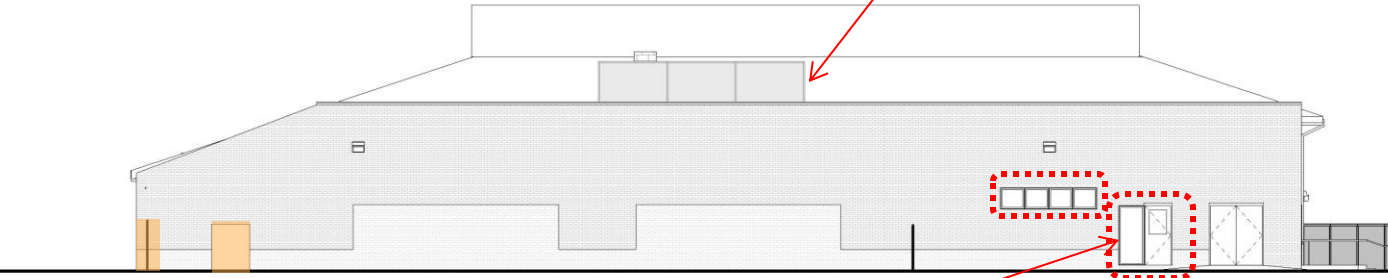
Exterior masonry repairs



BUILDING ELEVATION - SOUTH

New sloped entryway

Mechanical units this area



BUILDING ELEVATION - EAST

Enlarged opening for staff pool surveillance access door and sidelite


Building Program


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BUILDING ELEVATION - WEST

Remove wall-mounted condensers

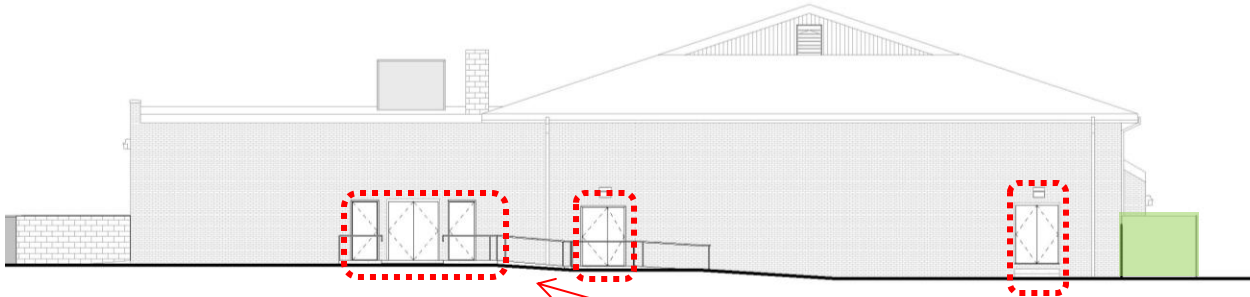
 Replace windows and exterior doors

 Modify trash enclosure for security and aesthetics

New roof offset to step down from roof insulation

Replace exterior building-mounted light fixtures

Exterior masonry repairs



BUILDING ELEVATION - NORTH

New exterior ramp for accessible site access

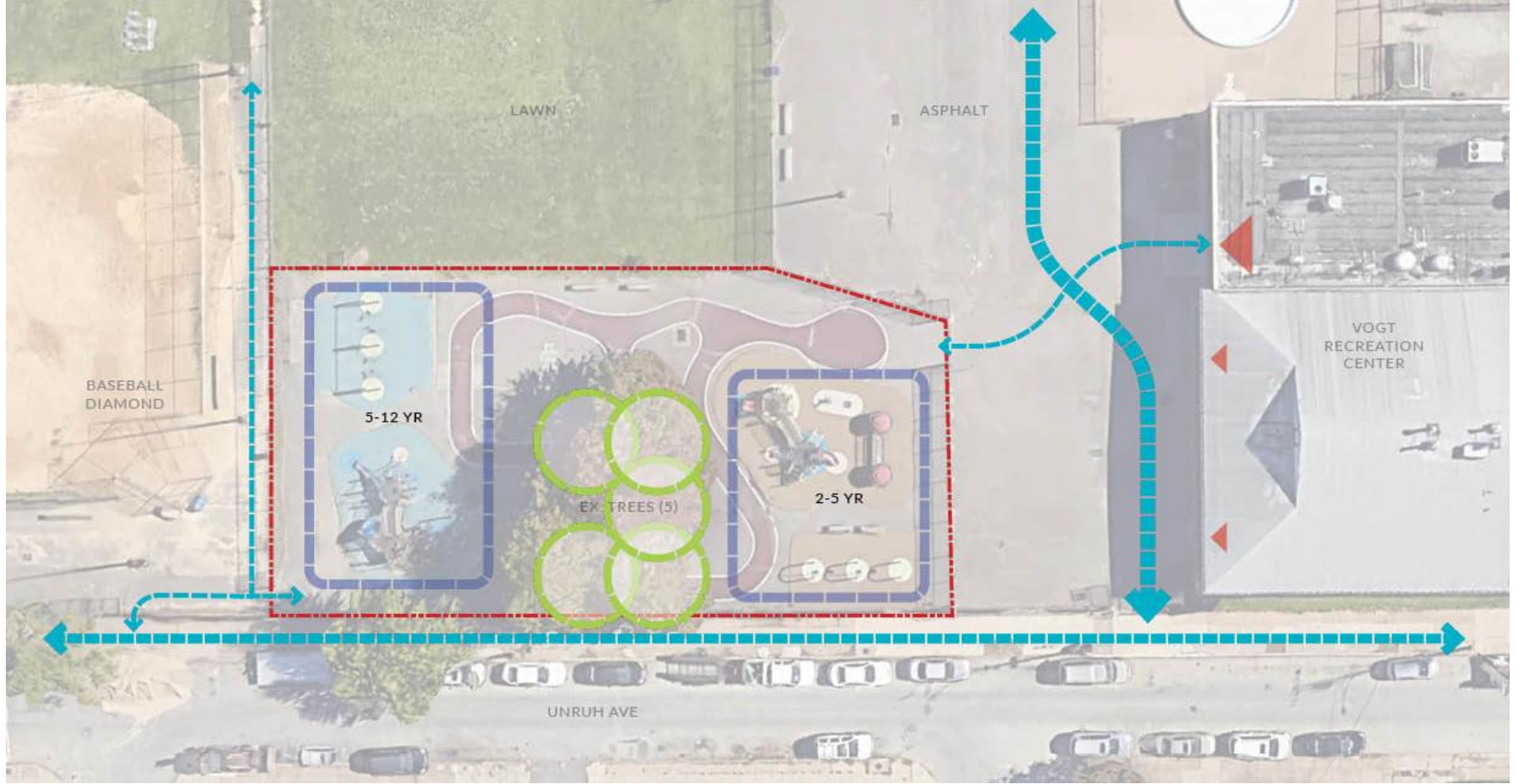
Building Program

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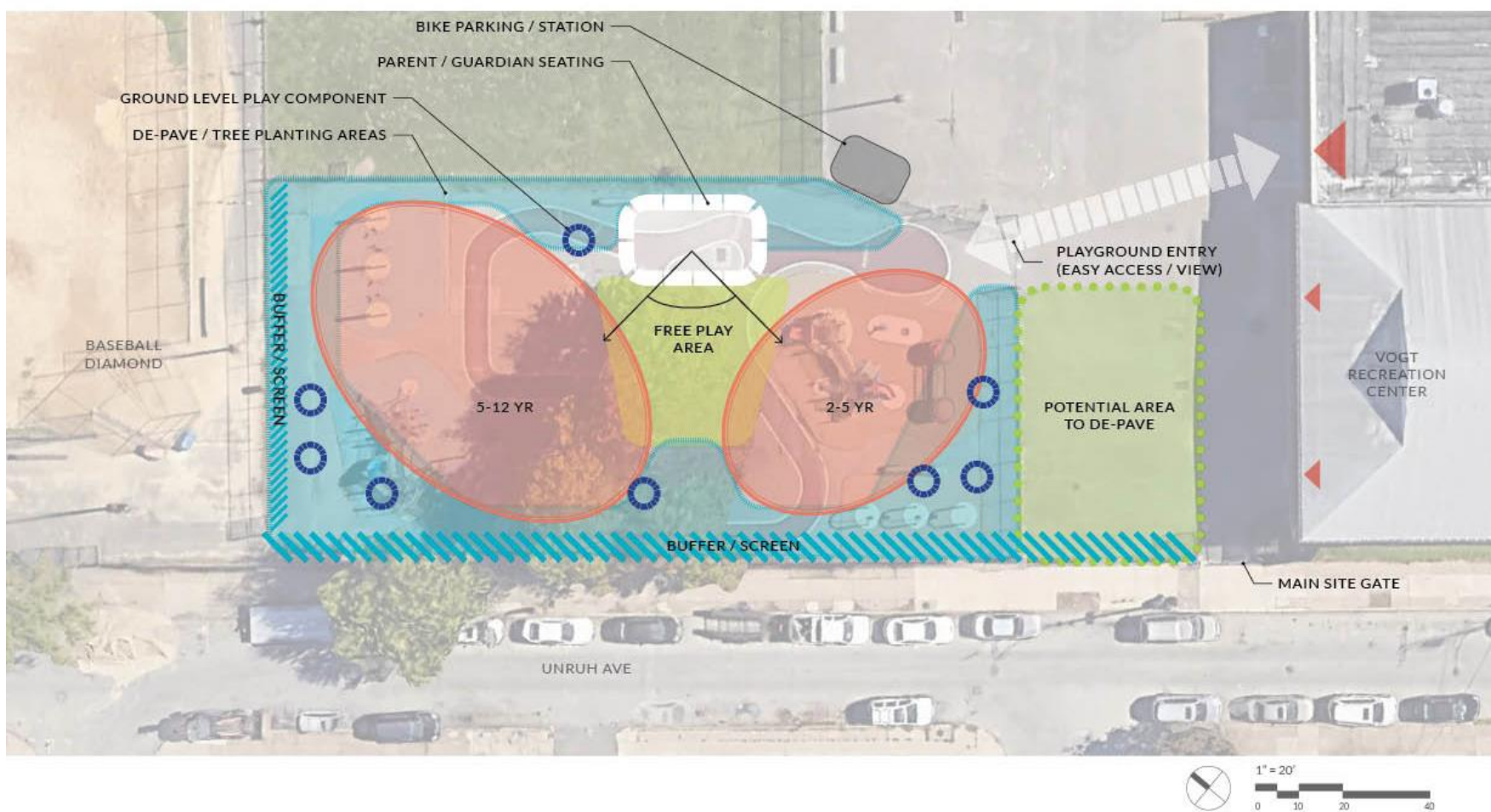
What's at Vogt now?

VOGT RECREATION CENTER
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024



Site Travel Paths

VOGT RECREATION CENTER
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024



Proposed Site Program

VOGT RECREATION CENTER
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024



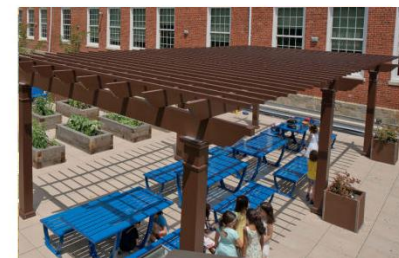
FITNESS EQUIPMENT



ACTIVITY LOOP PAVEMENT MARKINGS



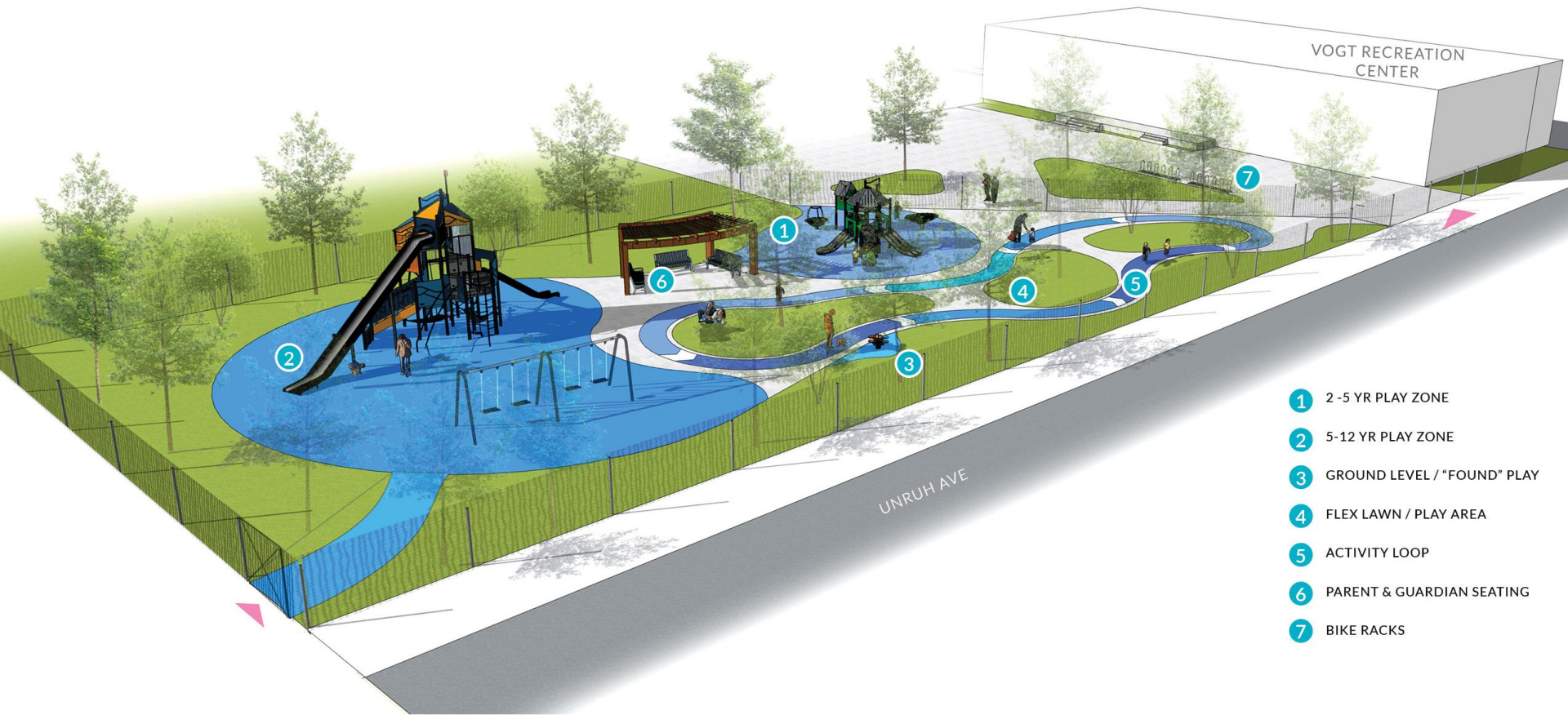
GROUND LEVEL PLAY



PLAYFUL SHADE STRUCTURE

Proposed Play

VOGT RECREATION CENTER
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024



- 1 2-5 YR PLAY ZONE
- 2 5-12 YR PLAY ZONE
- 3 GROUND LEVEL / "FOUND" PLAY
- 4 FLEX LAWN / PLAY AREA
- 5 ACTIVITY LOOP
- 6 PARENT & GUARDIAN SEATING
- 7 BIKE RACKS

Site Rendering

VOGT RECREATION CENTER
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024

Site Furniture



PPR Standard
Receptacle



PPR Standard Bike Rack



PPR Standard Bench

Site Furniture



Covered Bike Parking | Vizor Shelter by Dero

Preliminary Planting Palette



Acer rubrum
Red Maple

Ht. 40-70'
Sp. 30-50'



Betula nigra
River Birch

Ht. 30-70'
Sp. 40-50'



Nyssa sylvatica
Blackgum

Ht. 40-70'
Sp. 20-40'



Quercus phellos
Willow Oak

Ht. 40-70'
Sp. 25-50'

Preliminary Planting Palette



Magnolia virginiana Ht. 15-35'
Sweetbay Magnolia Sp. 10-30'



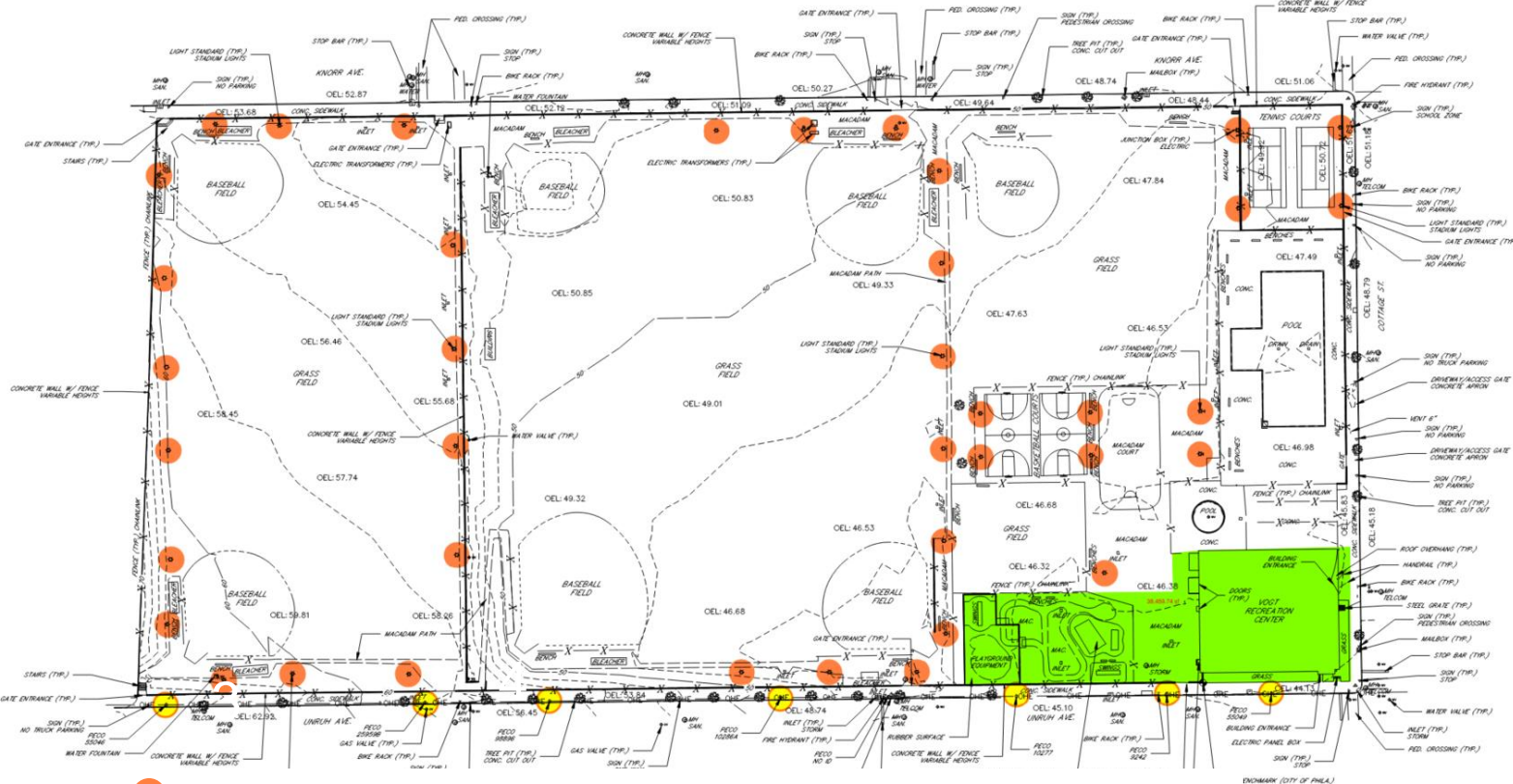
Cercis canadensis Ht. 20-30'
Eastern Redbud Sp. 25-35'



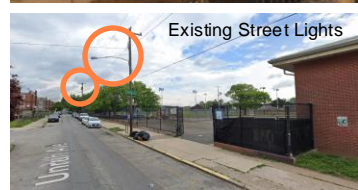
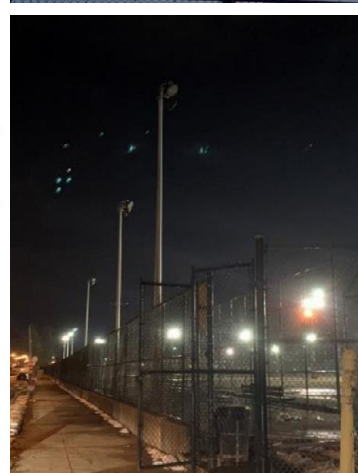
Clethra alnifolia
'Hummingbird'
Dwarf
Summersweet
Ht. 2-4'
Sp. 3-5'



Cornus sericea
'Farrow'
Red Twig
Dogwood
Ht. 3-4'
Sp. 3-4'



- Existing pole mounted metal halide flood light fixtures to remain. Previous site assessment found several fixtures “off” at night. This may be due to burnt out light bulbs or lighting controls programming.
- Existing street light



Existing Street Lights

Existing Site Lighting

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

THANK YOU!

July 9, 2024

Alex Smith
The Philadelphia Art Commission
One Parkway, 1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Letter of Intent for Percent for Art at Vogt Recreation Center

Dear Alex:

The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE) would like to inform the Philadelphia Art Commission of our intent to provide a future Percent for Art opportunity at Vogt Recreation Center in collaboration with our partners at Rebuild. Vogt Recreation Center is a Rebuild site at 4131 Unruh Avenue in the Tacony neighborhood in Northeast Philadelphia consisting of interior and exterior building upgrades, new playground equipment and field improvements. Below is an overview of our understanding and anticipated approach for this public art project:

- The Vogt Recreation Center Percent for Art opportunity will create a beautiful and enduring work of public art that is permanent, site-specific, and reflects the culture, values, and diversity of the Tacony community in Northeast Philadelphia. The Art budget will be at least 1% of the total project budget in keeping with the City's Percent for Art guidelines. Due to the City's current Percent for Art projects that are underway, the timeline for the future public art project is still being determined with OACCE and Rebuild and is considered a Category 2 project (see attached Percent for Art/Rebuild Memo).
- A Vogt Recreation Center Percent for Art Committee will be formed to advise the selection of the artist and the art proposal and will include representatives from: the Vogt Design team, community members that utilize the Vogt Recreation Center; public art artists; residents of the Tacony community; representatives from City Council District 6 Office, Parks and Recreation, Rebuild and OACCE.
- The Artist will be selected through a two-part competition, consisting of a Call for Artist Phase 1 where artists submit qualifications, and a subsequent Phase 2 where 3 to 4 semi-finalists will be selected by the Committee to move forward with providing proposals. Community involvement will be a critical component, and artist teams will be encouraged to work with the public to align their proposal with the desires and feedback from the community. Community engagement will occur in virtual and/or in-person meetings with community members, and through online public surveys.
- OACCE will provide oversight for the Percent for Art process from concept to installation and will work with the artist and project team to ensure the technical details for the artwork are coordinated with the site. Once a Finalist is selected and the artwork has been developed, OACCE will initiate a separate review process with the Philadelphia Art Commission for approving the artwork.

We look forward to working with the project team and all community stakeholders to realize a beautiful public artwork that will be an enduring contribution to the Tacony community and the City's renowned collection of public art. Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to call me at 215.686.4596.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Anglin, RA, NOMA
Public Art Director
Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

Rebuild Percent for Art Strategy

7/9/2024



Memorandum

To: Alex Smith, Philadelphia Art Commission

From: The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE)/ Rebuild

Date: July 9, 2024

Subject: Rebuild Percent for Art Strategy

The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE) administers the City's Percent for Art (PFA) program, which by City Ordinance requires that up to 1% of the budget for an eligible capital construction project is designated to site-specific public art. Percent for Art projects are multi-year efforts which include an open Call to Artist selection process; a robust community engagement process; project management by OACCE working with the artist and project team to ensure the technical details, fabrication and installation of the public art work is fully coordinated with the site constraints; and ultimate approval of the artist and artist's design proposal by the Philadelphia Art Commission.

This memorandum outlines the City's strategy for administering Percent for Art (PFA) projects for Rebuild renovation and construction sites. OACCE and Rebuild leadership have identified the need for this strategy due to the rare volume of capital projects that have triggered the City's Percent for Art ordinance at this time. The intent is to administer Percent for Art funds strategically across Rebuild project sites based on six (6) categories that consider scope, priority, location, timing, and community needs, in keeping with Percent for Art Guidelines. Category 1 refers to eligible PFA projects that are expected to commence planning within the current calendar year (schedules permitting) as determined by Rebuild and OACCE leadership. All other projects are described in the remaining Categories 2-6 below.

Proposed Rebuild Percent for Art (PFA) Categories:

Category 1: Eligible/Active PFA: The Rebuild Project is eligible for PFA per the PFA Guidelines and is either in progress or on OACCE's list to start PFA planning activities within the current calendar year, schedules permitting.

Category 2: Future PFA: The Rebuild Project is eligible for PFA, but due to volume of City public art projects, the PFA planning activities for this project will not start within the current calendar year. Projects in this category will commence as soon as the PFA schedule allows.

Category 3: Pool Funds Due to Inappropriate Timeline: The Rebuild Project is eligible for PFA, but the construction timeline is determined to be inappropriate for a public art project due to construction already being complete or nearing completion at the time of PFA determination. As such, the PFA funds will be pooled and applied to another Rebuild PFA project (per PFA Guidelines Section IV-F), within the same City Council district.

Rebuild Percent for Art Strategy

7/9/2024



Category 4: Conservation of Existing PFA: The Rebuild Project is eligible for PFA, but the site already has an existing PFA artwork in need of conservation. Where appropriate, the Rebuild PFA funds for that project will be applied to the conservation of the existing PFA artwork on site (per PFA Guidelines Section XII-B). If PFA project funds remain, they will be applied to another Rebuild PFA project within the same City Council district.

Category 5: To Be Determined (TBD) PFA Project: Rebuild has not started the capital project and the scope of the Rebuild capital project has not been determined. This may become a Future PFA project (Category 2) upon determination of scope.

Category 6: Ineligible for PFA: The Rebuild Project is ineligible for PFA either due to construction cost being under \$1M, or the nature of construction is mostly repair or building systems upgrades (per PFA Guidelines Section III-L).

OACCE will work with Rebuild to communicate the anticipated PFA determination and category to the Philadelphia Art Commission on a per project basis when the renovation/ construction project is submitted for Art Commission Review. OACCE may provide a letter to communicate the Percent for Art intent to the Art Commission. At the appropriate time, OACCE will initiate a future and separate Art Commission review process for approving the artwork separate from the Rebuild construction project.
