

University  
of Victoria

Campus Planning  
& Sustainability

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

# National Centre for Indigenous Laws

Fraser Building Expansion and Renovation

## WELCOME!

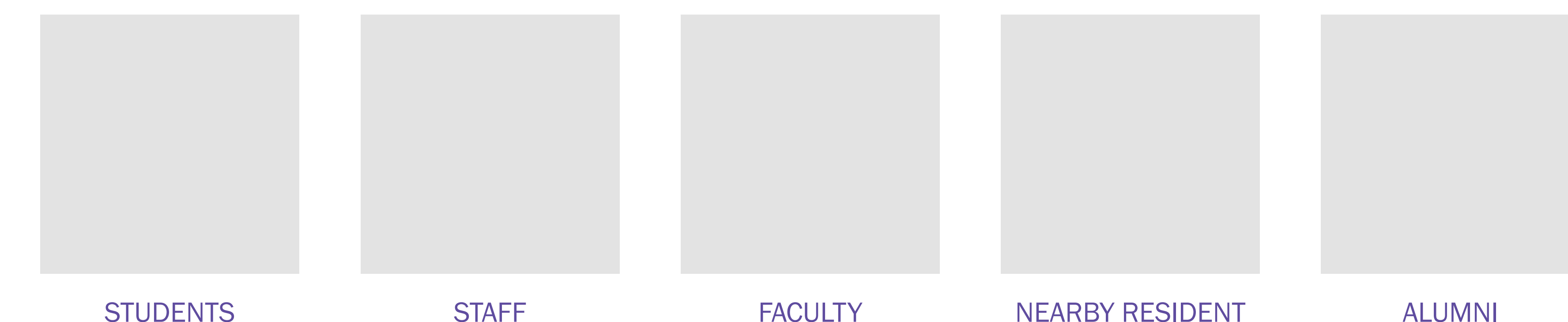
Thank you for helping us shape the Fraser Building Expansion and the National Centre for Indigenous Laws!

The university is building an expansion to the Fraser Building to house a National Centre for Indigenous Laws. It will be an iconic, exemplary and Indigenous-informed facility that provides space appropriate for the learning and practice of Indigenous Laws in the Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders program (JD/JID), the JD program, and public legal education programs. The project provides much needed classroom, administrative and student support space for the Indigenous Law Research Unit, the Environmental Law Centre, the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence and the Business Law Clinic and administrative and student support space.

By expanding the Fraser Building, the university will enhance the experience and success of JD and JD/JID students, and will serve as a national centre for dialogue, research and knowledge transfer.

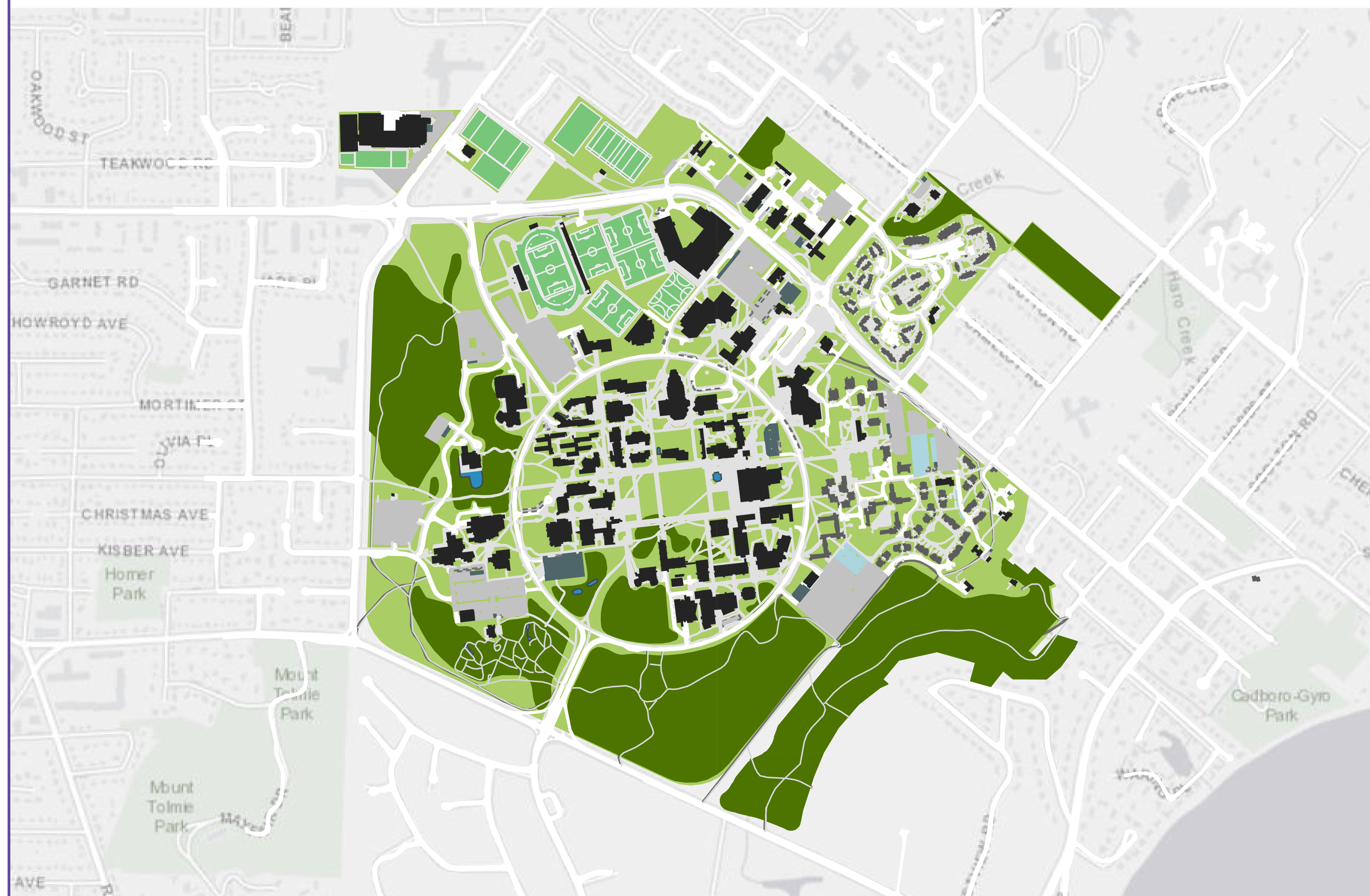
The purpose of today is to share detailed designs for this building expansion and renovation project. We will review the objectives driving the new building design and share information on construction and renovations. We appreciate any feedback you may have! Please chat with us in person, leave a sticky note, or email [planning@uvic.ca](mailto:planning@uvic.ca).

Use a dot to tell us about your relationship with UVic:

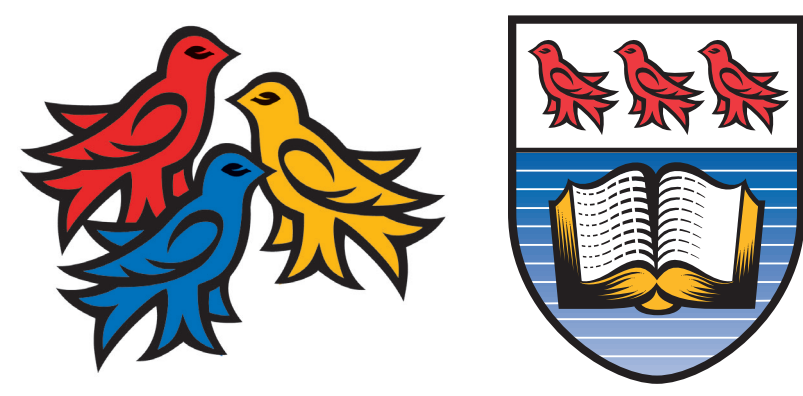


## TELL US ABOUT YOU

Use stickers to indicate where you spend most of your time on campus:







# What We've Heard

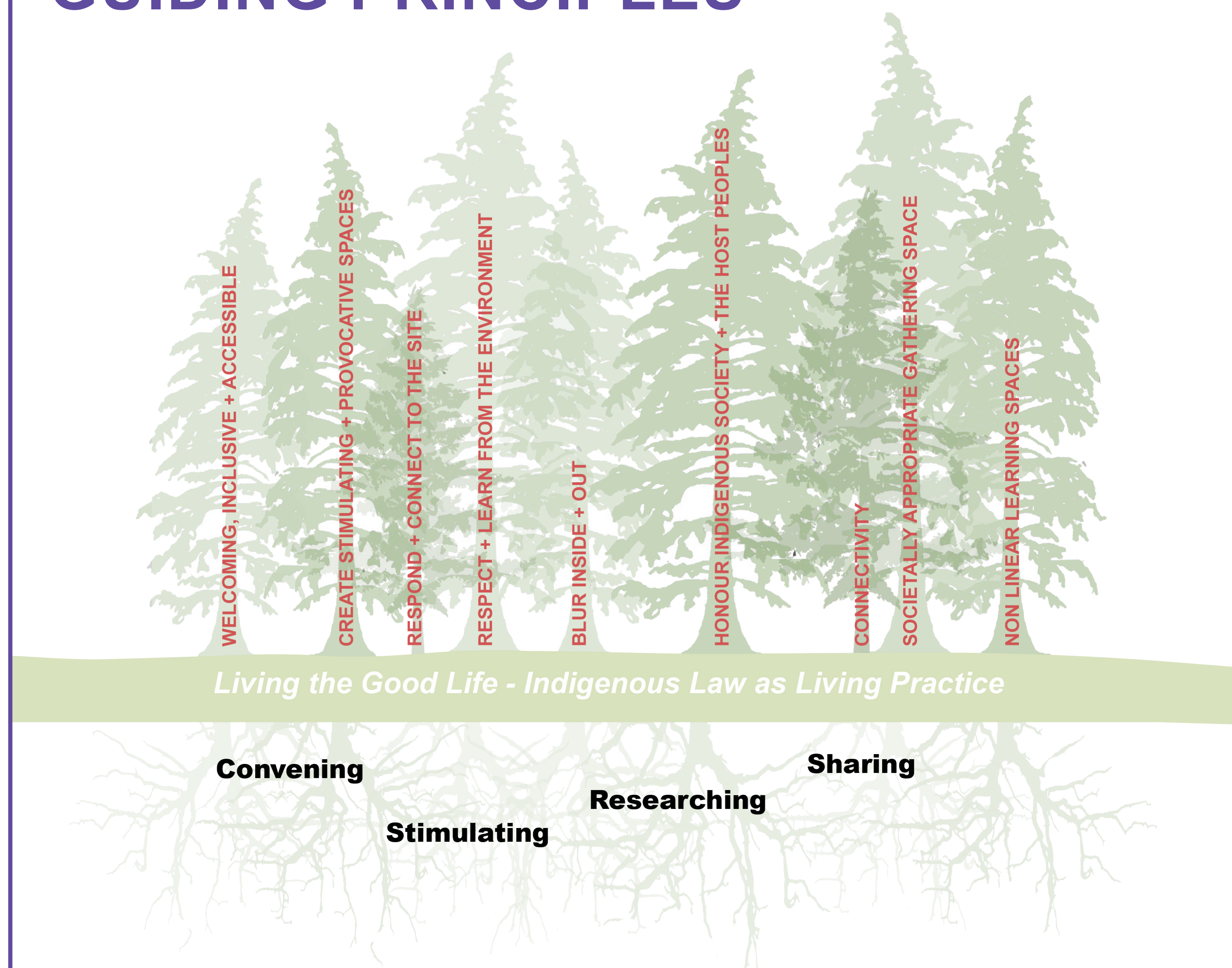
## ENGAGEMENT

Planning for this project has been ongoing since 2015, and significant work has been invested in visioning for the building's program and design. There has been comprehensive involvement of Law faculty, staff and students, as well as engagement with local Indigenous communities through all stages of the project. Engagement with the campus and broader community began in fall 2019 and has continued throughout the design process.

Engagement with local Indigenous communities is based on long-standing relationships that the university has maintained for many years. From these relationships, engagement was designed to inform local communities of the project, provide an opportunity for feedback, and advise them about how their feedback has informed refinements to the building's design. We continue to consult with both hereditary and elected leadership, community members and Elders from Esquimalt and Songhees particularly, but also WSÁNEĆ, as well as Elders who work with the university's Office of Indigenous and Academic Community Engagement (IACE).



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Rooted in the four purposes - convening, sharing, stimulating and researching - and grounded in an understanding of Indigenous Law as a living practice, the guiding principles create a conceptual framework for the project. The guiding principles seek to identify physical space typologies for the learning, study and practice of Indigenous Law, explore what the ingredients are for culturally appropriate space, and interpret and weave the threads of the four purposes together to create the expansion. The four purposes root the project in the concept of “living the good life”.

## KEY PROJECT GOALS

- Build physical space for the learning, study and practice of Indigenous Laws.
- Weave the four purposes together in the expansion: convening, sharing, stimulating, researching.
- Recognize the spirit of place through Coast Salish knowledge and stories.
- Respect the natural environment and foster this value through blurring the boundaries between inside and out to honour and interact with nature.
- Connect the existing building with a continuous circulation loop that integrates the existing building and the new building while protecting and preserving natural light.

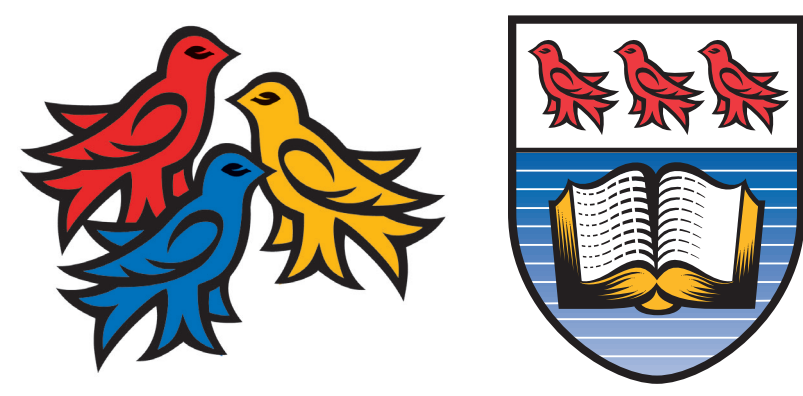
## NEXT STEPS

Campus and community feedback will inform the project team on future phases of work.

[www.uvic.ca/fraserexpansion](http://www.uvic.ca/fraserexpansion)







# Project Overview

## COAST SALISH THEMES

Thirteen ideas derived from stories shared by Coast Salish community members were translated into design concepts, guiding early design. Each idea was translated into an architectural design concept.

### 13 COAST SALISH THEMES

**LOCATION, FLORA, FAUNA**  
The importance of respecting place and the natural world.

**LANGUAGES**  
Language as a guide to ways of being and knowing.

**BOWKER CREEK**  
Connection to and respect for the history of Bowker Creek ecosystem.

**CEDAR TREES**  
Honouring the cedar tree and all that it provides.

**THE CANOE**  
As a representation of craft and the connection with the sea.

**THE GREAT FLOOD**  
Importance of story and the connection with the island proper.

**13 MOONS**  
13 moon calendar as a guide.

**LIVING THE GOOD LIFE**  
Learning by walking the path.

**WATER WOMAN - LADY BUG**  
The importance of women within society.

**TRANSFORMATION**  
The transformation of animals and humans.

**DANCES**  
Gathering and sharing ideas and sustenance.

**WITNESSING**  
Bearing witness to ceremony and the world around you.

**FOOD & MEDICINE**  
Food and medicine central to Coast Salish ethnobotany.

### ARCHITECTURAL TRANSLATIONS

**FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE FOREST**  
Allow the occupants and users of the building to experience the natural world.

**PLACES FOR STORYTELLING**  
Provide a landscape that supports oral teaching.

**RESPECT OF WATERSHED**  
Treat rain as a gift, celebrate how it nourishes life, allow its path to be visible.

**MATERIALITY & SPIRITUALITY**  
Bring wood into aspects of the building design.

**FORM & AESTHETIC**  
Be inspired by the thousands of years of design and building of the Coast Salish people.

**WATER STORY**  
Celebrate the movement of water, and create a place to teach around water.

**SEASONALITY**  
Allow the changing of the seasons to be experienced from all points in the building.

**PATH THROUGH BUILDING**  
Movement through the building as part of learning.

**FEMINIST LENS**  
Create a welcoming space that promotes gender inclusivity.

**PHYSICAL ABILITY TO CHANGE**  
Allow the buildings spaces to be flexible, light / dark, open / closed.

**PLACE FOR CEREMONY**  
Create many spaces for many different types of ceremony.

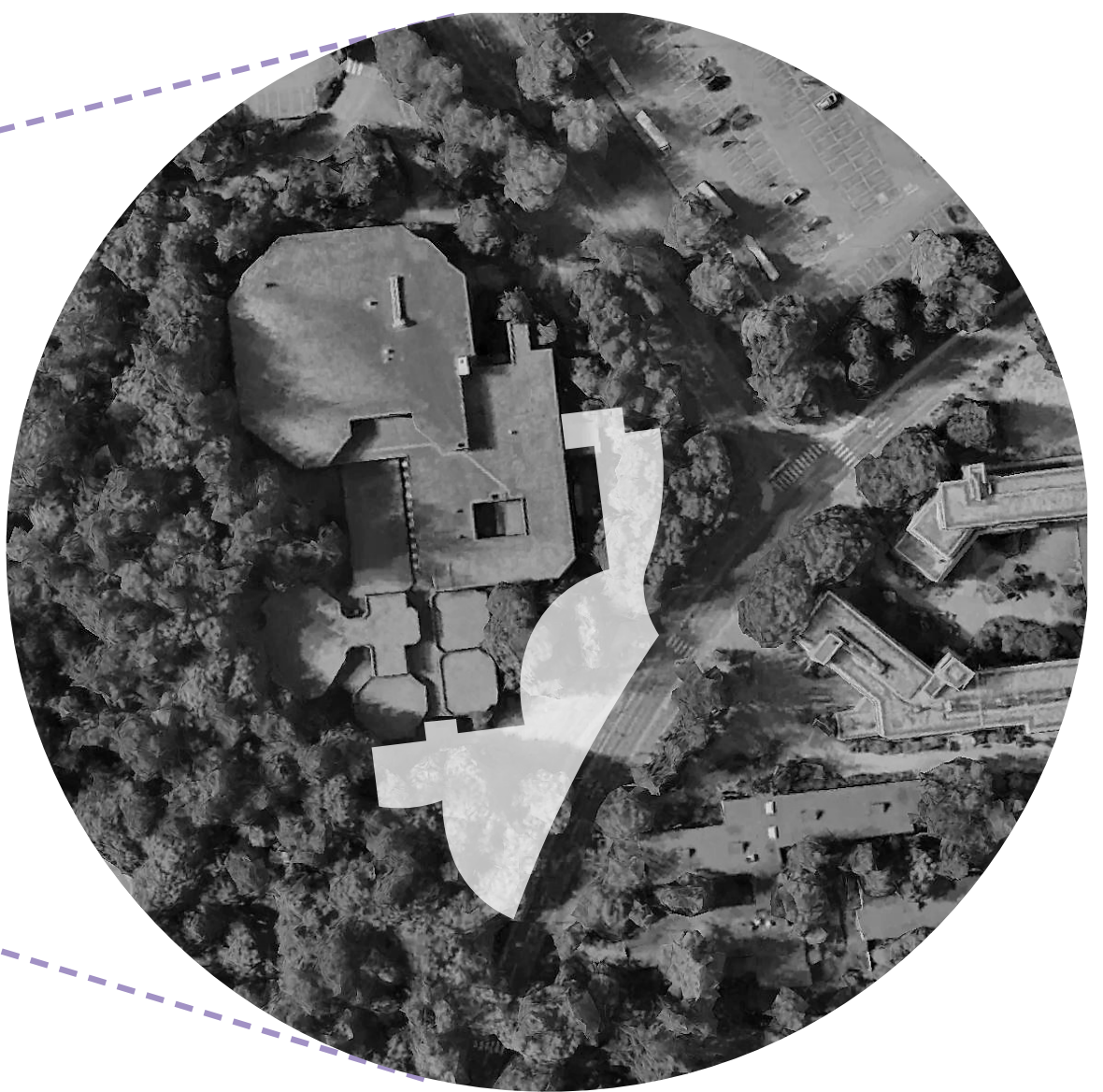
**OBSERVING THE WORLD AROUND YOU**  
Provide informal spaces that support traditional teachings.

**HARVEST IN THE CURRICULUM**  
Spaces for learning about collection, preparation and utilization of plants.

## LOCATION

This location was chosen for the following reasons:

- Respects the watershed area
- Connects with the existing building
- Activates Ring Road
- Ease of wayfinding
- Creates identifiable main entry
- Preserves mature trees
- Learning Deck has access to the forest



## DESIGN CONCEPTS

### Circulation Loop

A continuous circulation route creates a cohesive building to support integration of the JD/ JID programs and Law Faculty activities.

### Face-to-Face with the Forest

Visual connection and physical immersion in the existing forest and landscape.

### Path as Teacher Through Forest

Movement around and through the building becomes as important as destinations. Celebrating the journey, the path and connections are a key driver of the spatial organization.

### Water Story

Water as a gift—its collection and movement forms the roof and landscape.

### Facing East / Place for Ceremony

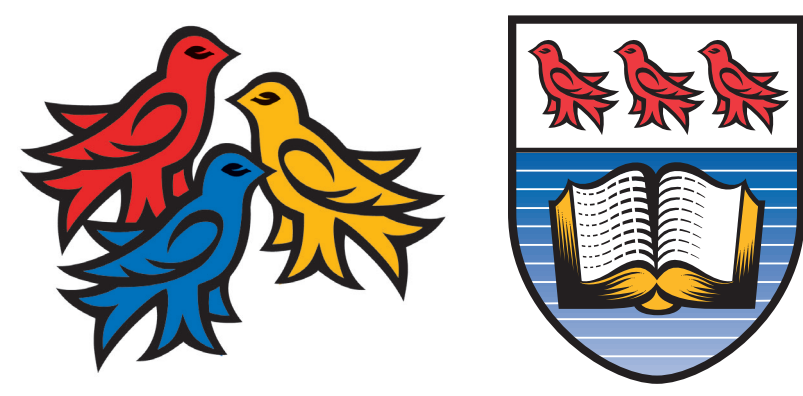
Orientation to the East and the rising sun.

### Witnessing

Building human connection through transparency and visual presence on Ring Road.







# What's Included



Main entrance to the Fraser Building and National Centre for Indigenous Laws from McGill Road looking northwest. View indicated on Level 1 plan.

## BUILDING EXPANSION

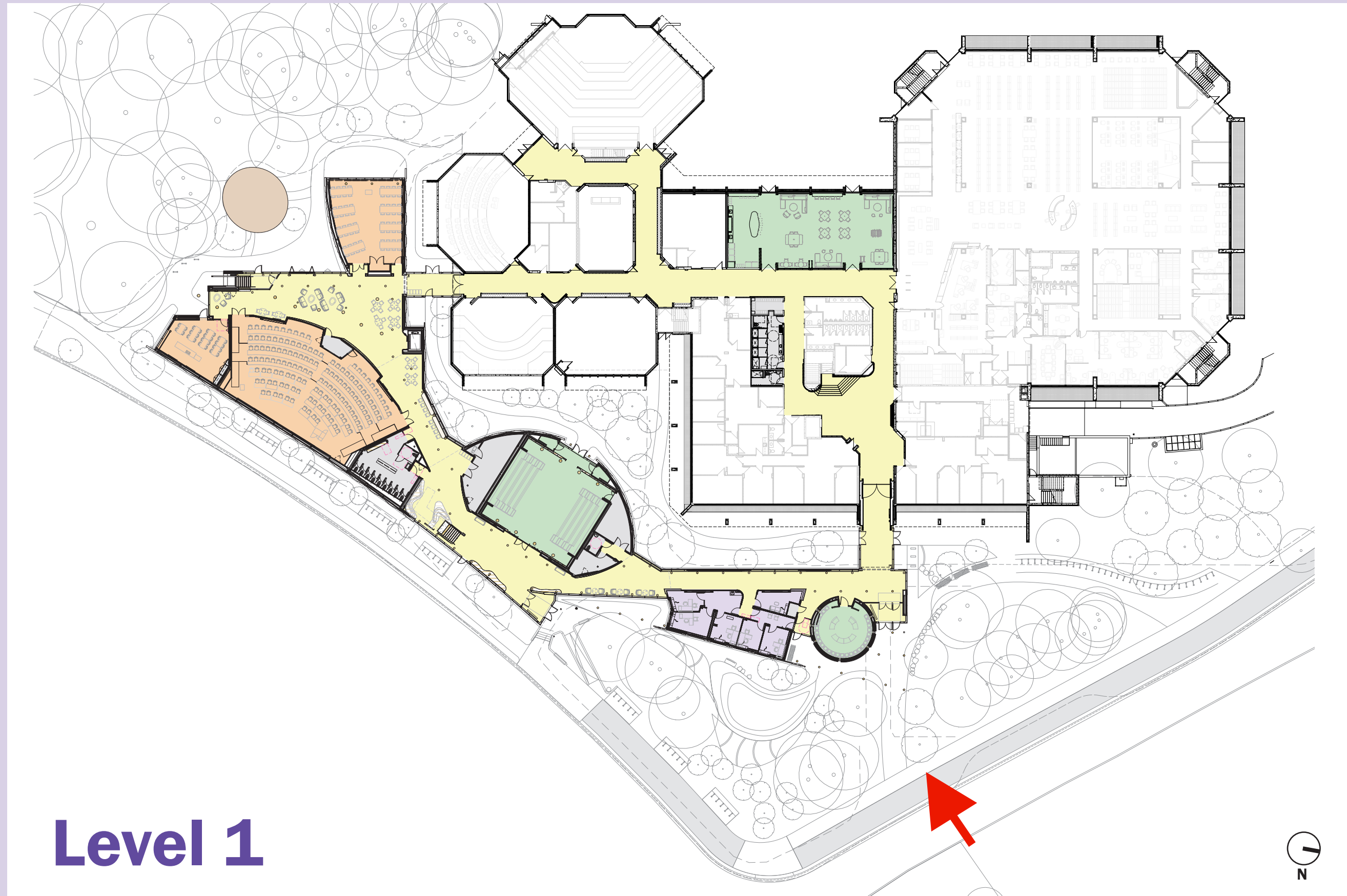
The expansion and renovation will be a national centre for critical engagement, debate, learning, public education and partnerships on Indigenous legal traditions. It will respect the natural environment and interact with the landscape in a way that honours the land.

The centre will house classrooms, research and office facilities, and gathering spaces. The project also includes upgrades to the existing Fraser Building, which will bring students, faculty and staff access to end-of-trip

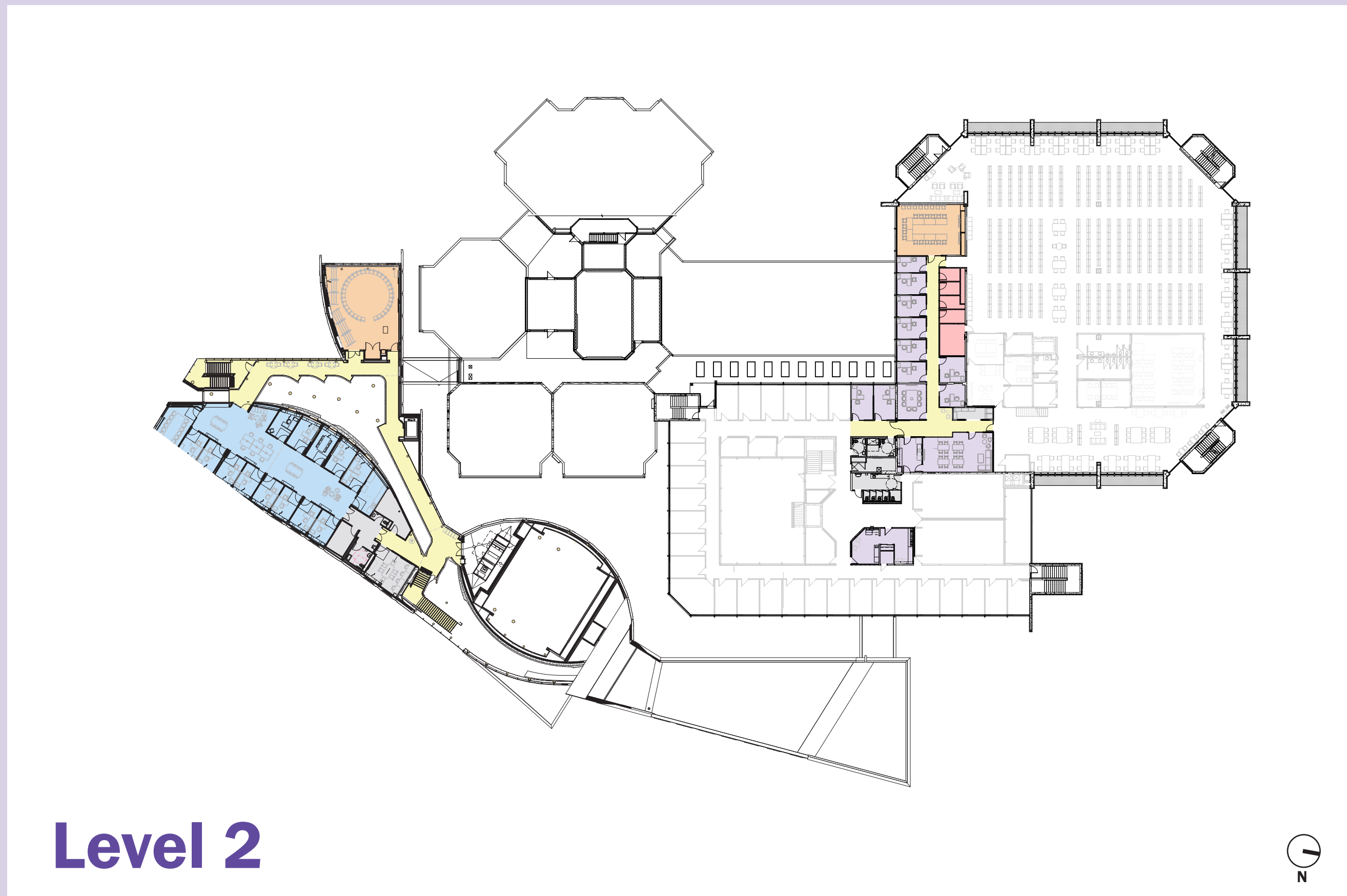
cycling facilities (e.g., showers and change rooms) and add new flooring, carpeting and ceiling improvements. The student lounge, lobby and hallways will be refreshed.

Sprinkler and heating system upgrades at the Fraser Building will be implemented alongside the expansion project. These upgrades will move the university towards its goal of a net zero carbon campus.

## PLANS



Level 1



Level 2

## Legend

Circulation + informal gathering spaces	Clinical and research space
Gathering spaces, student and Faculty lounges	Storage, support + mechanical
Classrooms + lecture rooms	Outdoor learning deck
Library study room/carrels	Faculty Offices, Wellness suites and Indigenous initiatives office





# Sustainable Design & Climate Action

Tree retention, and where tree removal is required, replacement trees will be planted and landscaping will be restored with indigenous plantings.

Optimize buildings and site design to preserve natural ecosystems.

Mass-timber construction prioritizing use of local, low-carbon materials.

Design of building systems to optimize energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

HVAC upgrades and decarbonizing the building energy system to provide greater thermal comfort through a heat pump. The HVAC upgrades will reduce campus emissions by approx. 230 t/C02 per year.

Organize site to encourage active transportation.

Integrate on-site stormwater management into building and landscape design.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The project focuses on the following design elements to implement the Sustainability Action Plan:



LEED GOLD  
BUILDING



ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION



MASS TIMBER  
CONSTRUCTION



ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY



STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT



PRESERVATION OF  
NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY

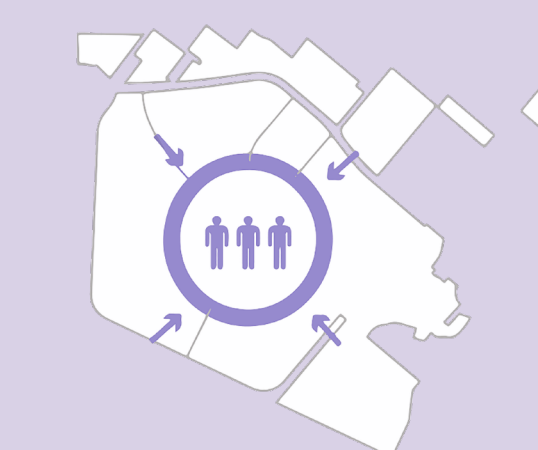
The university is committed to protecting and managing the ecological diversity of the natural areas on campus. Where tree removal is required, replacement trees will be planted and landscaping will be restored with indigenous plantings. The university has worked with local Indigenous communities to ensure cultural and ceremonial processes are followed.

RETAIN

REPLACE

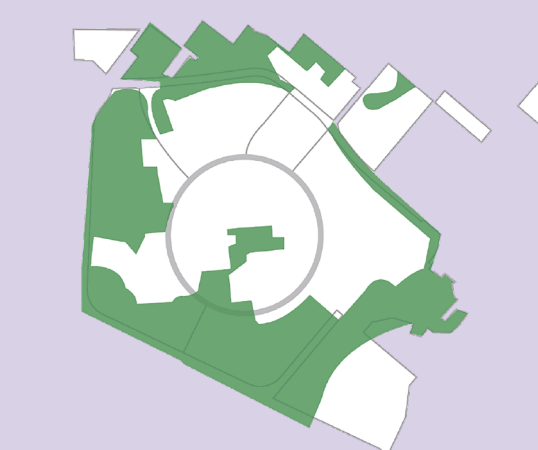
REUSE

## CAMPUS PLAN BIG MOVES



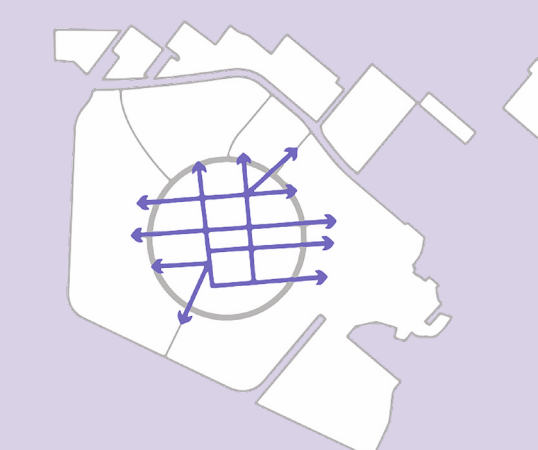
**Ring Road as  
People Place**

Make Ring Road an animated place for walking, cycling, lingering, socializing and more.



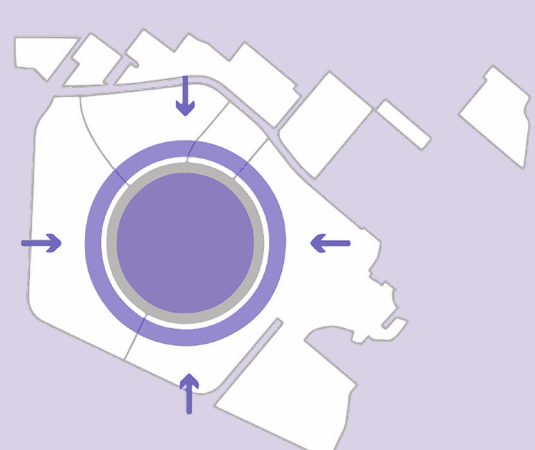
**Connecting to  
Nature**

Conserve and enhance natural areas to minimize impacts from building development.



**Commitment to  
Walkability**

Make UVic an even better campus for walking with better connections to link key places.



**A Compact  
Campus**

Focus new development within and near Ring Road.





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# Building Design

AERIAL VIEW







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# Building Design



VIEW FROM FOREST

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**

Share your feedback with the project team here:







# Building Interior

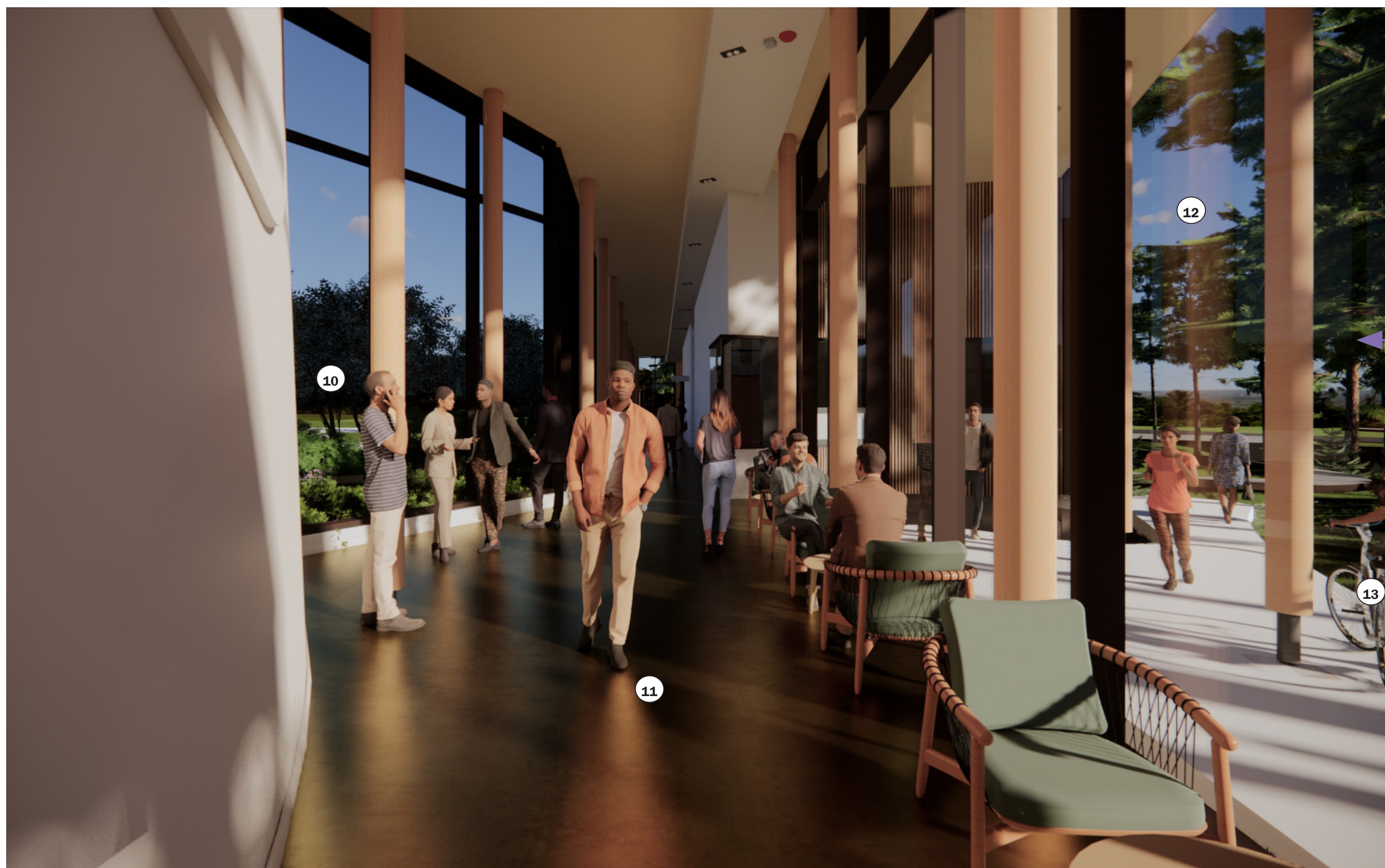


Ring Road Entry

- 1 Cross-Laminated timber ceiling.
- 2 Custom carved wood bench.
- 3 Custom carved door into the Large Gathering Space.
- 4 Horizontal wood slats to provide privacy and light into the Large Gathering Space.

Atrium Space Looking Towards Forest

- 5 View from atrium to south forest and learning deck.
- 6 Walls appear to be peeling back like the stripping of bark on a cedar tree.
- 7 Metal mesh to have similar appearance to reef nets.
- 8 Wood columns made from re-purposing trees on the site.
- 9 Furniture to be of natural materials and allow for collaboration.



Ring Road Entry Looking East

- 10 Views to the internal forest to allow light and nature between the existing building and the expansion.
- 11 Circulation path to feel as one continuous loop, with visibility to the outside from all areas.
- 12 All curtain walls will have bird-safe glass to ensure it is visible to birds.
- 13 New bicycle parking stalls will be installed.







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# Building Interior

LARGE GATHERING SPACE



INTERIOR ENTRY TO LARGE GATHERING SPACE



ENTRY TO SMALL GATHERING SPACE







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# Building Interior



STUDENT LOUNGE



FRASER LOBBY



SKY CLASSROOM (LEVEL 2)



LOOKING EAST TOWARDS MAIN ENTRY







# Landscape



## TREE PROTECTION

A core principle of the project is to limit impacts to existing mature trees. The building was carefully sited to:

- sensitively situate gathering spaces for access to the forest
- minimize tree loss and encroachment on the forested slope
- provide naturalized pathways
- manage stormwater and provide access to rain gardens

## PLANTING

The planting plan was designed to:

- use aspects of existing site conditions and stormwater flows to inform the placement of planting
- use diverse planting within micro-climatic and hydrologic conditions that are reflective of the ləkʷəŋən and Coast Salish landscapes
- carefully site sun and shade-tolerant plants
- integrate wet plants into rain gardens
- host plants with culinary and medicinal importance in the Elder's Garden, which will support the pedagogy of the teaching program

## WATER STORY

Water is a crucial element around which ləkʷəŋən and Coast Salish life is oriented. The landscape design is an extension of the building roof, capturing rainwater into its topography to create rain gardens that border circulation paths. The water story is articulated through:

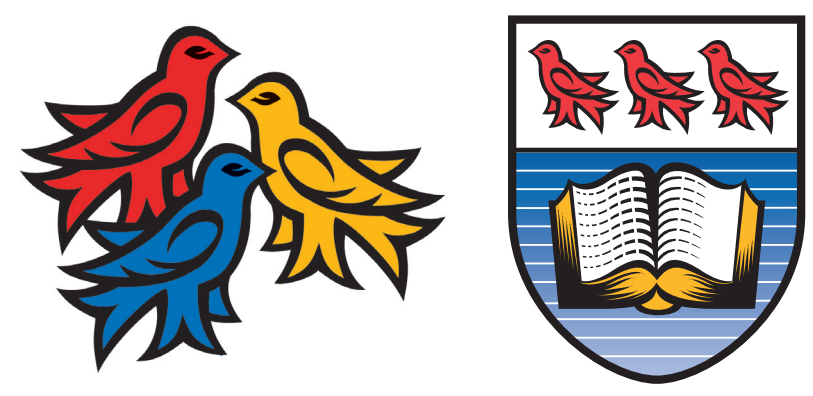
- topography and site-conditions that focus on drainage and create rain gardens connecting across the site
- rain gardens that collect rainwater from the 1200m<sup>2</sup> roof of the future National Centre for Indigenous Laws
- the storing of more than 33 m<sup>3</sup> of rainwater allowing it to infiltrate into the ground over time

## PATHS & STORYTELLING

Paths not only connect but can tell stories. The elements throughout the site are arranged to:

- support storytelling by their arrangement and composition
- accommodate Elders and knowledge-keepers moving through them, sharing their wisdom with students, professors, or visitors
- connect the site in a continuous circulation loop, with moments to pause, sit, look, and learn from the surrounding environment
- create moments of respite and privacy surrounded by nature





# Next Steps

## PHASING LEGEND

The diagrams below indicate the areas around the building that will be open and closed during early construction.

CONSTRUCTION AREA

EMERGENCY EXIT ONLY

TEMPORARY SIDEWALK & BIKE PATH

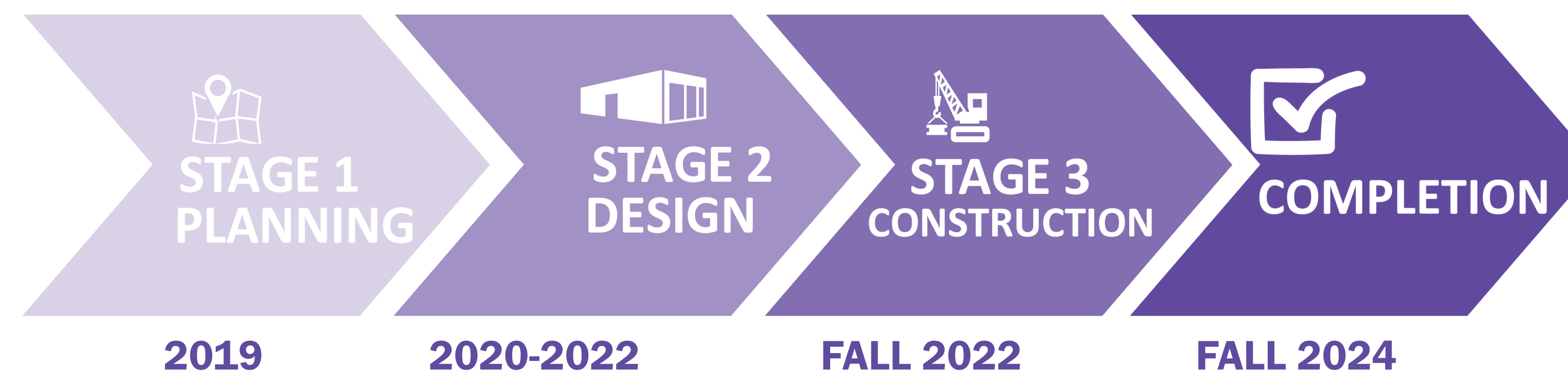
SIDEWALK & BIKE PATH OPEN

ALTERNATIVE DROP OFF AREA

## TIMELINE

Construction is scheduled to start in late summer 2022 with expected occupancy in fall 2024.

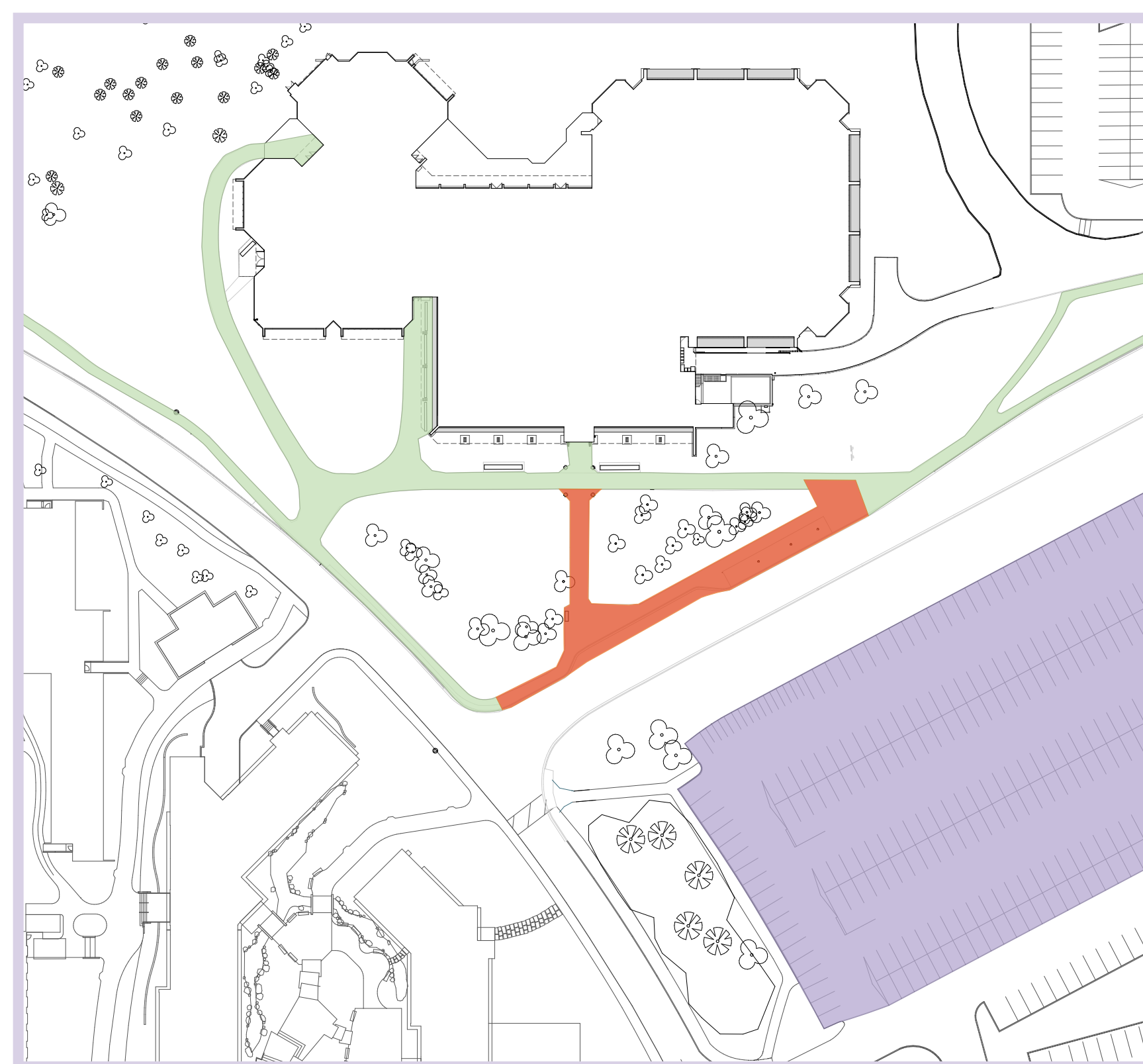
*We are here*



## CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

- Early utilities work will begin in late summer.
- Construction of the NCIL and Fraser Renovations will begin in early fall of 2022.
- Fraser Building will remain open throughout construction.
- No classes will be held in the Fraser building during the summer of 2023.
- NCIL will open its doors August 2024.

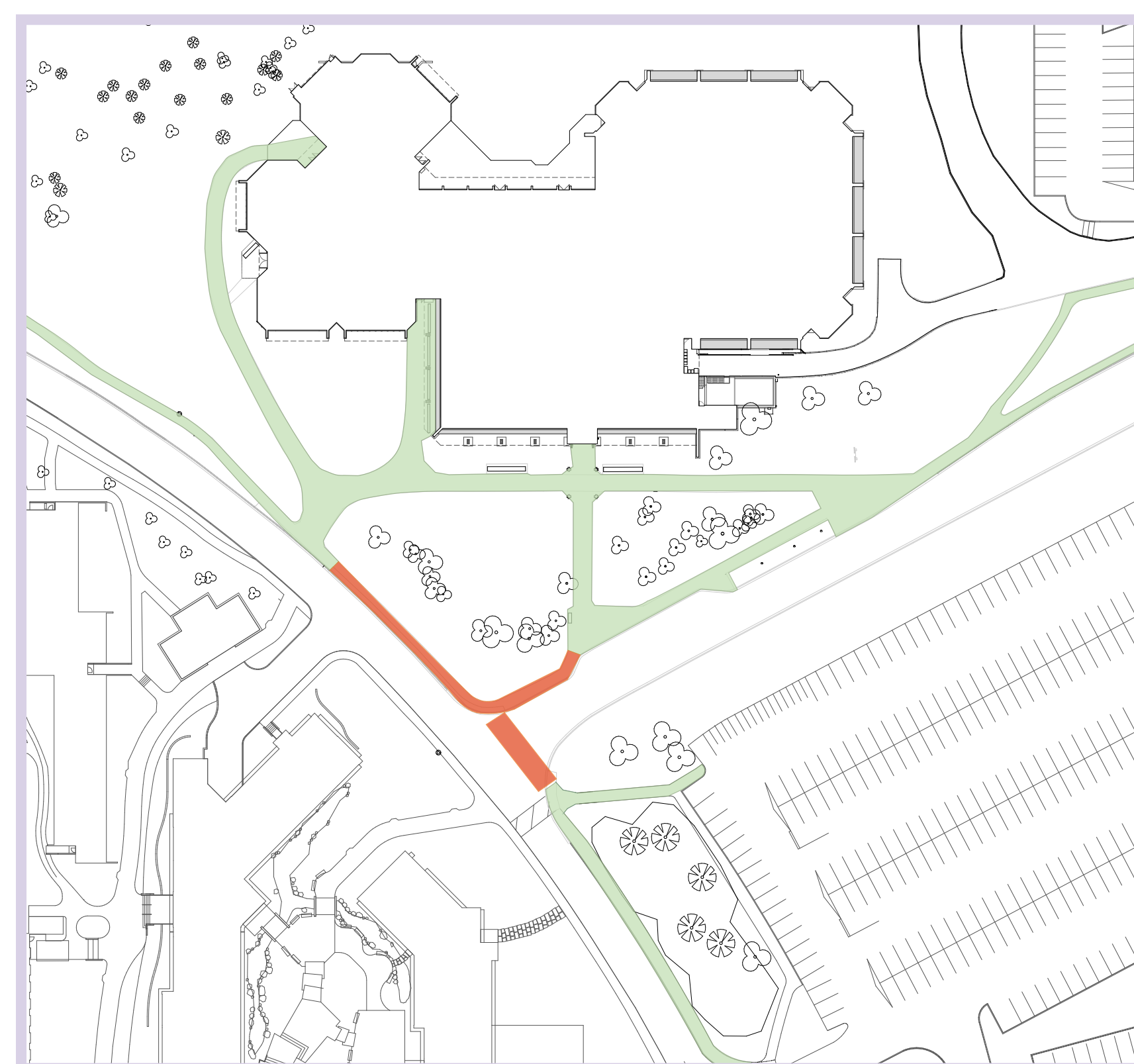
DUCT BANK PHASE 1



DUCT BANK PHASE 2



DUCT BANK PHASE 3



NCIL PHASE 4



NCIL PHASE 5



SUMMER 2022

BEGINNING FALL 2022