

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 that reads "Linda L. To". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda L. To  
Development Project Manager



# VOGT RECREATION CENTER

ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 10, 2024

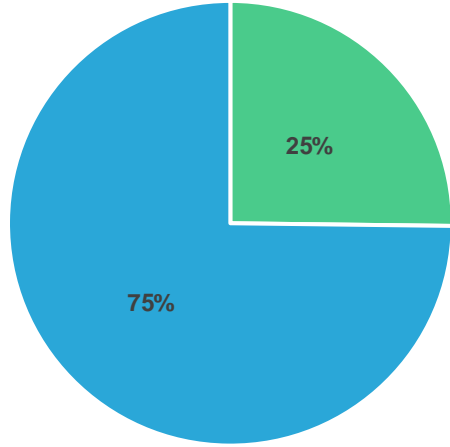




*What's at Vogt now?*

**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

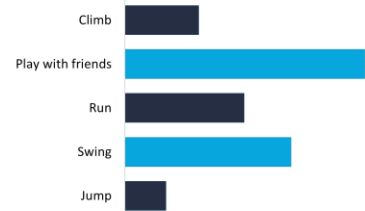


## Key Community Findings

- 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...

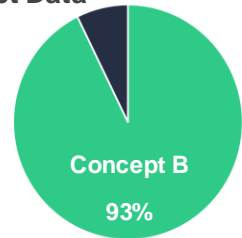
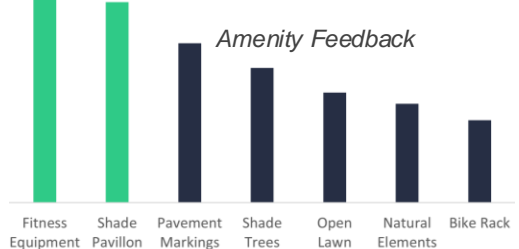


## Online Feedback

Additional Comments...

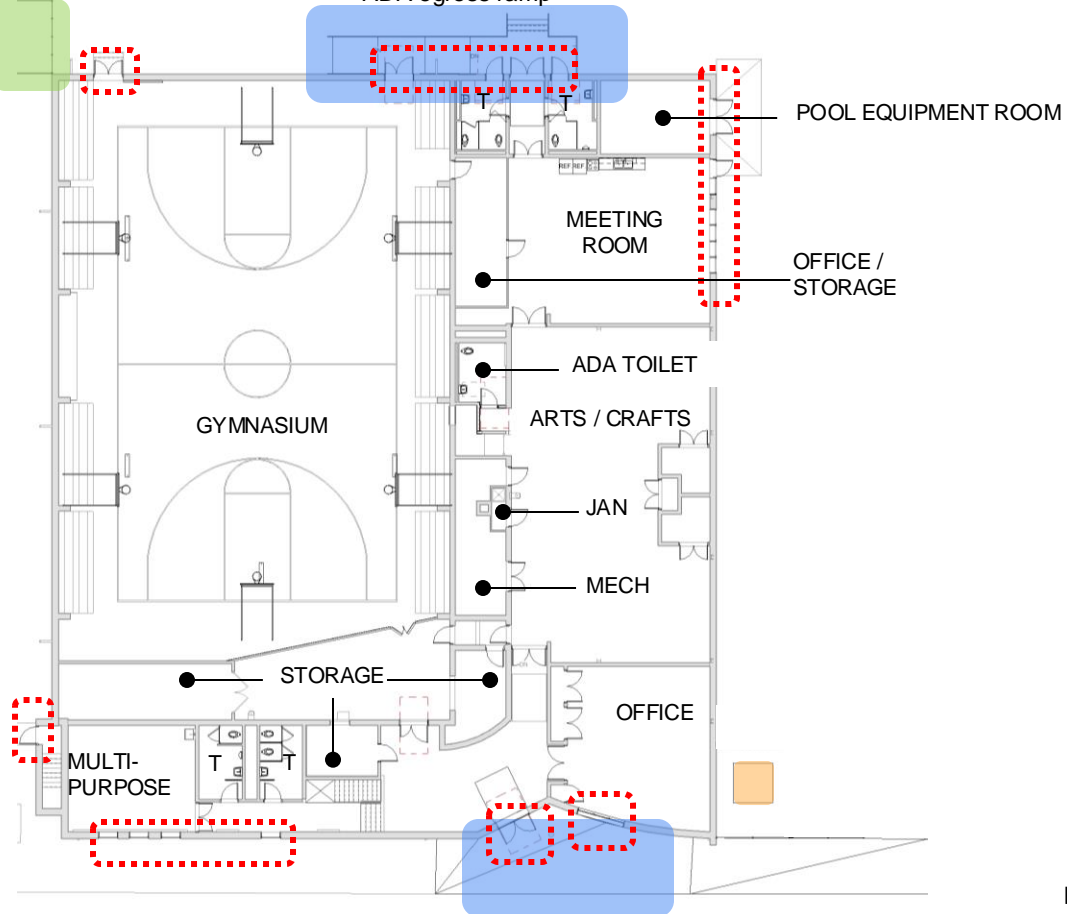
"I would like plenty of shaded areas for the summer."

## Community Events Select Data



Preferred Layout

ADA egress ramp



Replace windows and exterior doors

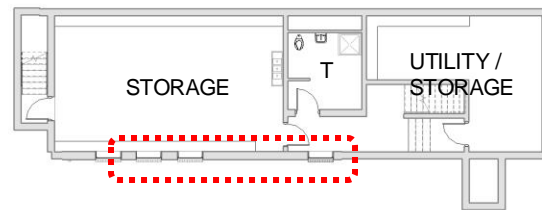
New transformer & gate

Modify trash enclosure for security and aesthetics

Accessible entry and exit ramps

FIRST FLOOR

Sloped accessible entrance



BASEMENT

**Building Program**

**VOGT RECREATION CENTER**

ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024



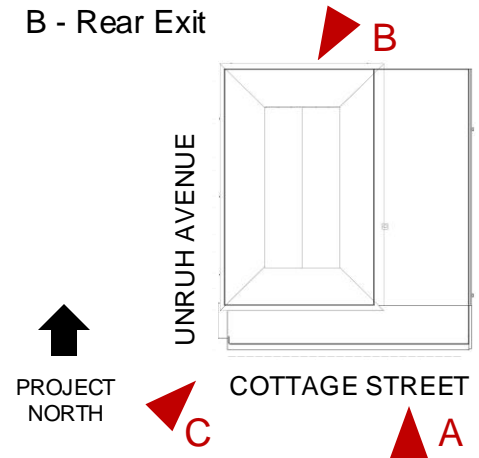
A - Entry

B - Rear Exit



C - Overall Orientation

Existing building images(facades)



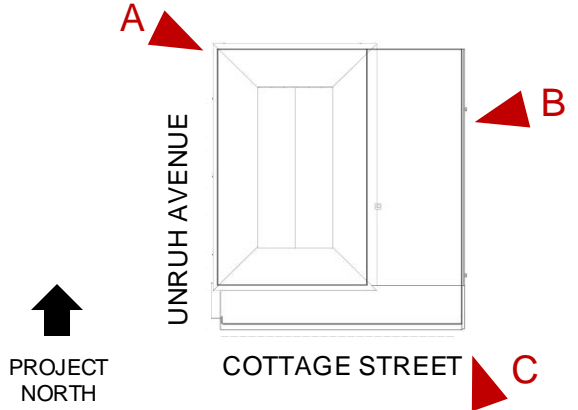


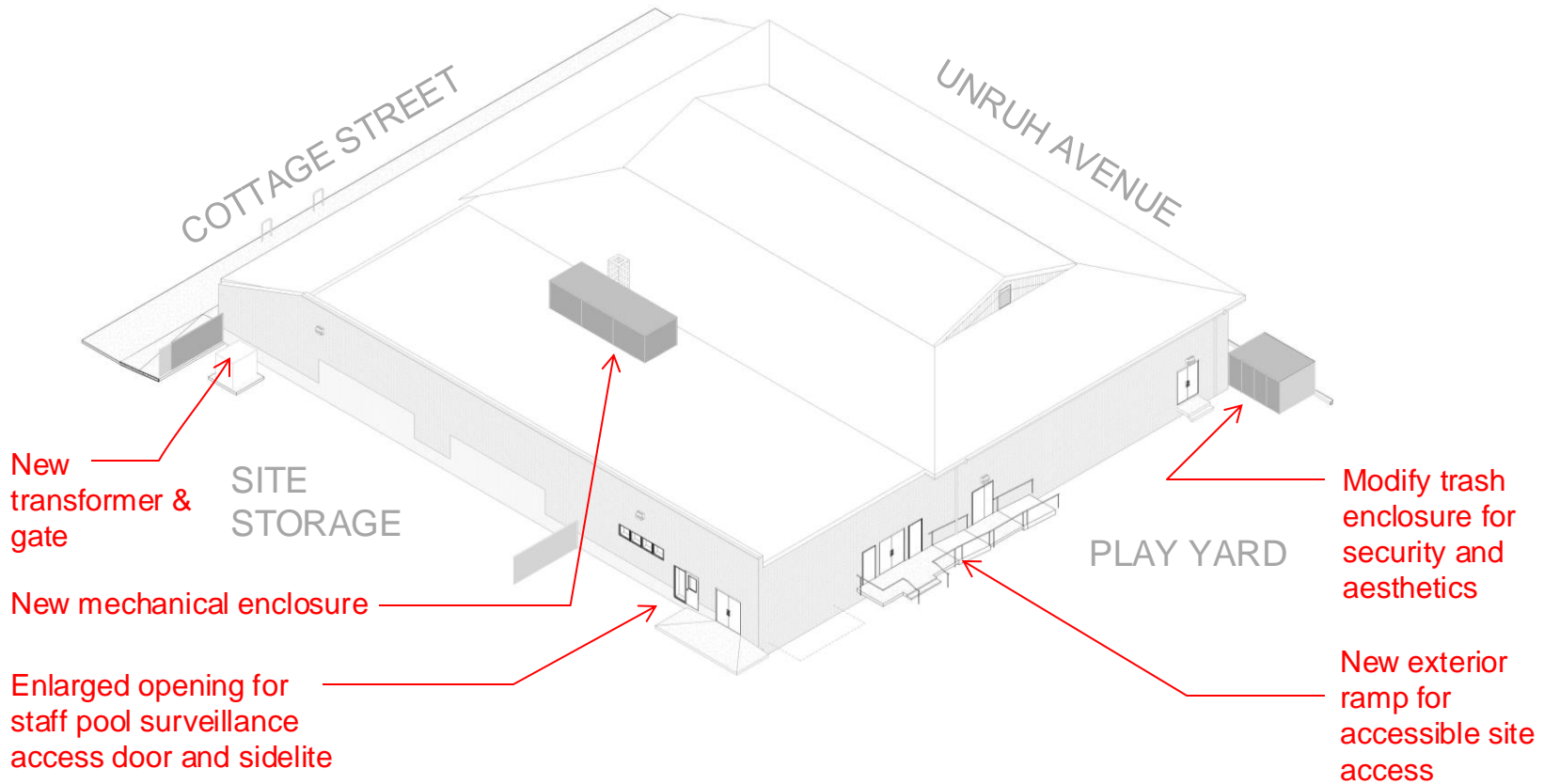


A. Existing Trash Enclosure

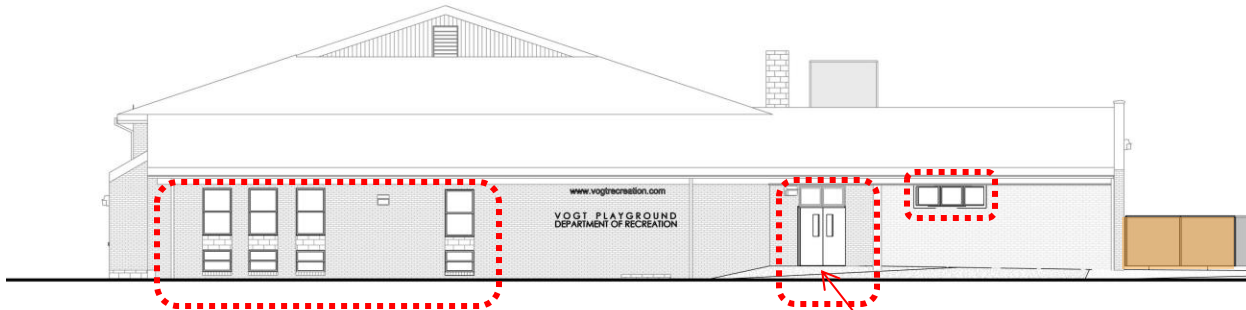
B. Existing surveillance opening & masonry damage, building-mounted exterior lights

C. Existing cages







## Building Program



**BUILDING ELEVATION - SOUTH**

 Replace windows and exterior doors

 New transformer & gate

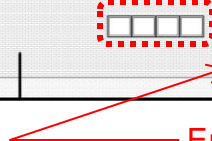
New roof offset to step down from roof insulation

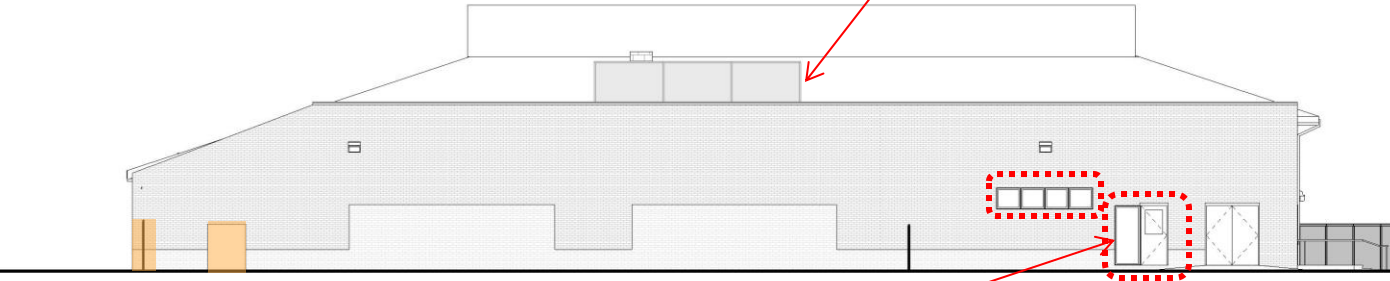
Replace exterior building-mounted light fixtures

Exterior masonry repairs

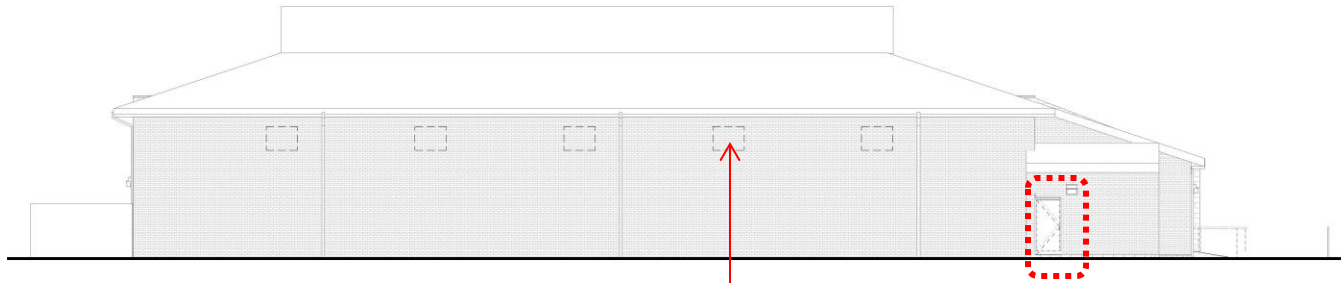
 New sloped entryway

 Mechanical units this area

 Enlarged opening for staff pool surveillance access door and sidelite

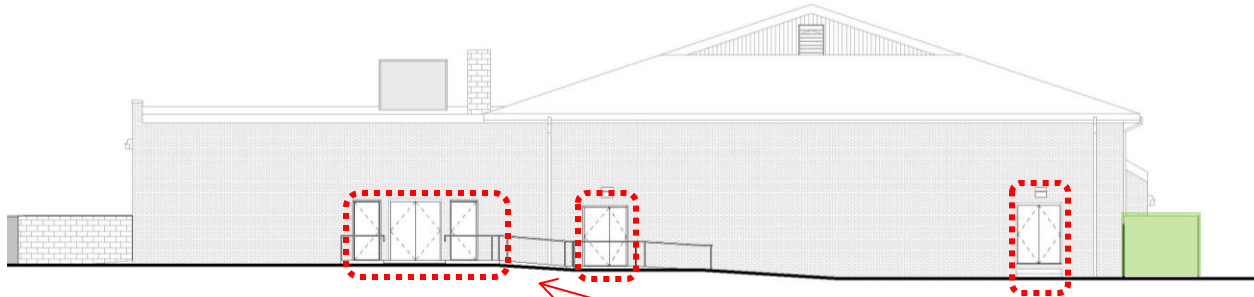


**BUILDING ELEVATION - EAST**




**BUILDING ELEVATION - WEST**


Remove wall-mounted condensers



**BUILDING ELEVATION - NORTH**

New exterior ramp for accessible site access

 Replace windows and exterior doors

 Modify trash enclosure for security and aesthetics

New roof offset to step down from roof insulation

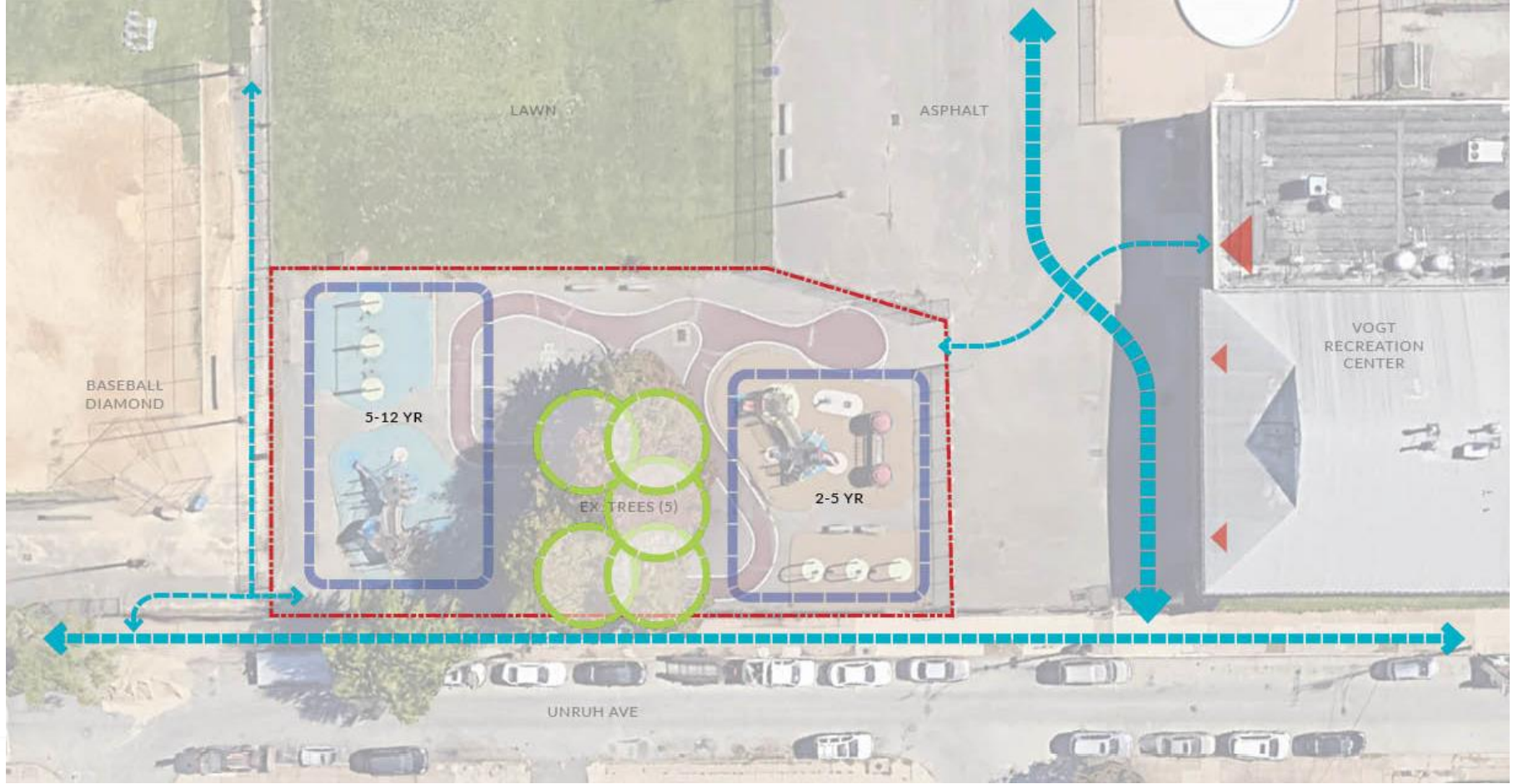
Replace exterior building-mounted light fixtures

Exterior masonry repairs

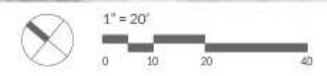
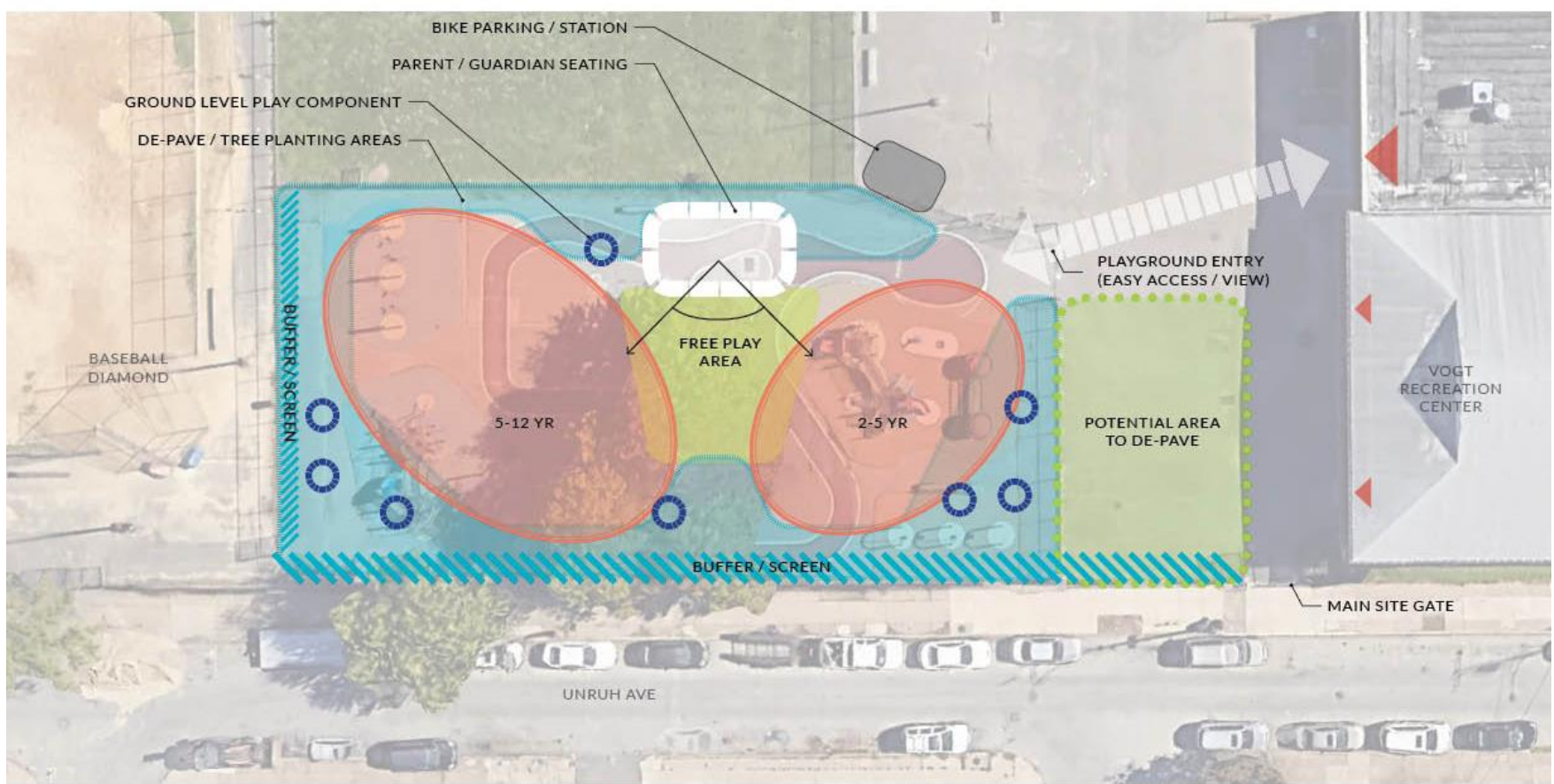


*What's at Vogt now?*

**VOGT RECREATION CENTER**  
ART COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW | JULY 2024



## Site Travel Paths

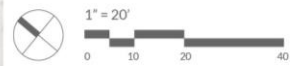


*Proposed Site Program*

**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
- 8 TRASH ENCLOSURE



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*

# 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'



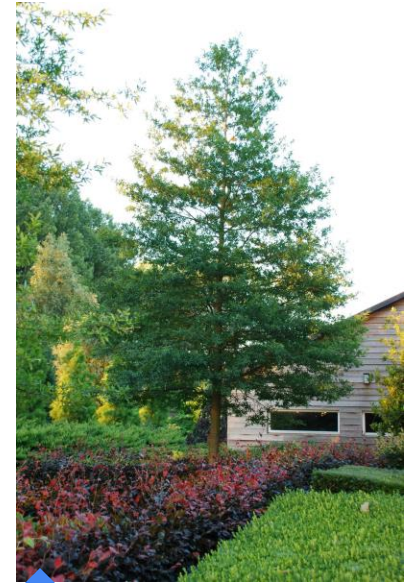
*Betula nigra*  
River Birch

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'



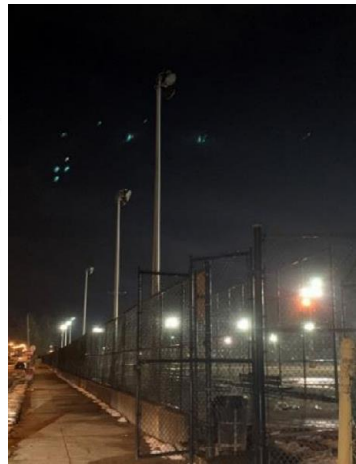
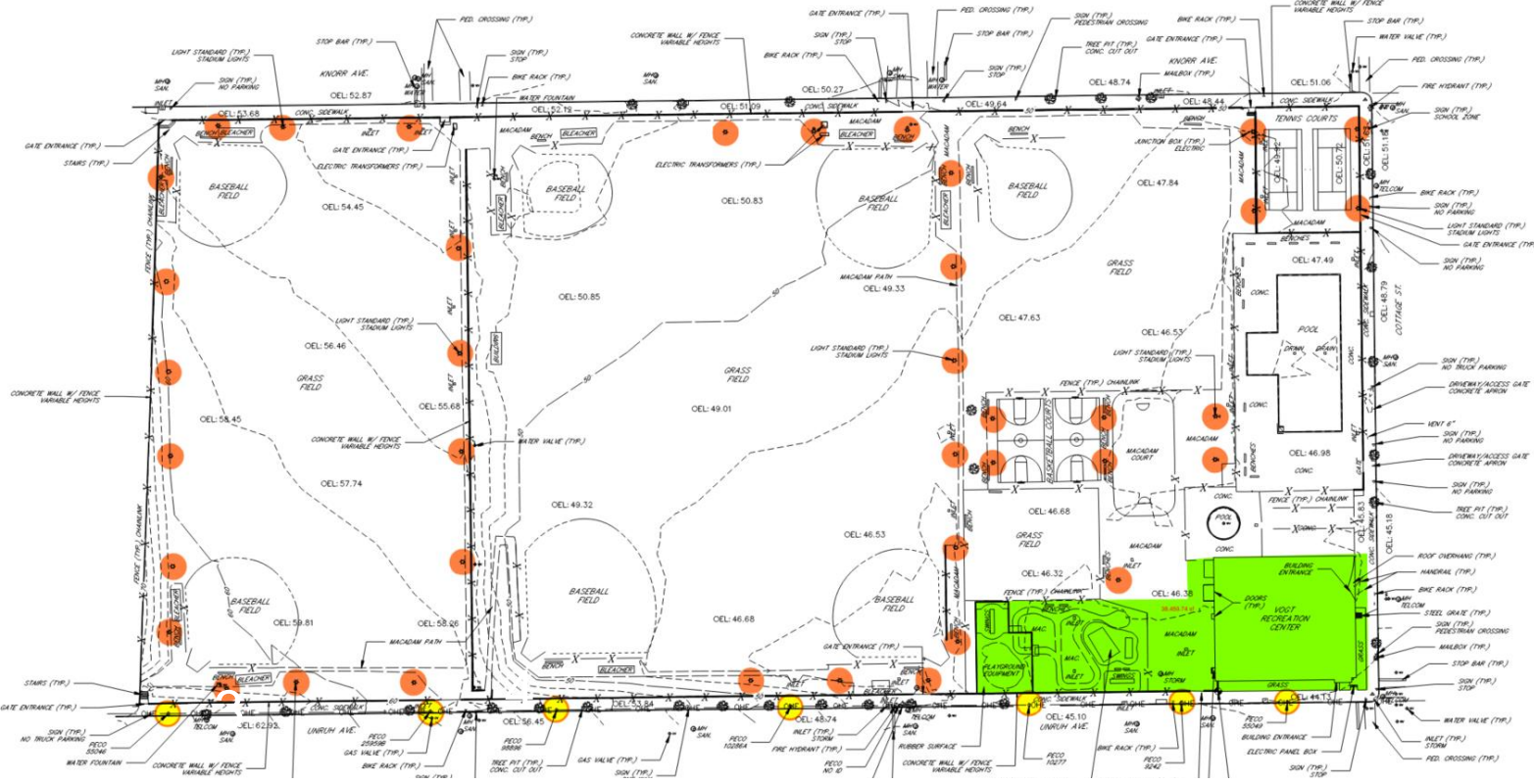
*Cercis canadensis* Ht. 20-30'  
Eastern Redbud Sp. 25-35'



*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 Site Lighting

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

THANK YOU!



July 9, 2024

Alex Smith  
The Philadelphia Art Commission  
One Parkway, 1515 Arch Street, 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*\*\*