



CATALYST FOR INNOVATION

THE ANYTHINK VISIONING SESSIONS

**HUM
PHRIES
POLI**
ARCHITECTS

HBM ARCHITECTS
INTERIORS

A Note From our Director:

This year, we launched the Anythink Strategic Plan 2018-2022, which defines our work for the next several years. In 2017, we spoke with over 1,600 people in our community to inform this new direction. The result of those conversations is a focus for the organization's work in three key areas: COMMUNITY, CULTURE, CAREER. With this new compass in mind, we launched a dialogue about how our spaces might help support these initiatives.

Anythink commissioned the architectural teams of Humphries Poli Architects & HBM Architects to conduct a series of community visioning sessions during the summer of 2018. The purpose of this inquiry was to invite stakeholders from our cultural, non-profit and business communities to help us identify the characteristics of a 21st century library through the lenses of community, culture and career. "If you were to merge concepts from museums with libraries, what would that look like?" "If you were to merge concepts from business incubators and co-working spaces with libraries, what would that look like?" These were just some of the questions asked in these sessions.

A special thank you to the 90+ attendees who were involved, including the Anythink Board of Trustees and leadership team, Adams County cultural partners and non-profits, Denver-metro area cultural partners, small-business leaders and entrepreneurs, and community members from Reunion, Thornton, and Northglenn. Your creativity is boundless.

This predesign work flows organically from our strategic planning work. The ideas and overarching direction provided by these sessions present an inspiring outlook for the future of our libraries. Our community has provided us with a vision that propels us forward by designing environments that support creativity, learning and gathering.



Pam Sandlian Smith
ANYTHINK DIRECTOR

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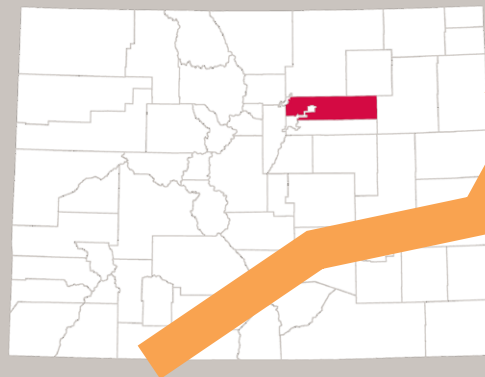


COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Adams County is one of the fastest-growing communities in the U.S. The county is uniquely situated as a convenient suburb between Denver and Boulder. It has direct proximity to Denver International Airport, vast spaces poised for development, transportation options and recreational opportunities. The graphics on the right show some of the forces that are shaping Adams County today.

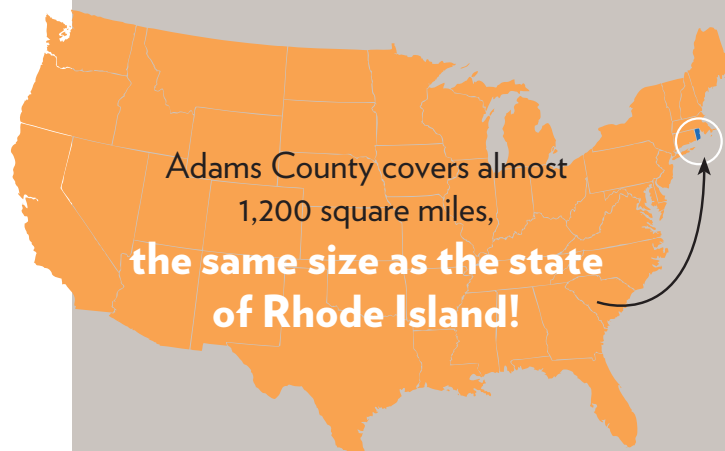
How are these changes affecting Anythink?

Because of the library's popularity, and as a result of steady growth in area new-home construction over the past few years, some library branches are already operating at or near capacity. As such, Anythink is anticipating the need for two new branch library buildings in areas of the county where new communities are being developed.



Adams County's population grew 29.5% overall from 2000 to 2015...

...and is projected to increase **82.3%** by 2050.



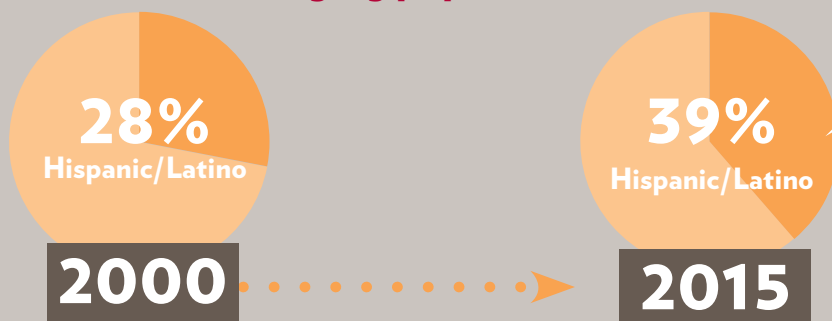
Adams County covers almost 1,200 square miles,
the same size as the state of Rhode Island!

Adams County was ranked the 8th-fastest growing county economy in the nation.

Oxford Economics (2017)

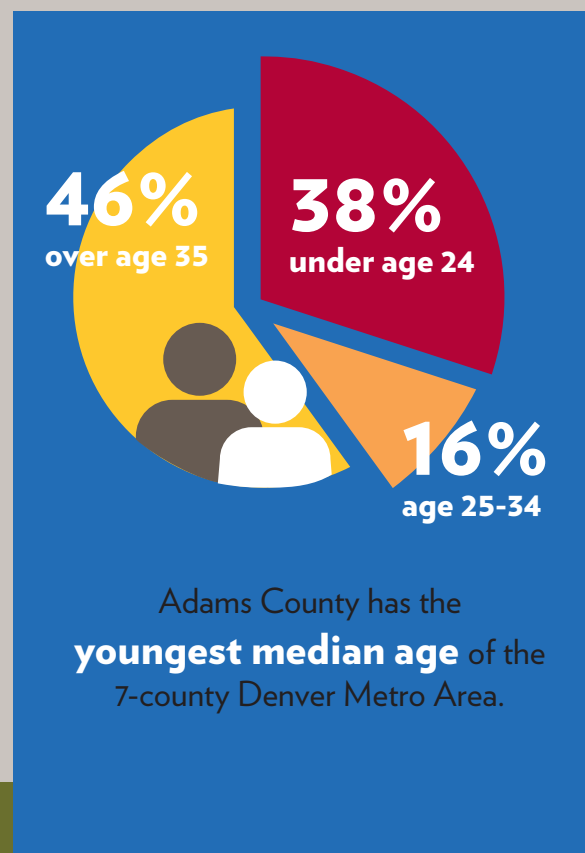
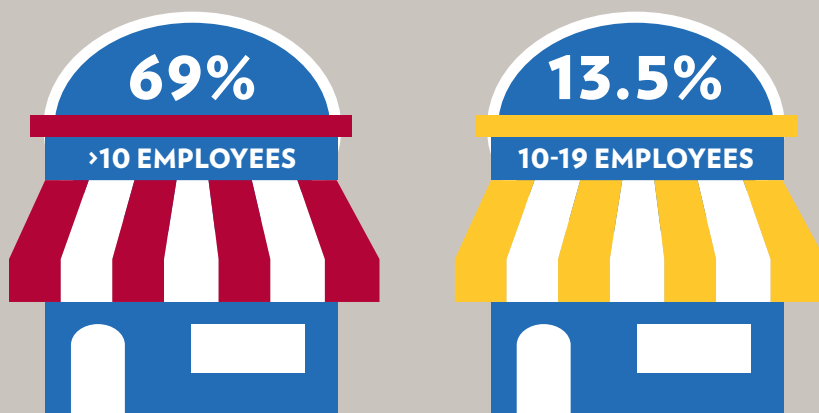


Adams County has a diverse and changing population!



Adams County has a larger percentage Hispanic population than both the state of Colorado and the 7-county Denver Metro Area.

The county is **home to over 10,000 businesses**, 82.5% of them with less than 20 employees.



Adams County has the **youngest median age** of the 7-county Denver Metro Area.

A Note from the Architect Team:

On behalf of the staff at Humphries Poli Architects and our colleagues at HBM Architects we wish to thank you for the opportunity to assist Anythink Libraries in the creation of this Community Visioning Process for the planning of the next generation of Anythink Libraries.

We are in complete awe of the numerous successes and international acclaim directed towards the Anythink service model over the past decade. Our awe caused us to wholly rethink our planning process to a higher level of creative engagement. We adopted several of the processes that were critical to the planning of the acclaimed Dokk1 Library in Aarhus, Denmark. The lessons learned from this investigation directed us to implement many of the concepts embedded in the “Design Thinking” model in our process of gathering community input.

Our efforts, with your assistance, included a diverse group of stakeholders across the Adams County communities who all shared the importance of their respective communities, forwarding thinking perspectives of the 21st century library, and most importantly the desire for a reimagined set of library services that could fill voids in their communities. The richness of this “catalyst for innovation” process was clearly evident from the onset. The ideas expressed were fresh, creative, and will result in higher level of anythink services founded upon the District’s recently adapted Strategic Plan.

HPA and HBM have collectively been involved in the creation of over 400 public library projects. Arguably, the creative response and thoughtful ideas generated by this process were clearly more impactful than what has been experienced in the past and has elevated our design teams thinking about the library of the future.

Once again we are most appreciative of this opportunity and we wish you the best of success in the implementation of Anythink 2.0.

Sincerely,

Humphries Poli Architects

Dennis Humphries, AIA
Principal-in-Charge

HBM Architects

Peter Bolek, AIA
Principal Architect

METHODOLOGY

With over 90 attendees, the perspectives included in the community visioning sessions were very diverse. The data, stories, and imagery collected was vibrant and rich, reflecting the depth of culture and community in Adams County. The following pages describe in detail the three methods we used to understand the opportunities, needs and ideas of the community:

PHOTOTYPING
MINDBREAKING
PROTOTYPING

Following each description of the methodology is a summary of the data, stories, and images that were collected in the meetings. The feedback from these sessions then directly informed the conceptual ideas in the final section of this book, and will shape the Anythink libraries to come.



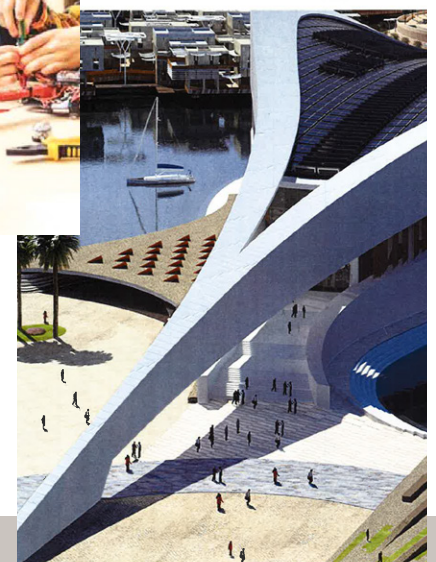
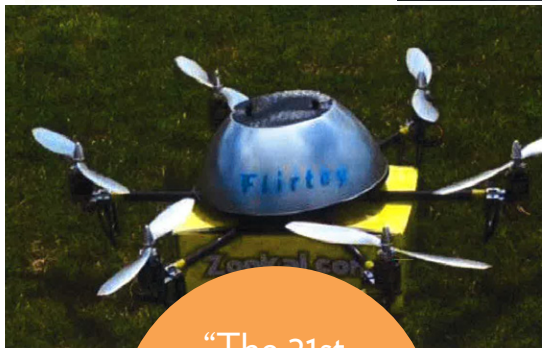
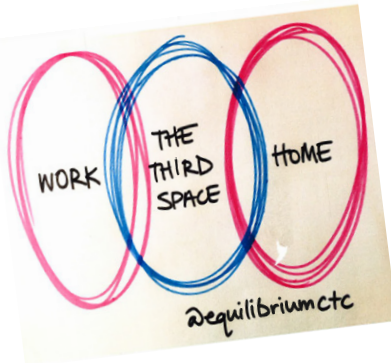
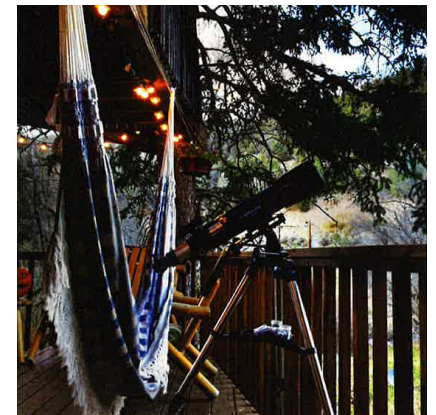
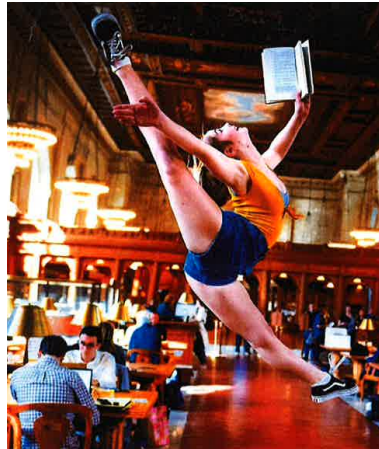
VISIONING

PHOTOTYPING

Getting back to user-focused library design requires us to get to know customers on a deeper level than just demographics and statistics. The data alone doesn't give us a full picture of how the people of Adams County live their lives. The "phototyping" exercise is one way that we gathered information about the customer's behavior, in smaller meetings with focused user groups.

Attendees were asked to bring photos to the meeting representing ideas on how they use the library, how they interact with their community, and the things that inspire them about their culture. These photos were then shared and discussed in the group setting. The stories that emerged highlighted rich areas of opportunity and allowed our design team to more fully understand the values, attitudes, and driving forces in Adams County.





"The 21st century library is wherever you are."

21ST CENTURY LIBRARY

MINDBREAKING

In this section of the community visioning process, attendees were asked to provide brief written comments on Post-It notes about their thoughts and preferences for the future of Anythink Libraries. Photographs of library design from around the world were presented to inspire and encourage creative thinking in responses.

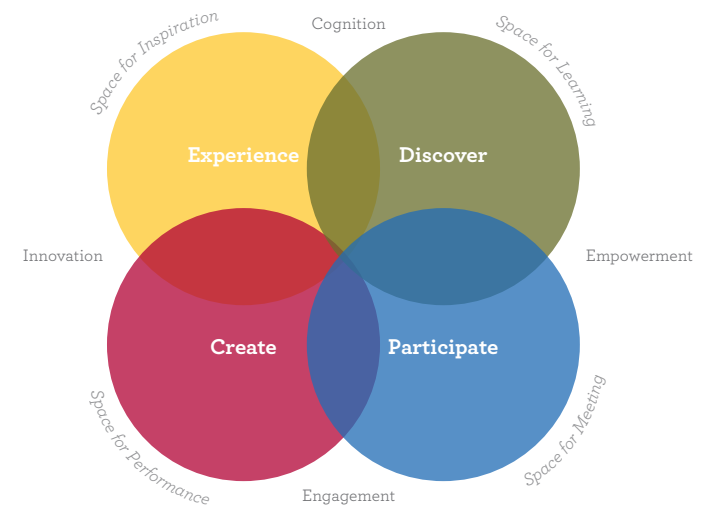
These responses were divided into the four categories of the Modern Library shown on the right: Experience, Discover, Create, and Participate. We also asked attendees “what is one thing you can do in a library” to develop a strong understanding of the activities that people value being able to do in their current library. The notes were collected in each meeting, compiled with the responses from all other meetings, and categorized to create the word clouds on the following pages.

Words that are larger in each of the clouds show what feedback was heard most often in each of the areas.

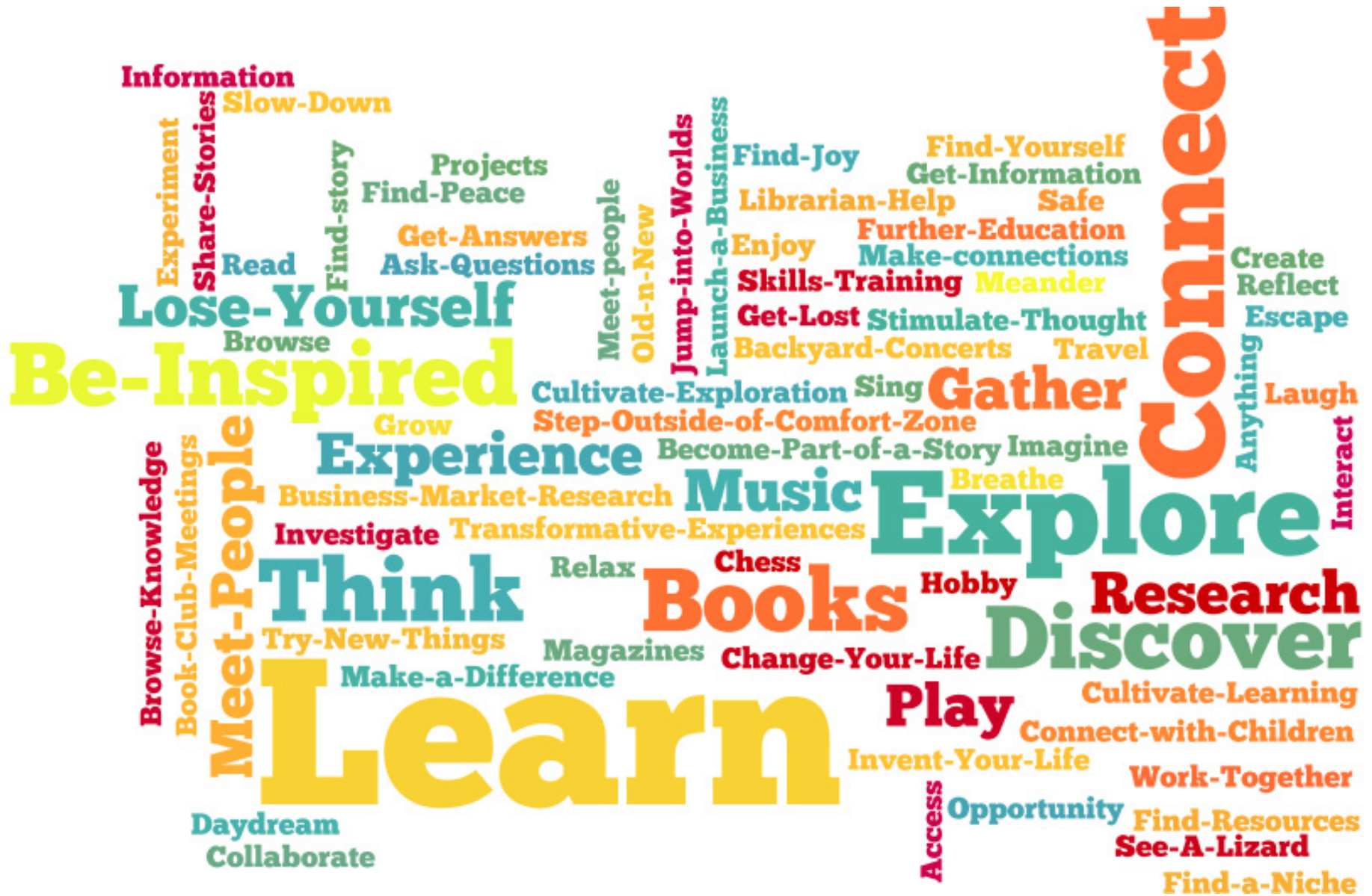


The Modern Library

D. Skot-Hansen et. al.
Royal School of Library and Information Science



ONE THING YOU CAN DO IN A LIBRARY





PROTOTYPING

The prototyping phase is where experimentation is able to happen before any ground is broken. Given craft supplies, a pile of odds and ends, magazines, and complete creative freedom, attendees were asked to divide themselves into groups and work together to make a prototype of a part of a library centered on a big idea.

Working quickly to put together a simple three-dimensional model allowed people to not worry about the details or getting it right the first time, but instead stay focused on the endless possibilities for their ideas. As the participants worked to transform and communicate ideas in their head to a form that can be understood by others, it became obvious what ideas Anythink stakeholders and customers are excited about.

The next page showcases some of the innovative ideas that were “built” during the visioning sessions.

The following section shows how these concepts have been used by the design team to translate into the next stage of the library development process.





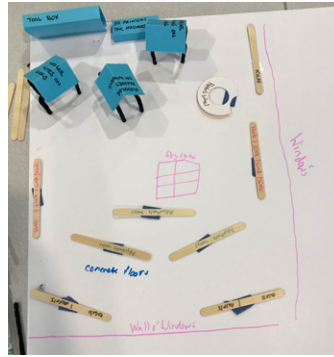
Large Screen Outdoor Theatre and Seating



Amphitheater with Word Art Installation



Interactive Shelving with Treehouse



Creative Arts Studio



Co-working Flex Spaces and Store in Library



Outdoor Theater and Play Area



Performance & Teen Lounge w/ Reading Cubbies



Children's Outdoor Reading Garden



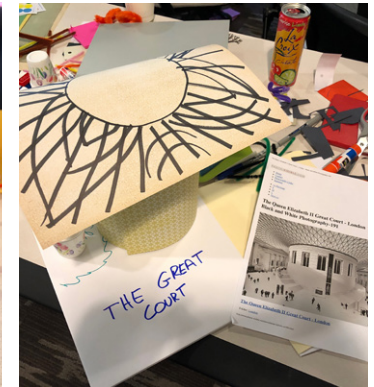
Community Kitchen, Vertical Planting Wall and Gathering Table



"Murphy" Computer Lab Station



Three-Story Library with Rooftop Pool



The Great Court



Community Garden, Outdoor Harvest Table, and Silo



Outdoor Adventure Spaces with Mountain Views

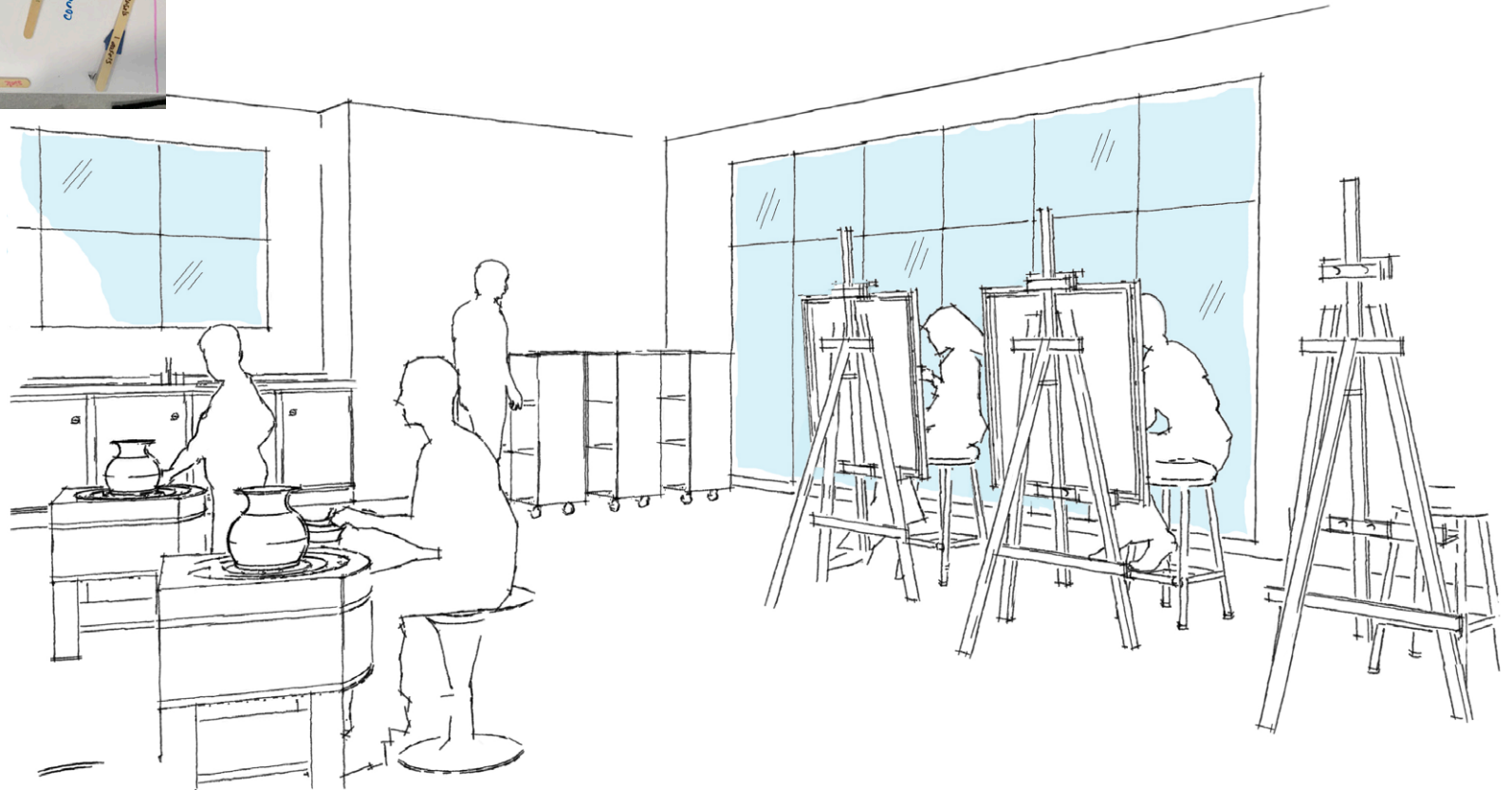
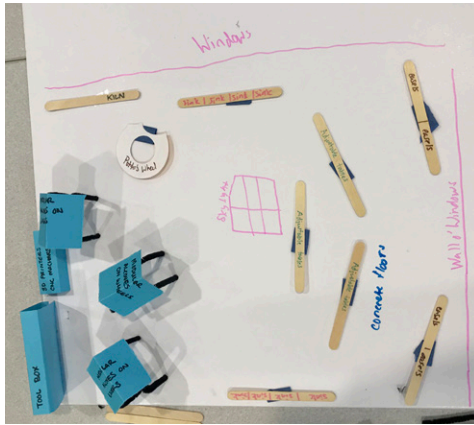


ANYTHINK 2.0

CREATE

CREATIVE ARTS STUDIO

(ANYTHINK LEADERSHIP)



ADJUSTABLE TABLES



POTTERY WHEELS



MOBILE STORAGE

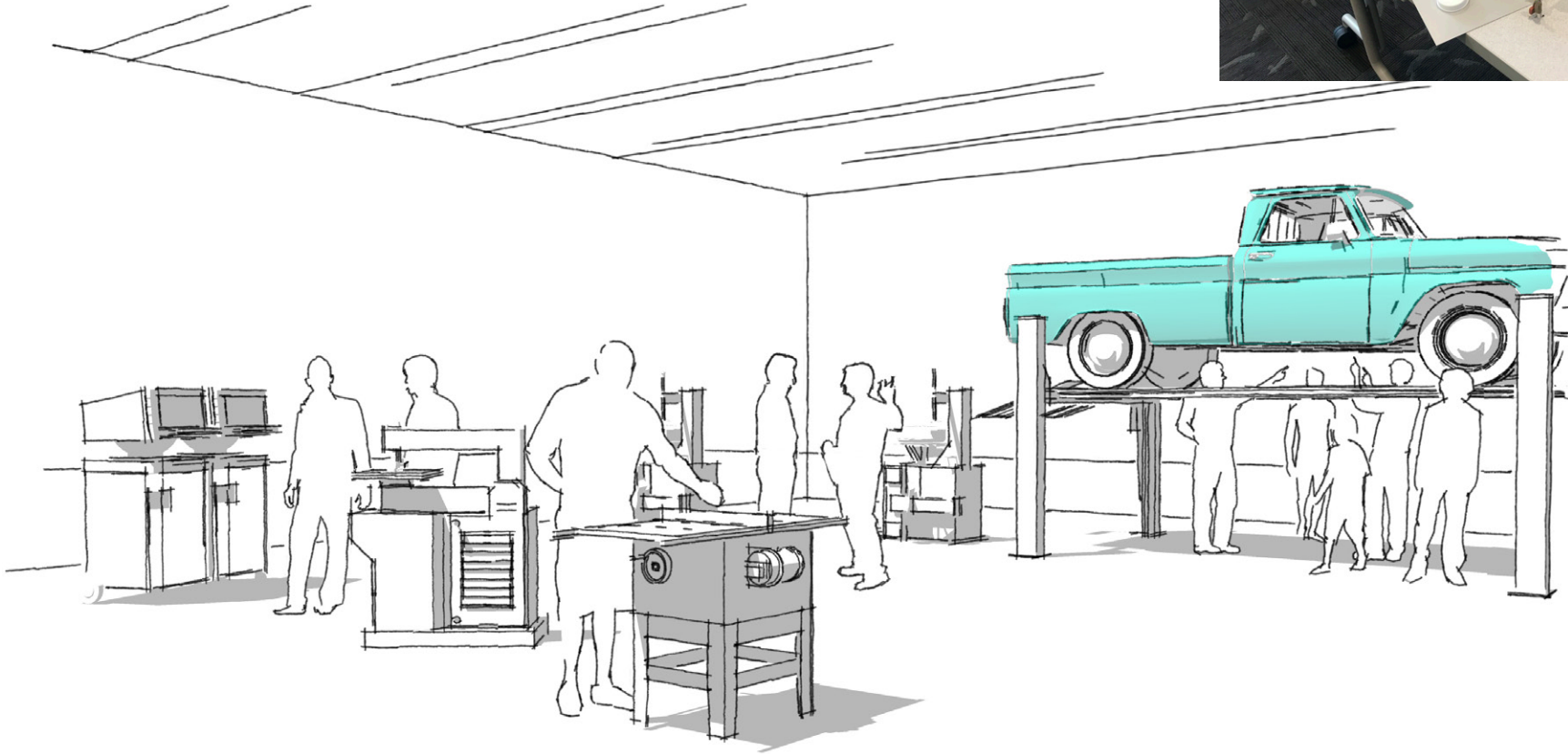


PAINTING EASELS

CREATE

TRADE SKILLS + TECHNICAL TRAINING

(ADAMS COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS + ENTREPRENEURS)



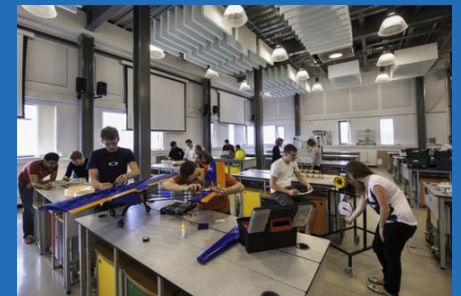
WOOD SHOP



AUTO GARAGE



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

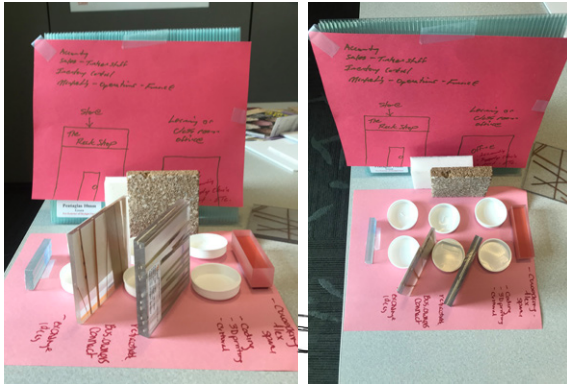


TECHNICAL TRAINING

CREATE

COWORKING SPACE

(ADAMS COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS + ENTREPRENEURS)



COLLABORATION



3D PRINTING



PROGRAMMING



COWORKING SPACE

DISCOVER

INTERACTIVE SHELVING

(CULTURAL PARTNERS)



COLORFUL LIGHTING



UNIQUE / EXCITING



INTERACTIVE



INDOOR / OUTDOOR



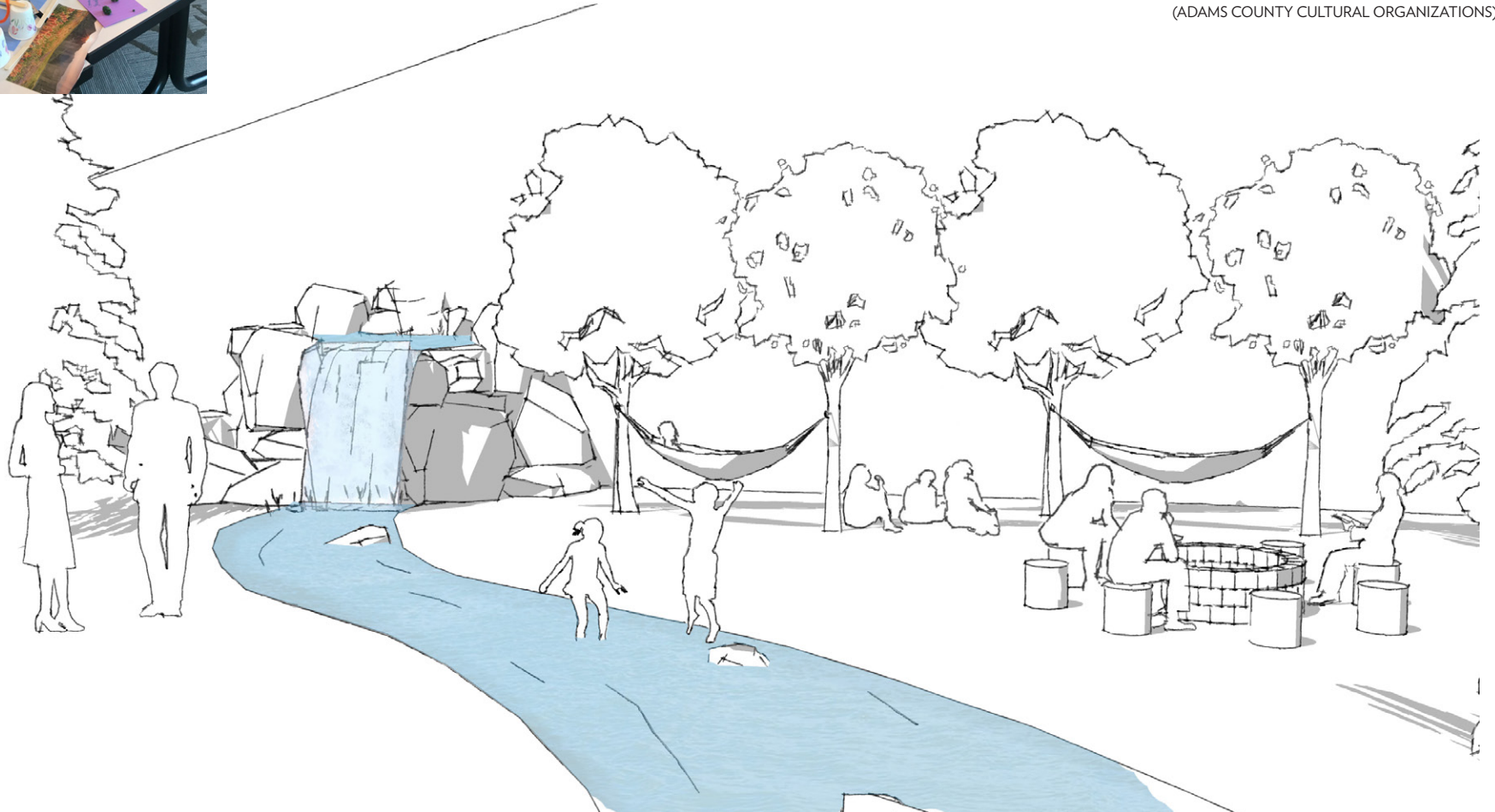
TREE-LIKE STRUCTURE



DISCOVER

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

(ADAMS COUNTY CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS)



FIRE PIT



HAMMOCKS



WATER ACTIVITIES

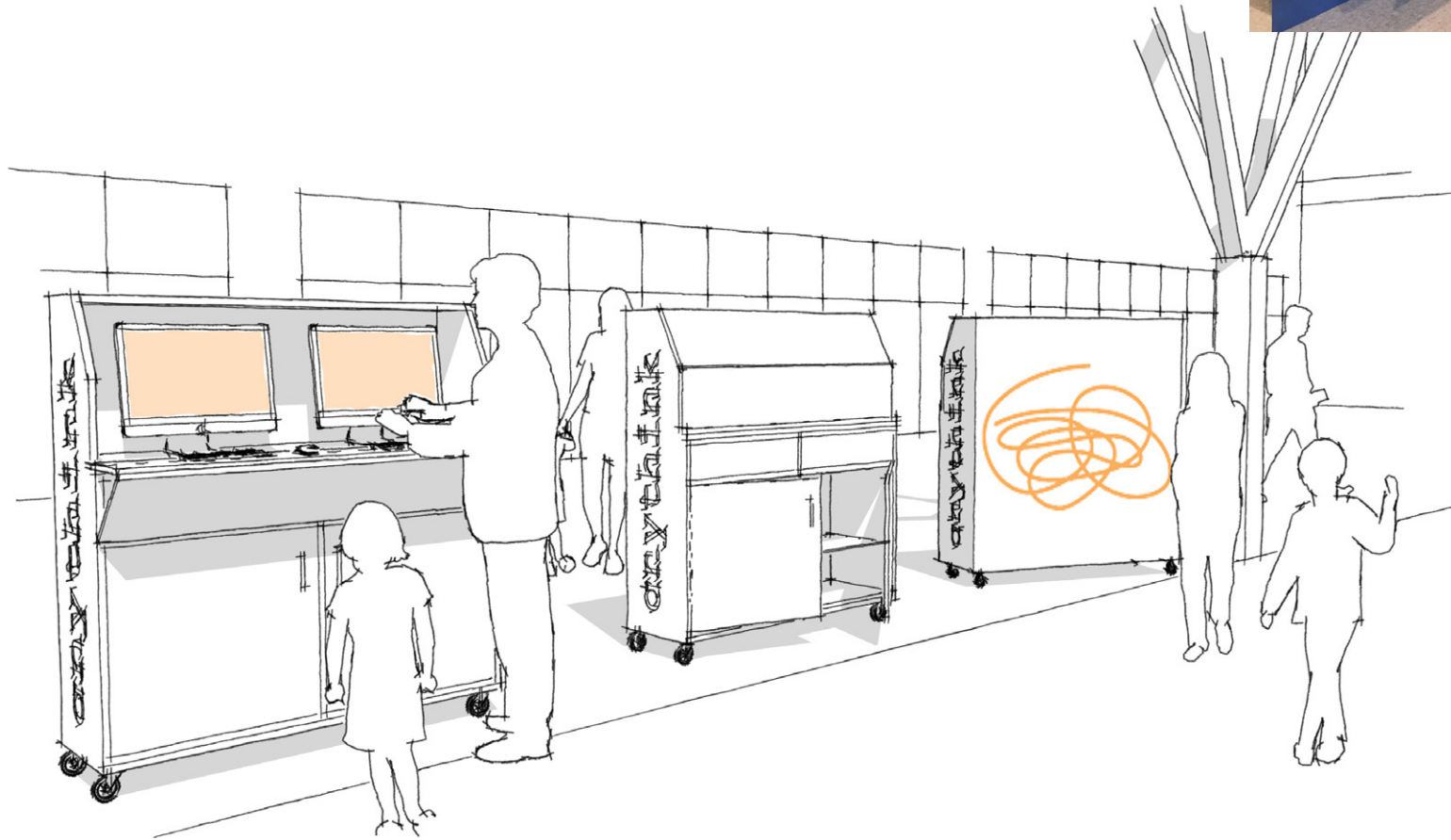
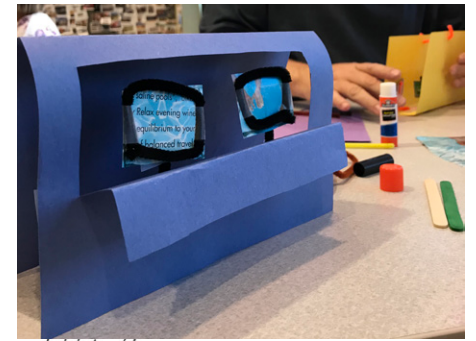


WILDERNESS TRAINING

DISCOVER

MURPHY COMPUTER STATION

(ANYTHINK LEADERSHIP)



COMPACT



"MURPHY BED" STYLE DOOR



MOBILE STORAGE



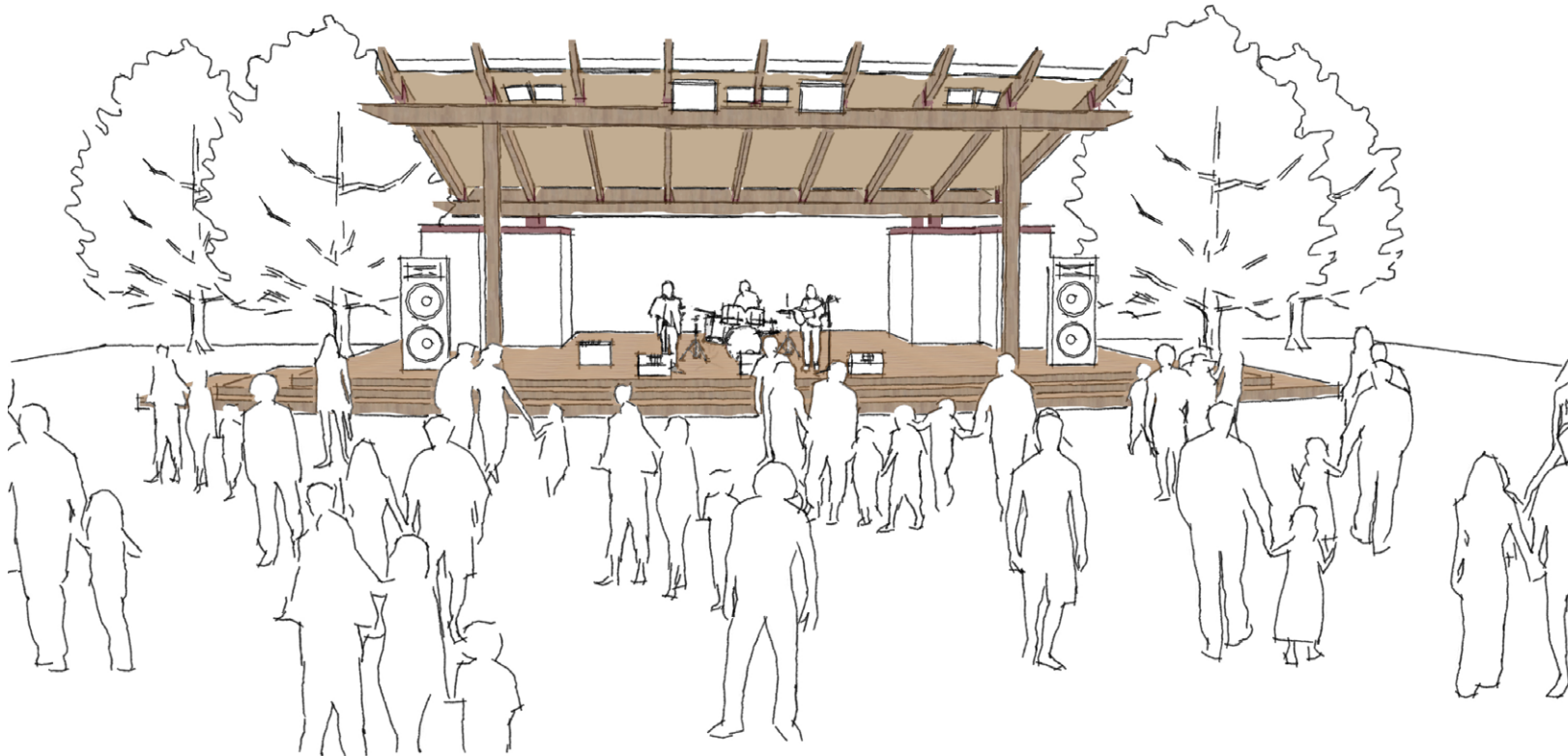
MODERN



DISCOVER

DINOSAUR OUTDOOR THEATER

(DOKK1 RESEARCH GROUP)



DINOSAUR BONES



CONCERT VENUE



INDOOR / OUTDOOR

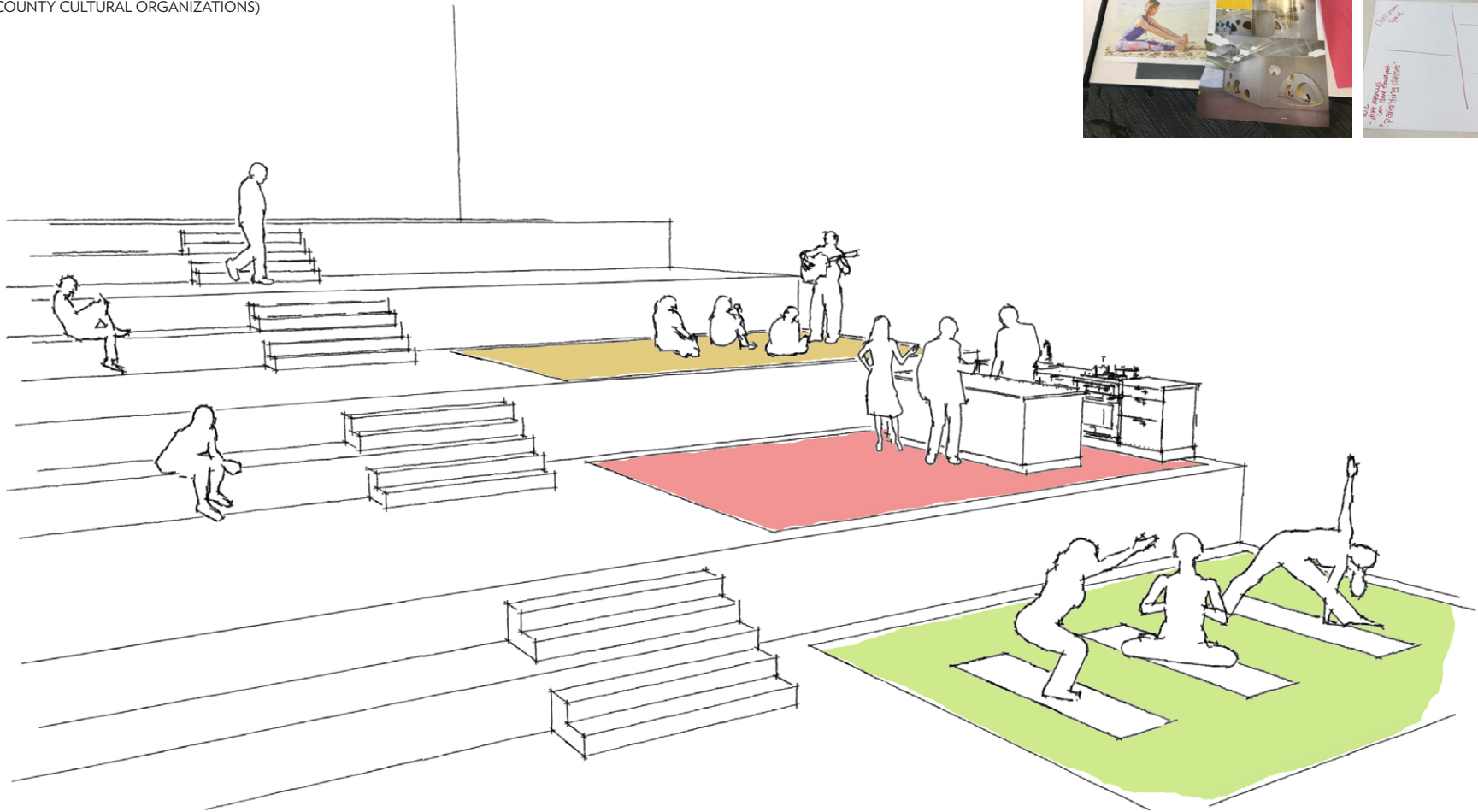


OPEN CANOPY

EXPERIENCE

FIVE SENSES

(ADAMS COUNTY CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS)



PERCEPTION



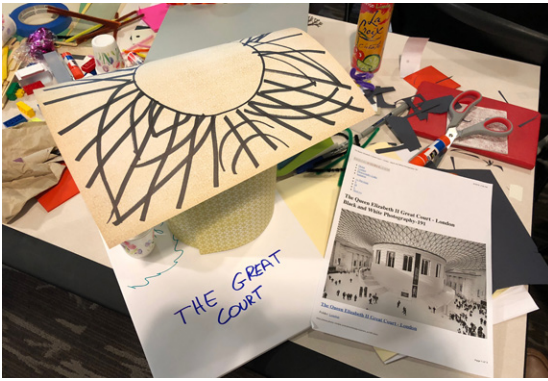
COOKING



MUSIC



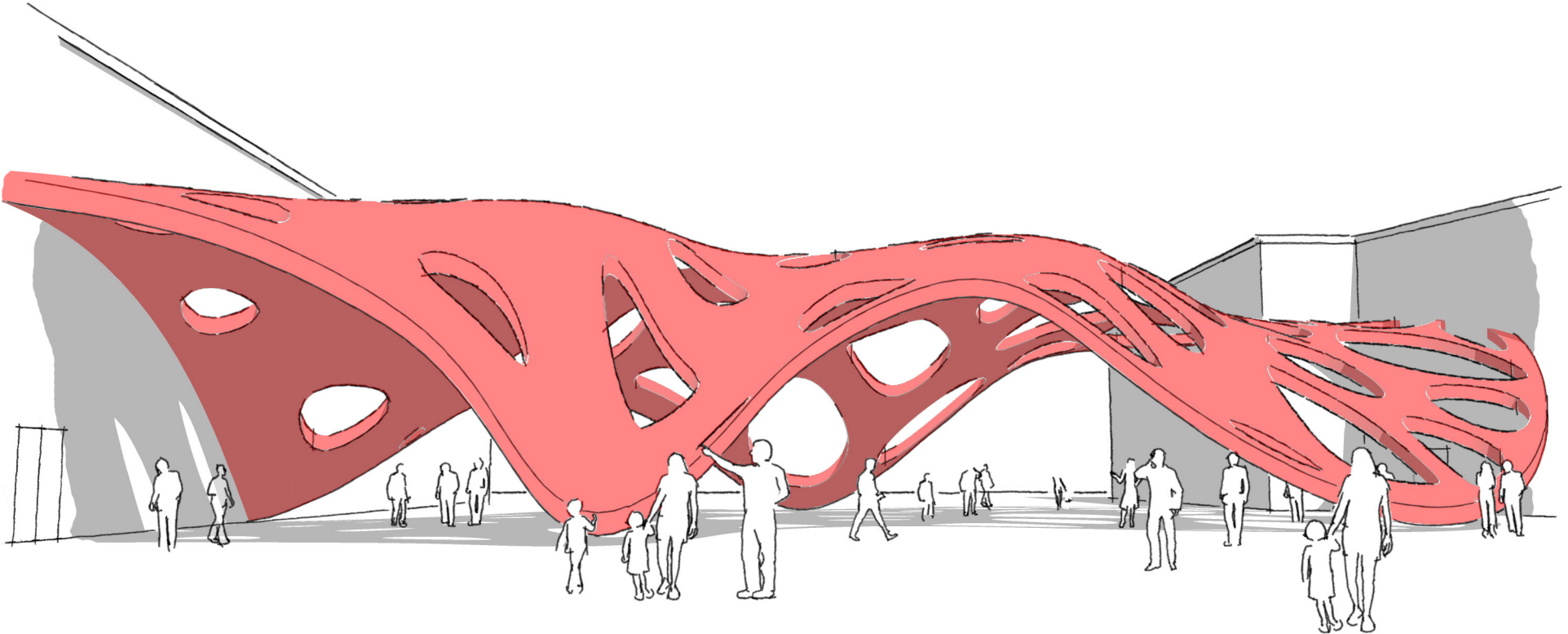
PROGRAM STATIONS



EXPERIENCE

THE GREAT COURT

(DOKK1 RESEARCH GROUP)



CREATIVE DESIGN



GRAND SCALE



INDOOR / OUTDOOR

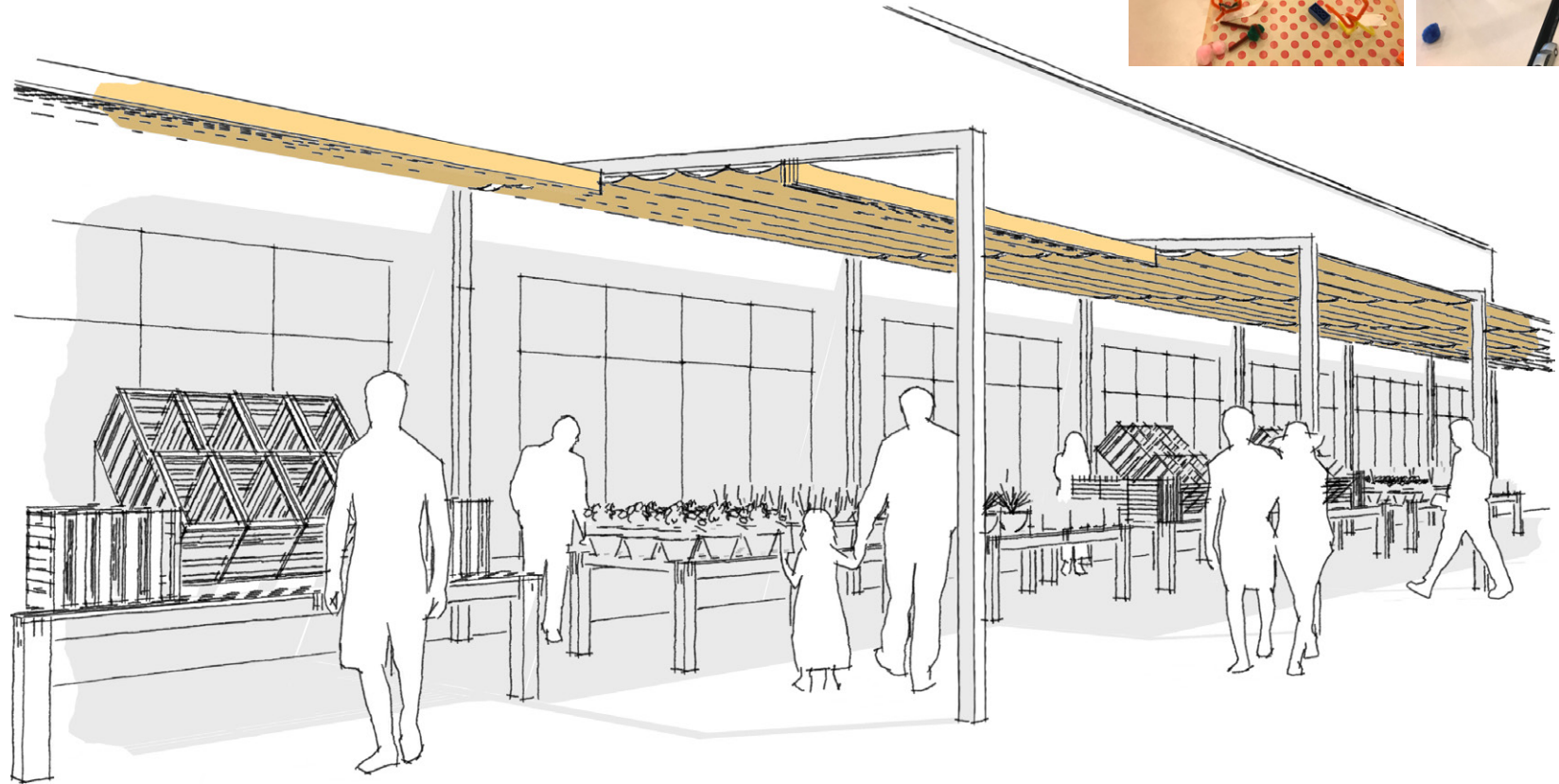


ORGANIC GEOMETRY

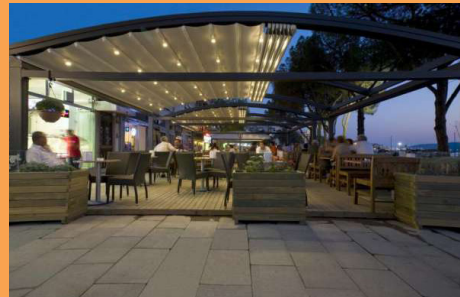
EXPERIENCE

MARKET SPACE WITH RETRACTABLE ROOF

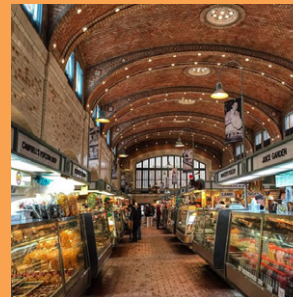
(NORTHGLENN / THORNTON COMMUNITY)



INDOOR / OUTDOOR



AWNING



FARMERS MARKET



RETRACTABLE ROOF



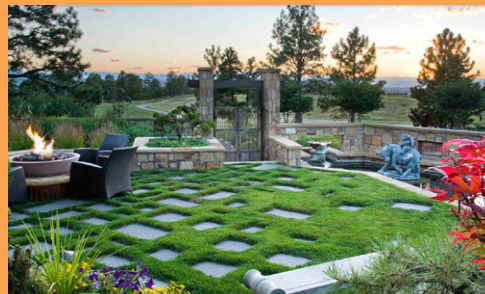
EXPERIENCE

TALL CATHEDRAL INTERIOR, OUTDOOR LOUNGE

(NORTHGLENN / THORNTON COMMUNITY)



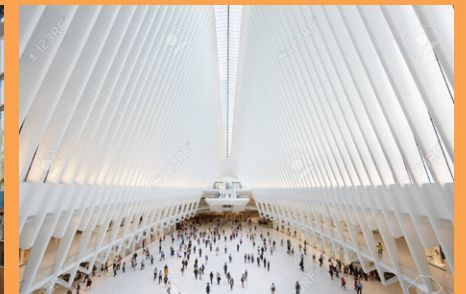
COMMUNITY GATHERING



OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



NATURAL LIGHT

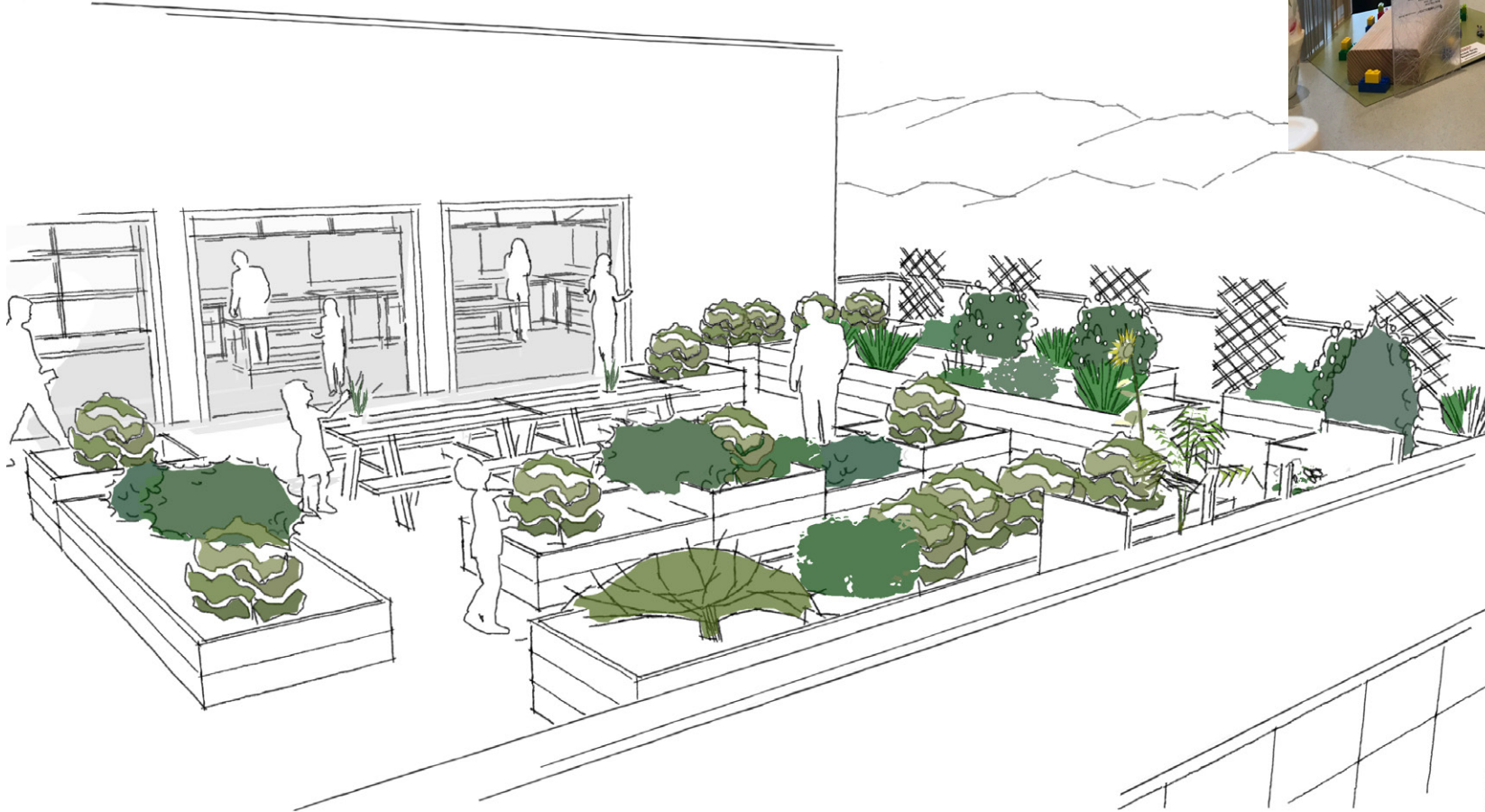


SPACIOUS

PARTICIPATE

COMMUNITY GARDEN + KITCHEN

(REUNION COMMUNITY)



COOKING CLASSES



FOOD PREPARATION



GARDEN HARVESTING



COMMUNITY GARDEN

PARTICIPATE

COMMUNITY HARVEST TABLE + PLANTING WALL

(REUNION COMMUNITY)



COMMUNITY



VERTICAL FARMING



OUTDOORS



PLANTING WALL

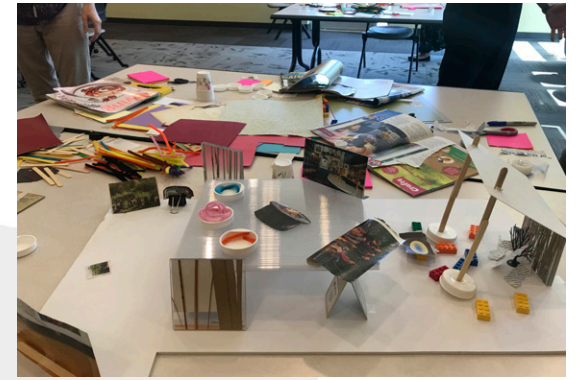


GATHERING SPACE

PARTICIPATE

WORD ART INSTALLATION

(CULTURAL PARTNERS)



LIGHT PROJECTION



INTERACTIVE



COLORFUL



TYPOGRAPHY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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