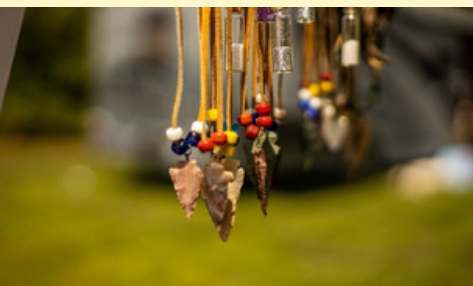
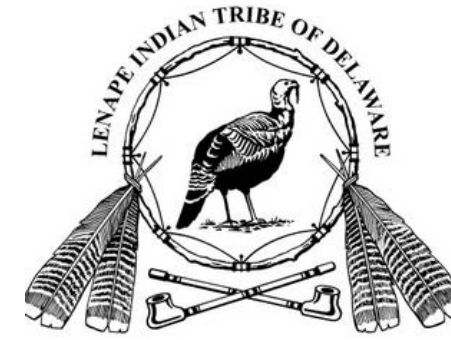




CULTURAL CENTER

AUGUST 2021





LENAPE CULTURAL CENTER
VISION & CONCEPTS

Restoring our land represents connections spiritually, historically, and environmentally as a people. This place to call our own allows us, the Lenape, to tell our truth of where we came from, where we are, and where we are going.



Credit: "Lenape Indian Tribe DELAWARE, Kent County." Lenape Indian Tribe Delaware, Kent County, www.lenapeindiantribeofdelaware.com

PREPARED BY
GSBS Architects
 &
University of Delaware
 College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
 Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

AUGUST 2021

AERIAL VIEW





Photo by Simon Purchase-James

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LENAPE STEERING COMMITTEE

- Dennis Coker, Chief of the Lenape Tribe
- Carla Coker, Council-at-Large
- Marian Coker, Tribal Citizen
- Sara Fuller, Tribal Citizen
- Walter Durham, Tribal Citizen

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

- Elisabeth Davis, Landscape Intern
- Kenly Velasquez, Landscape Intern
- Donovan Aldrige, Journalism Intern
- Anna Wik, Assistant Professor
- Jon Cox, Assistant Professor

GSBS ARCHITECTS

- David Garce, Principal
- Ladd Schiess, Project Manager
- Amy Tetreault, Architectural Assoc.

BACKGROUND

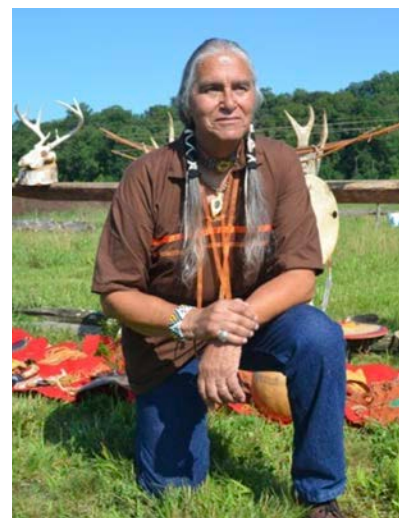
After many years of seeking a place of our own, we, the Lenape, have taken one of the first steps in making that dream a reality by creating this document to show how our hopes and dreams might translate to a physical place. More than simply finding a place for tribal offices, we seek a Cultural Center of enlightenment where learning of history, culture, can grow with tribal affairs, events, and ceremonies. We want to connect our People spiritually through our truth and invite others to our place of healing to learn with us, to not only heal our People but stand as beacons of regeneration for the world. This place will be for generations of learning, connecting through time, those lessons that are distinctly Lenape, and from Mother Earth to all people for all time. We have not forgotten our past, but are learning and growing and invite all people to gather with us, starting with our own, to come with us to learn, heal, and connect.

As an ongoing collaboration with the University of Delaware, we have started cultural mapping with events, projects, and workshops where “Our mission is to protect the cultural identity of the Lenape People of Delaware through educational, social and cultural programs and to promote the physical and economic health of our Citizens through specialized health and economic development programs tailored to our needs. We

also advocate for the civil and human rights of our community and our Citizens,” said Principal Chief, Dennis J. Coker.

Through our projects and relationships with the University of Delaware, we began to work through ideas of how we can accomplish our goals and reach a broader community. Academic support has helped us consolidate and translate our ideas into more specific possibilities and take the step of hiring landscape architects and architects. Because of their similar past work with other tribes, GSBS Architects was chosen to help us program and prepare conceptual drawings for a Cultural Center that communicates our vision.

Over the summer of 2021, GSBS and University of Delaware interns worked with a Steering Committee from our tribe to create this document. The process began with a visioning meeting to ensure that the GSBS and University of Delaware work team understood our People and our vision for the Cultural Center. Priorities were identified and a programming list of activities and spaces was created. From there the work team created conceptual site and building designs with Steering Committee review and feedback every two weeks. The designs are presented in this booklet.



(Left and Middle) Credit: "Lenape Indian Tribe DELAWARE, Kent County." Lenape Indian Tribe Delaware, Kent County. www.lenapeindiantribeofdelaware.com/. (Right) Credit: Photo provided by Jon Cox

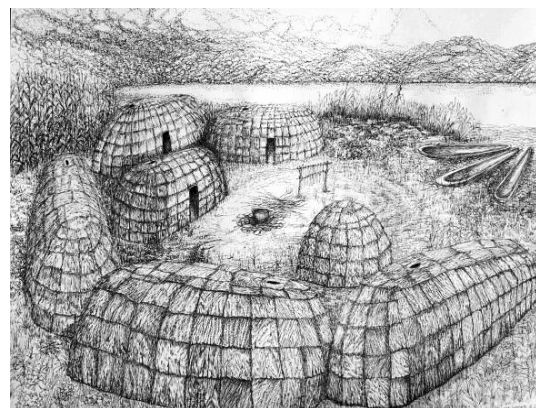
LENAPE LIFE-WAYS

WICKIUPS

Traditionally made by skinning bark and using the outer layer as shingles. Villages of numerous buildings were common. Rounded forms of both the footprint and profile are unique in design.



1



2

BOWERIES

These built structures offer shade while still allowing wind and rain to penetrate.



3

THREE SISTERS

When corn is planted along side of beans and squash, the beans have something to grow up and the squash suppressed the weeds.



4

THE TURTLE, MUSK-RAT, AND CEDAR

People came from the land. The world was all water until the musk-rat placed mud on the turtles back. White Cedar grew from it, and from its roots man grew.



5

FOUR CARDINAL DIRECTIONS

Each direction has a different symbolic meaning to us. They represent the 4 seasons, starting in the East with spring.



6

INTRODUCTION

We, the Lenape, are a peaceful, close-knit, people and have been isolated at times. As the First People of the First State, we have also been known as the Grandfathers of the Eastern Tribes, "The Wisdom Keepers," "Negotiators." This Cultural Center will allow us to continue in that role, and tell our truth of where we came from, where we are, and where we are going. Having a place of our own to share with everyone will restore a piece of land to us and allow for greater connections spiritually, historically, and environmentally, as a People.

While the center will represent the three clans of the Lenape, it will differentiate us of the southern clan, the Unalachtigo or "People of the Big Water." Historically located on the peninsula between the bays, Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay, geography has transformed us so much through time and we are a product of place. Nature is very sacred and important and we are mandated to be protectors of the environment, our sacred spaces.

As an Eastern Woodland tribe, we seek to promote the culture, traditions, ceremonies, and art that are important to us. Earth tone colors, water, sky, native plants and animals have sacred importance to us. We seek to express our culture and teach it to our people and those that wish to learn from us through education, ceremonies and celebrations.

We have begun the process of providing a place of gathering for our People. The designs and images in this booklet are representation of how our hopes and dreams can be a reality. Your support will help us in this effort to honor our Lenape People. We are healing and strengthening our connection with our ancestral homeland and our contribution to the founding of our country.

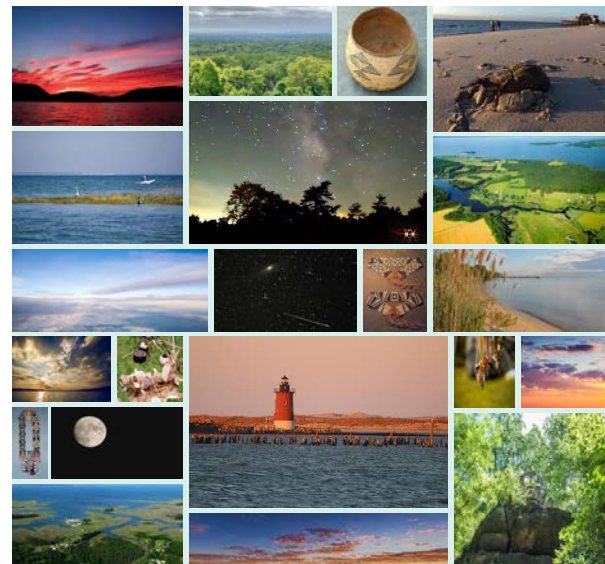


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2. "Native American Homes - Characteristics and Common Tribes." *American History from Native American to Independence*, theamericanhistory.org/native-american-homes.html.
3. Irina Koleva "22October 23, 2019. "New Classroom Takes Learning Outdoors." *The Columns*, 20 Feb. 2020, columns.wlu.edu/new-classroom-takes-learning-outdoors/.
4. Scherrer, Emy. "Understanding the Historic Wampanoag Three Sisters Garden, a Short Lesson in Folklore and Planting." *Garden City Harvest*, Garden City Harvest, 18 Sept. 2020, www.gardencityharvest.org/the-real-dirt-garden-city-harvest-blog/2016/03/30/understanding-the-historic-wampanoag-three-sisters-garden-a-short-lesson-in-folklore-and-planting.
5. TEHS - *Quarterly Archives*, tehistory.org/bqda/html/v28/v28n3p097.html.
6. Emily, et al. "Native American Medicine Wheel - Traditional NATIVE HEALING." *Traditional Native Healing | All My Relations*, 21 Jan. 2015, traditionalnativehealing.com/native-american-medicine-wheel.

RESTORING OUR LAND REPRESENTS CONNECTIONS
SPIRITUALLY, HISTORICALLY,
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY AS A PEOPLE.

THIS PLACE TO CALL OUR OWN ALLOWS US, **THE LENAPE**,
TO TELL OUR TRUTH OF WHERE WE CAME FROM, WHERE
WE ARE, AND WHERE WE ARE GOING.



VISION STATEMENT & GUIDEPOSTS

From the start, our Lenape Steering Committee presented a vision of what they wanted the Cultural Center to be. To ensure that the GSBS and the University of Delaware team understood our vision and that the group could be on the same page when it came to decision making in designs, we worked together to create a vision statement with guideposts.

The vision statement communicates our goals and defines what success will look like for this project. The Guideposts

are defining principles and values that guide the design. They help define how the goals will be accomplished and give further detail into our values and vision. It helps the work team to refine their design and makes it easier to evaluate changes.

It was the team's goal to start each meeting by reading the vision statement and reviewing the guideposts. It kept us on the same page and reminded us of the priorities.



DISTINCTLY LENAPE

- Eastern Woodland Style
 - Earth tone colors
 - Water, Sky
 - Trees
- Importance of nature
- Story telling Lenape History
- Spiritual Connections
- Showcase creativity
- Representation of the people

A PLACE OF GATHERING

- Integrity
 - Family & Community first
- Celebration of being Lenape
- Place of Traditions
- Ceremonies
- Social Functions

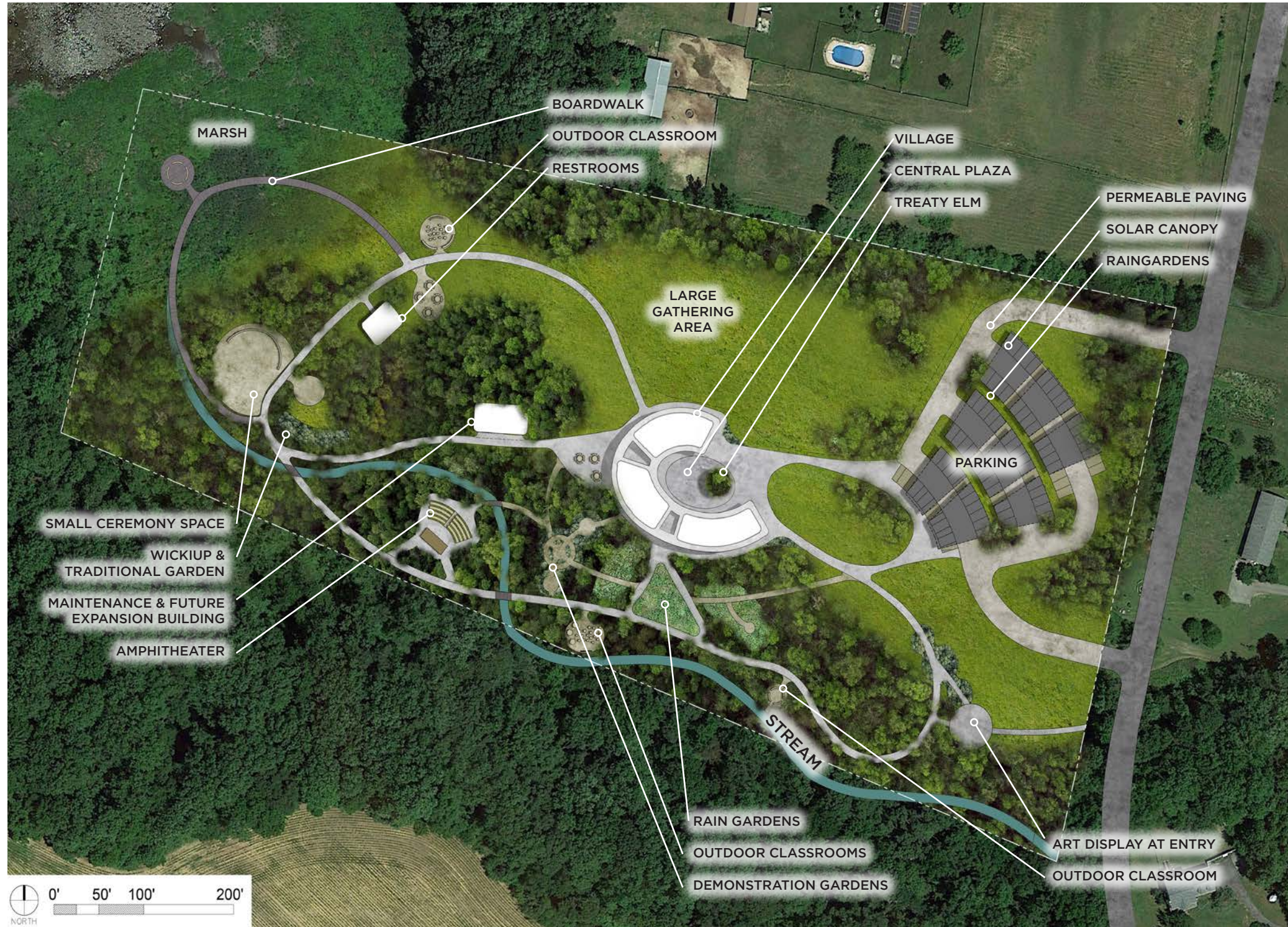
ENLIGHTENMENT

- From Youth to Elders
- Historical Truth
 - Way of Life
 - Delaware History
 - Removal practices & laws
- Culture (traditions, arts/crafts, language)
- Health & Healing
- Sustainability

PROTECTORS OF THE EARTH

- Beacon of Regeneration
- Preservation of resources
- Longevity
- Maintainable
- Resilient

SITE CONCEPT DESIGN



Without an actual site yet selected, we created an ideal site of about 12-acres that includes open fields and a wooded stream. This particular site contains a marsh past the stream, which we decided to take advantage of, although it is not necessary for our site selection. This provides the opportunity to explore our vision in a variety of ways and hearkens back to one of our traditional titles as “People of the Big Water.”

The heart of the design is the building group and central plaza, mimicking a traditional round village cluster, connecting outward to the spaces within the woods. The entrance is from the east which is traditionally symbolic of a new beginning. As the village follows the rounded shape of traditional villages, the curving paths and rounded spaces in the landscape further tie into traditional forms and cycles of the seasons, celestial bodies, and the sacredness of the circle.

The large open spaces near the village cluster reach eastward to the entrance and westward to the marsh, adding to the open and welcoming message of our Cultural Center. Our villages traditionally were not fortified because we were a peaceful and, at times, isolated people. We want our Center to be welcoming to all and encourage the connection to nature, healing, and learning.

In addition to the large open gathering space to the northwest of the village and the entry to the east, other gathering spaces lie near the village along the stream in the woods, and out toward the marsh. We will have an amphitheater for larger events and a small ceremonial space for smaller sacred events. A traditional garden will be planted next to a recreated Wickiup for learning and demonstrating the traditional lifeways. Additionally, near the village cluster, we will have a vegetable

and medicinal garden of traditional plants and other healing herbs planted in a productive modern, but best practices way. It will be used for teaching additional techniques and plantings.

Scattered along the paths and woods, we will have a series of small outdoor “classroom” areas to teach traditional ways, arts, culture, health, sustainability, and spiritual connections. The classrooms are for small groups and will have a variety of seating and furnishings from boulders and stumps to tables and benches. They will be shaded by trees or protected under traditional wood boweries as were our ancestors generations ago.

Additional auxiliary buildings and functions are dispersed through the site with restrooms, maintenance shed, and future expansion for a meditation or drumming room. The parking lot is designed to handle typical parking volume with overflow for large events directly west of the lot.

With all of the changes to the site, we want to be careful with how we develop and work the site. We want to help regenerate the site to be as healthy and self-sustaining as possible, just like it was before the disturbance of modern man. We will work to allow the stormwater to slow the runoff and seep into the soil. Permeable paving will reduce the amount of concrete and asphalt and still provide ADA accessible surfaces. The roofs of the buildings will be living green roofs to reduce their impact. Any large areas of stormwater runoff that will be collected will be channeled through cleansing rain gardens which will add to the site as the storm water returns to its natural cycles.

Just as the Cultural Center represents a new beginning for our People, we want this to be a new beginning for our Land.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS & TEACHING SPACES

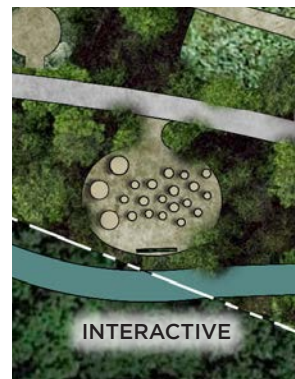
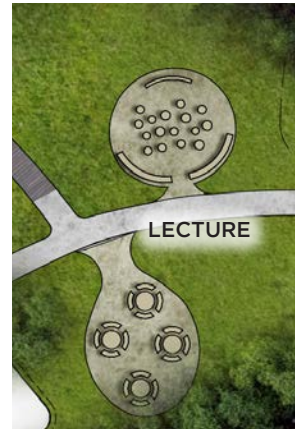
There is a variety of different classroom types. Some are classic classroom alignment, with a board in front and tables or seating surrounding it. Others are stumps that can be moved for flexible learning or are benches placed in a circle to allow for easier discussion. To provide more comfortable spaces and to hearken back to our ancestors, we will build traditional boweries over some of the outdoor spaces.



1



2



TRADITIONAL WICKIUP & GARDEN

Traditional wickiups were used as living spaces and for ceremonies. We are honoring that by creating our own wickiup to be used for educational purposes and for ceremonies. Also, a traditional garden planting and site layout will help connect to our ancestors and learn from them. These traditional elements are located farther away and near the small ceremonial space to allow for a more reverent experience while trying to connect with our ancestors.



3

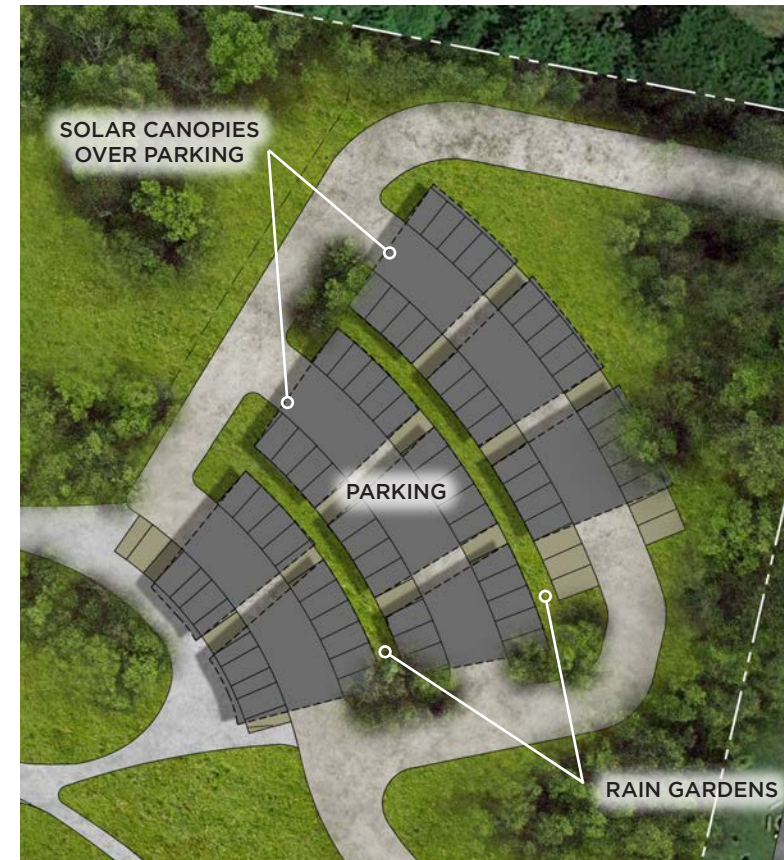


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 2. Photo by Donovan Aldridge
 3. "Wigwam." First Nation Cultural Tours, 21 Oct. 2013, firstnationculturaltours.com/site/wigwam/
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 5. "Permeable Pavers." Stone Creek Hardscapes & Designs, paverscolorado.com/paver-manufacturers/

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 6. "Rain Garden." Green Solution - Rain Garden | 3 Rivers Wet Weather, www.3riverswetweather.org/green/green-solution-rain-garden.
 7. Wang, Mo, et al. "Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment in Cold Climate - a Review." *Journal of Environmental Sciences*, Elsevier, 10 Feb. 2017, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1001074217303108.

PARKING LOT TREATMENT

Permeable paving will be used for parking stalls. Solar panel structures will offer shade for cars while creating energy for the Cultural Center. When it rains, the water collected off the panels will run off into raingardens which are placed in between the parking rows. There will be 82 planned stalls with temporary parking for large, 500+ events, located adjacent to the lot.



4



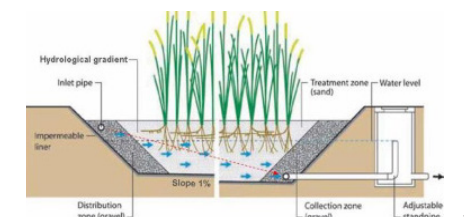
5

RAINGARDENS & DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Raingardens will be placed downhill of the parking lot to collect any water or pollutants before it heads into the stream. Demonstration gardens will be placed by classrooms so all generations can learn about the history of plants and their uses. It will also allow for hands on activities and will encourage more earth connections.



6



7



DESIGN ELEMENTS

GATHERING SPACES

We have a large gathering space which can be used for everyday activities, big events, or for lacrosse games.



1



BUILDING PLAZA

This east facing plaza will have benches for people to wait for their guests or to mingle. The center will have a sacred Elm tree that was gifted to Chief Coker. It is from the Treaty Elm where Lenape Chief Tamanend and William Penn exchanged a peace wampum belt.



2



SMALL CEREMONIAL SPACE

This area is located in the corner of the site, away from the everyday activities. This area is designated for ceremonies and is slightly secluded to allow for maximum isolation and reflection.



1. "Green Grass Field Surrounded by Trees during Daytime." Pikrepo, www.pikrepo.com/fjhsy/green-grass-field-surrounded-by-trees-during-daytime.

2. "The Penn TREATY ELM. (n.d.). <http://ds.baverford.edu/penn-treaty-elm/>.

3. "Eichelberger Amphitheater at the Heights." Huber Heights, OH, www.bhob.org/facilities/facility/details/Eichelberger-Amphitheater-at-The-Heights-1.

AMPHITHEATER

We will have a sizable amphitheater to be used for storytelling, educational lectures, performances, and more.



3



CONNECTION TO WATER

A potential site like this one, with a stream and marsh, allows us to take advantage of connections to water. Although our eventual site doesn't need a stream and marsh, if it does, it can be used for recreational purposes or educational ones. We show here a boardwalk going into the marsh, which will have a discussion circle in the middle to allow for reflection and observation.



ARTS AND CRAFTS DISPLAY

Our arts and crafts display will allow community members to show off their hard work. It will also be used to show traditional crafts and how to make them. Art will also be taught to all visitors and the various outdoor classrooms and the indoor art space.



FLOOR PLAN & ELEVATIONS



FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/64" = 1'0"

As the site designs takes visitors on a meandering journey, all pathways circulate back to the gathering plaza where the Sturgeon rests. The Sturgeon, title for the Lenape Cultural Center's village buildings, becomes the home for educational, social, and collaborative opportunities for all who come. Embodying of the Three Sisters, the Sturgeon is broken up into three buildings: the Turkey Times Library, the Three Sisters Learning Center, and the Sassafras. The Sturgeon arranges in a circular motion, opening up to the east, symbolic of our new

beginning. As visitors approach the Sturgeon, they are captured by the sloping and curved roof that connect all three buildings, embracing all three buildings as one home. The Sturgeon opens itself up like open arms to all. The use of natural materials and a vegetative green roof serve as a reflection of the care and respect we have towards the earth. Natural lighting and visibility into each of the buildings allow us to feel connected to the outdoors while also allowing everyone to feel welcomed to come in.

THE STURGEON (LENAPE CULTURAL CENTER)

TURKEY TIMES LIBRARY

Library & Office spaces (~30 occupants) 2,525 SQ.FT

THREE SISTERS LEARNING CENTER

Exhibit & Art (~71 occupants) 2,274 SQ.FT

THE SASSAFRAS

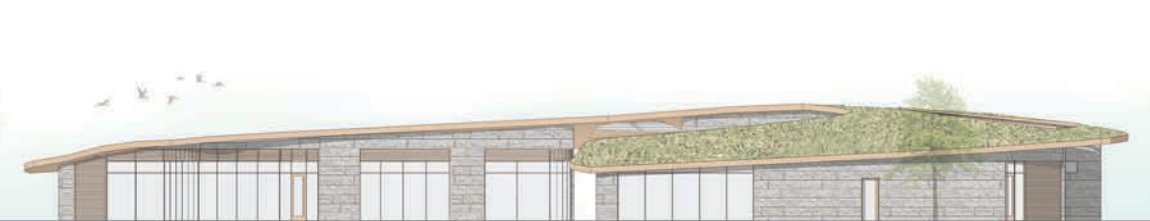
Community/Mix-use (~91 occupants) 2,426 SQ.FT

TOTAL (~192 occupants) 7,225 SQ.FT

EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'0"



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'0"



DESIGN ELEMENTS

EXTERIOR NATURAL STONE SIDING

As the earth is important to us, the Sturgeon will be built with natural resources. Stone masonry allows us to create the curve edges and relate to the earth.



1



CURTAINWALL & PALETTE SCREENS

Expanding the use of curtainwall systems allows for maximized daylight in all areas of space. In order to mitigate excess heat gain, wooden screens on the exterior of windows will not only do just that, but also mimic the similar layering of wooden elements used in traditional wickiups.



2



1. Stone cladding options – mountain ARCHITECTS – Hendricks architecture. RSS. (n.d.). <https://www.bendricksarchitect.com/architecture/stone-cladding-options>.
 2. Laco, A. (2019, August 7). Gonzague Saint bris social and cultural center / Lemoal Lemoal architectes. ArchDaily. https://www.archdaily.com/922449/gonzague-saint-bris-social-and-cultural-center-lemoal-lemoal-architectes?ad_source=search&ad_medium=search_result_projects.
 3. Residential green roof maintenance & uses for eco-roof systems - iko. IKO Roofing. (2019, August 9). <https://www.iko.com/na/blog/green-roof-maintenance/>.
 4. Home page. AndreaBuratto. (2017). <https://andreaBuratto.com.br/projeto/residencia-jg>.

VEGETATIVE GREEN ROOF

As a reflection of the site and care for the environment, a vegetative green roof reflects our care for the earth while also helping to reduce the heat island effect. It also assists with stormwater management and air quality.



3

CANOPIES / ROOF OPENINGS

As the roof is continuous across all three buildings, providing openings in the roof allow for daylight to penetrate and give light to the pathways underneath. This will provide a welcoming entrance to explore the site beyond the Sturgeon.



4

ENTRY PLAZA



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM





DENNIS COKER, PRINCIPAL CHIEF
LENAPE INDIAN TRIBE OF DELAWARE

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"Lenape (Delaware)." *Man in the World*, 20 May 2019, manworldblog.com/lenape-delaware/.



Credit: Photo provided by Jon Cox



(2016, July 22). *Family, women, and children and gender roles in the Lenape tribe*. Chadds Ford Historical Society.



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