

Design + Development Narrative

Building a Blue Future

The Anchor District is designed to transform Cleveland as a leader in water technology and innovation. Our district builds upon the growing water and blue innovation economy in the Great Lake's region, from Chicago to Wisconsin to Michigan. Leveraging Cleveland's strengths in healthcare innovation and its emerging water technology sector, the Anchor District establishes an Ohio-based hub for next-generation industries.

The 1969 Cuyahoga River fire marked a turning point in Cleveland's environmental journey. The river, ignited by heavy industrial pollution, became a national symbol of environmental degradation, catalyzing the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1971. This pivotal event ushered in a new era of environmental health. The Anchor District carries this legacy into the 21st century, transforming Cleveland from a city historically plagued by water pollution into a regional and global leader in water technology, public health, and environmental innovation.

Strategically located on Lake Erie and in close proximity to the Innovation District, Health Technology Corridor, and Case Western Reserve University, the Anchor District integrates education, research, and industry partnerships to foster innovation and drive economic growth.

The district's campus, developed in partnership with Case Western University will serve as an educational hub to cultivate the next generation of innovators. The campus will focus on advancing new technologies, such as bio-sensors, water treatments, and infrastructure modeling. In the long-term, Horizon Science Middle and High School will be rebuilt with state-of-the-art facilities emphasizing environmental science and innovation.

The district's research and development labs, established in collaboration with Great Lakes ReNEW, will anchor Cleveland as a leader in advancing Great Lakes innovation. Through partnerships with the Cleveland Water Alliance, the Anchor District will incubate water technology startups, offering cutting-edge maker spaces and resources to accelerate ideas from research to market.

Centering Connectivity

Connectivity is central to the Anchor District's design, creating physical and social linkages that bridge divides and reconnect the community to the city and its natural assets. The development expands Cleveland's transit system by extending the Waterfront Line along the CSX corridor and adding bus service through the site, while bike and pedestrian paths provide additional mobility options.

A central curved spine forms the backbone of the district, reestablishing the neighborhood's connection to Lake Erie. This spine begins with an underground connector that integrates the district with Addison Road, paving the way for its long-term transformation into a commercial corridor linking St. Clair Avenue's Main Street. Moving through the site, the spine links directly to a series of landscaped water features, which draws the shoreline into the district.

The curved spine also creates a vital connection to the CHEERS project, forming a cohesive relationship between the two sites. Visitors can explore nature in CHEERS, cross a pedestrian bridge into the Anchor District, and enjoy shopping, dining, and other recreational activities in the retail hub.

Building Resiliency, Community, and Vibrancy

The Anchor District promotes community equity by prioritizing affordability and inclusivity. 20% of housing units will be affordable, with a diverse mix of rental, student, and family options to serve a range of need. A job training facility will equip residents with skills for careers in the blue economy, ensuring that economic opportunities directly benefit the community. New amenities such as daycare facilities and grocery stores ensure that residents and the larger community have essential services.

Resiliency is embedded in the district's design. Sustainable infrastructure, including bioswales and stormwater filtration systems, captures and purifies runoff before it reaches Lake Erie. These features not only reduce flooding risks and environmental impact but also strengthen the district's adaptability to climate change. Public spaces, like the new park with water features, provide ecological, recreational, and social value, fostering community engagement

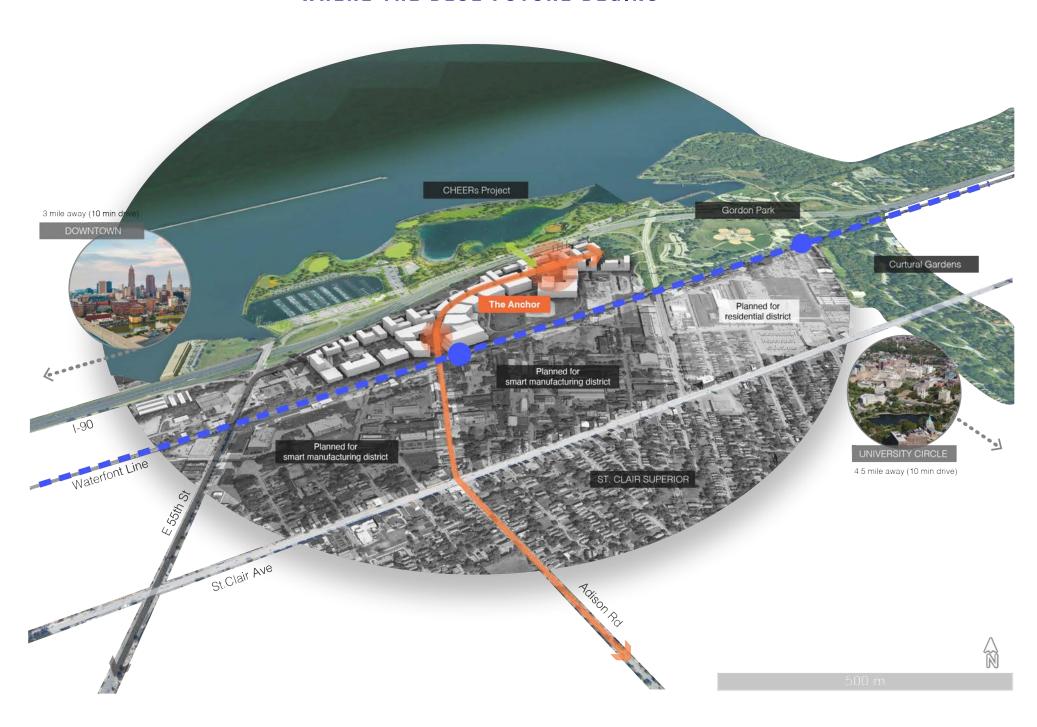
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Total development footprint	6,124,078SF	
Total residential	2,488,971 SF	2,078 UNITS
Affordable (40% AMI)	585,290 SF	517 UNITS
Rental units		1,880UNITS
Total public uses footprint		457,773 SF
Green openspace		250,000 SF
Civic		207,773 SF
levered IRR		16.53 %
unlevered IRR		24.55 %
Equity multiple		1.44 x

The Anchor District Development Project is designed to create a positive financial impact on both the surrounding community and the city of Cleveland as a whole. By revitalizing the East waterfront and fostering the growth of new industries, the project aims to generate new job opportunities and stimulate investment in infrastructure, services, and public health, while addressing the economic disparity in East Cleveland. Additionally, the project will include the development of hundreds of affordable housing units to meet the housing needs of the local community. Investments in public transportation and adjacent green development projects will attract substantial foot traffic, further boosting the region's overall economic vitality. It is expected to deliver long-term benefits, including enhanced property values, increased local tax revenues, and greater investment attraction.

the anchor district

WHERE THE BLUE FUTURE BEGINS

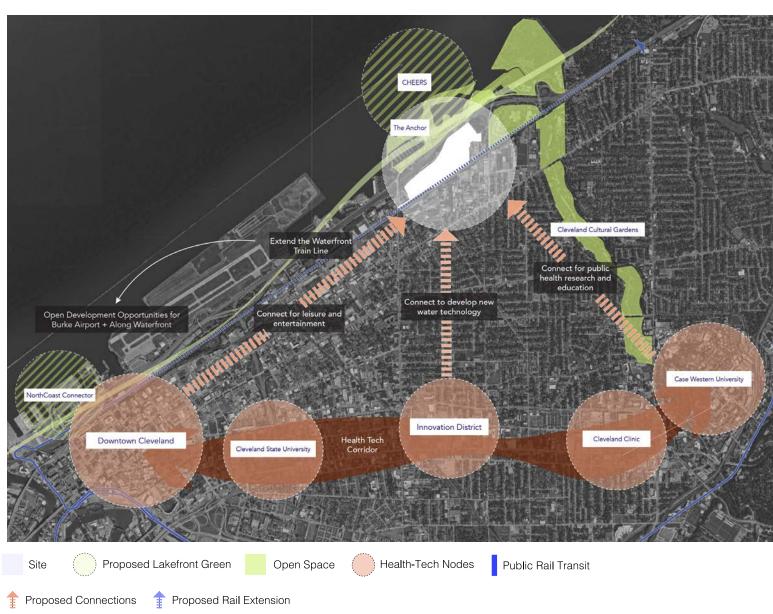


Underdeveloped North-South Connections



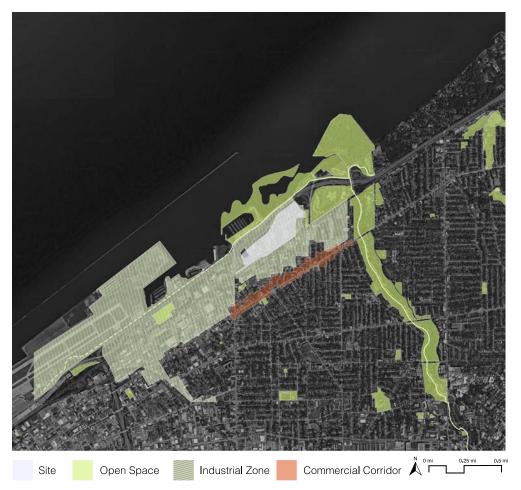
The site is positioned between two major corridors: the East-West Health-Tech Corridor, a hub for innovation, education, and jobs, and the Lakefront Corridor, a collection of green spaces for recreation and public access. These corridors lack meaningful connections, to each other and along the North-South axis.

Connect to innovation + Green + Water

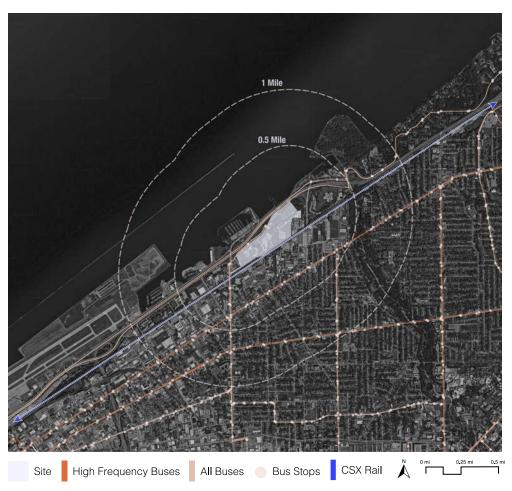


The Anchor District creates a new Water Technology Hub by merging these corridors integrating green spaces, innovation, and public health. This hub will enhance connectivity, unlock opportunities for collaboration, and establish a central campus for environmental and technological advancement.

Physical Barriers



Transit Gaps



Community Needs



A large industrial zone divides the community and commercial corridor from the lakefront, making walkability hard. Our design bridges this gap with a central spine and improved connections.

While some bus routes serve the site, there is no rail access. We propose extending the waterfront line to enable transit-oriented development.

The neighborhood is low-income with limited grocery access. Our design revitalizes the area by providing community benefits like grocery stores and job training opportunities.

Community Benefits



Revitalize the Economy



- Build a blue innovation technology hub with R&D offices, campuses, and entertainment district, providing space for innovation and attracting investment
- Collaborate with Cleveland Water Alliance (CWA) and the Fresh Water innovation fund to attract global water technology companies
- Partner with Great Lakes ReNEW to create an Ohio-based hub for water technology research, tapping into the \$150 million in new federal research funding
- Partner with Case Western University to provide a Water and Public Health R&D campus
- Build a new entertainment center with retail offerings

Reconnect Cleveland



- Create a vibrant spine connecting Adison Road to the CHEERS waterfront, featuring public plazas and parks
- Connect the ANCHOR District to downtown by extending the RTA Waterfront Transit Line through the East Side along the CSX Rail
- Improve bike and pedestrian connections through expanding bike lanes to connect with CHEERS and the Cleveland Cultural Gardens
- Connect the ANCHOR District with Case Western University through shuttle service, improving exchange of knowledge

Reinvest in the Community

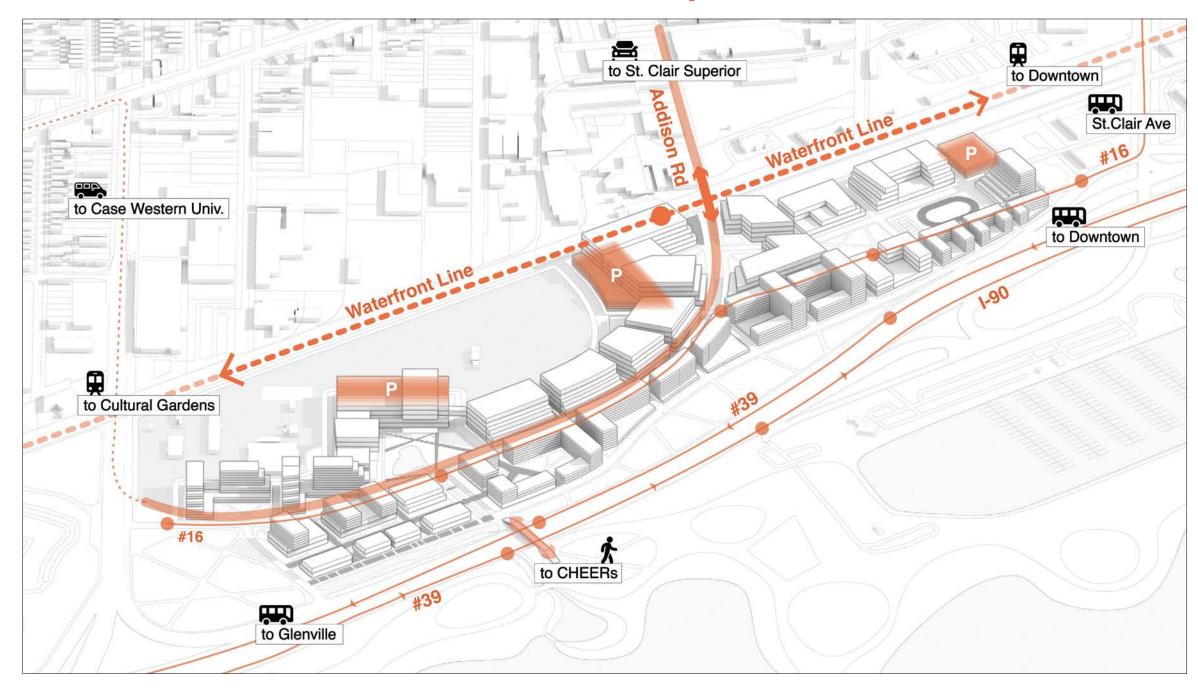


- 20% affordable units throughout the district to support neighborhood affordabiity
- A new public place and a new landscaped park with water features
- Implement workforce training programs in partnership with the R&D campus to bring residents into part of the Blue Economy
- Build a Water Technology museum, in partnership with the Great Lakes Science Center

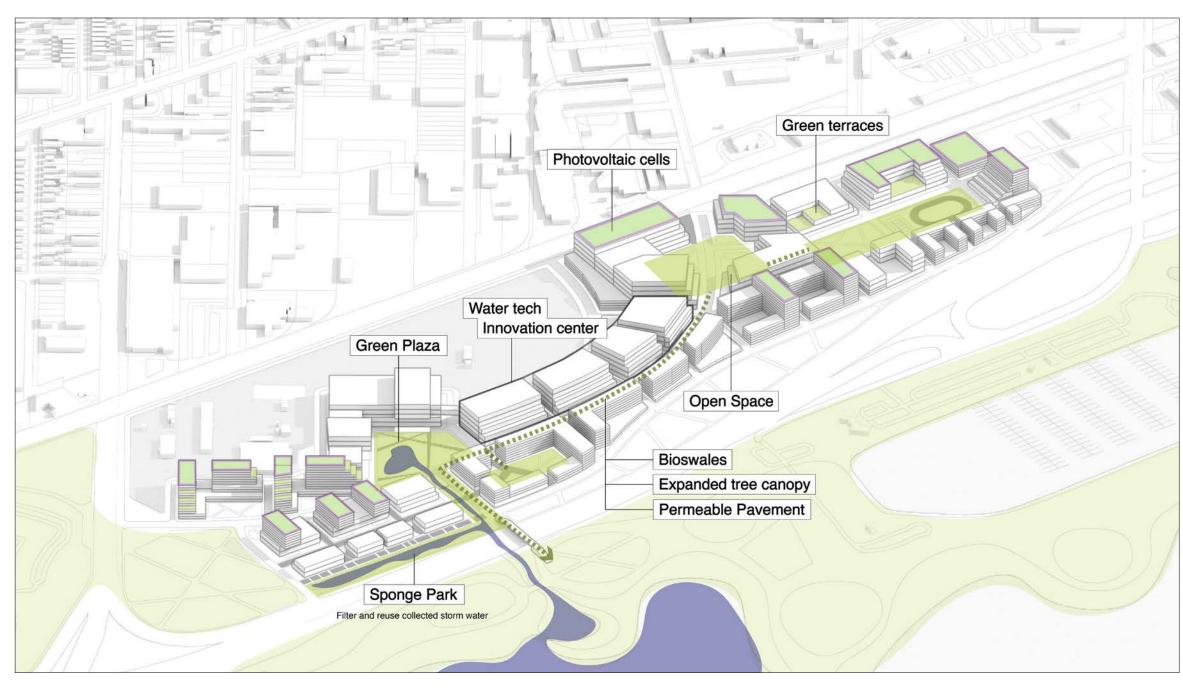
In the long-term:

 Rebuild Horizon Science Academy Middle and High School a new facility, educating the next-generation of innovators

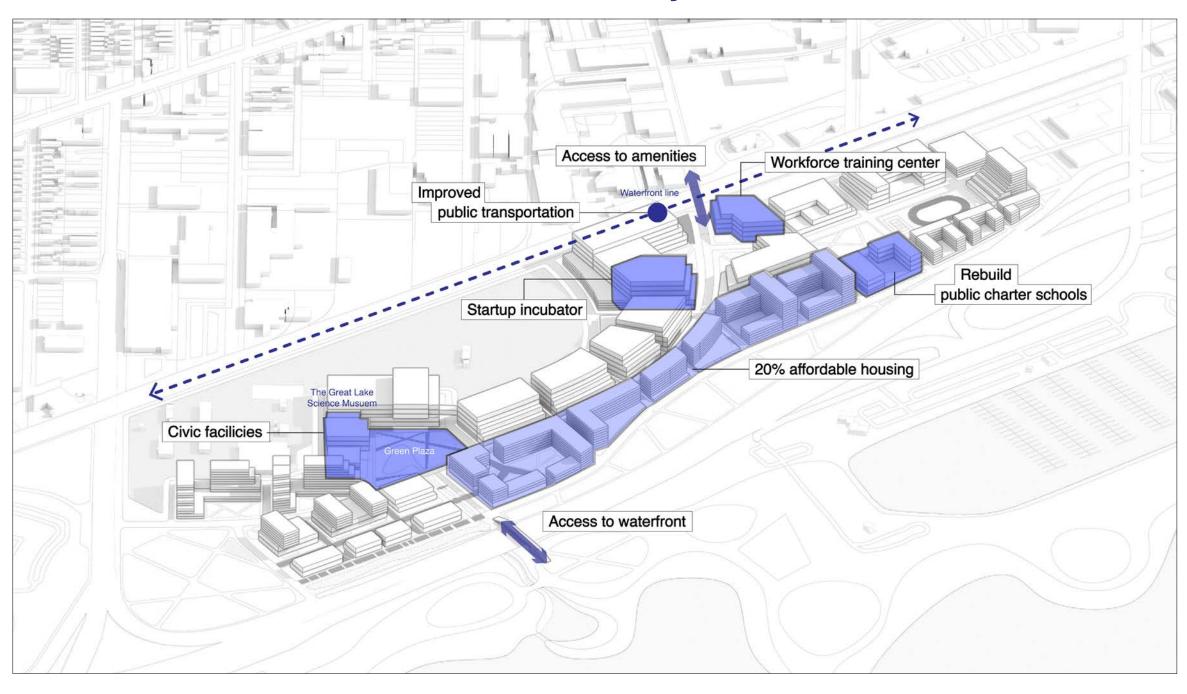
Connectivity



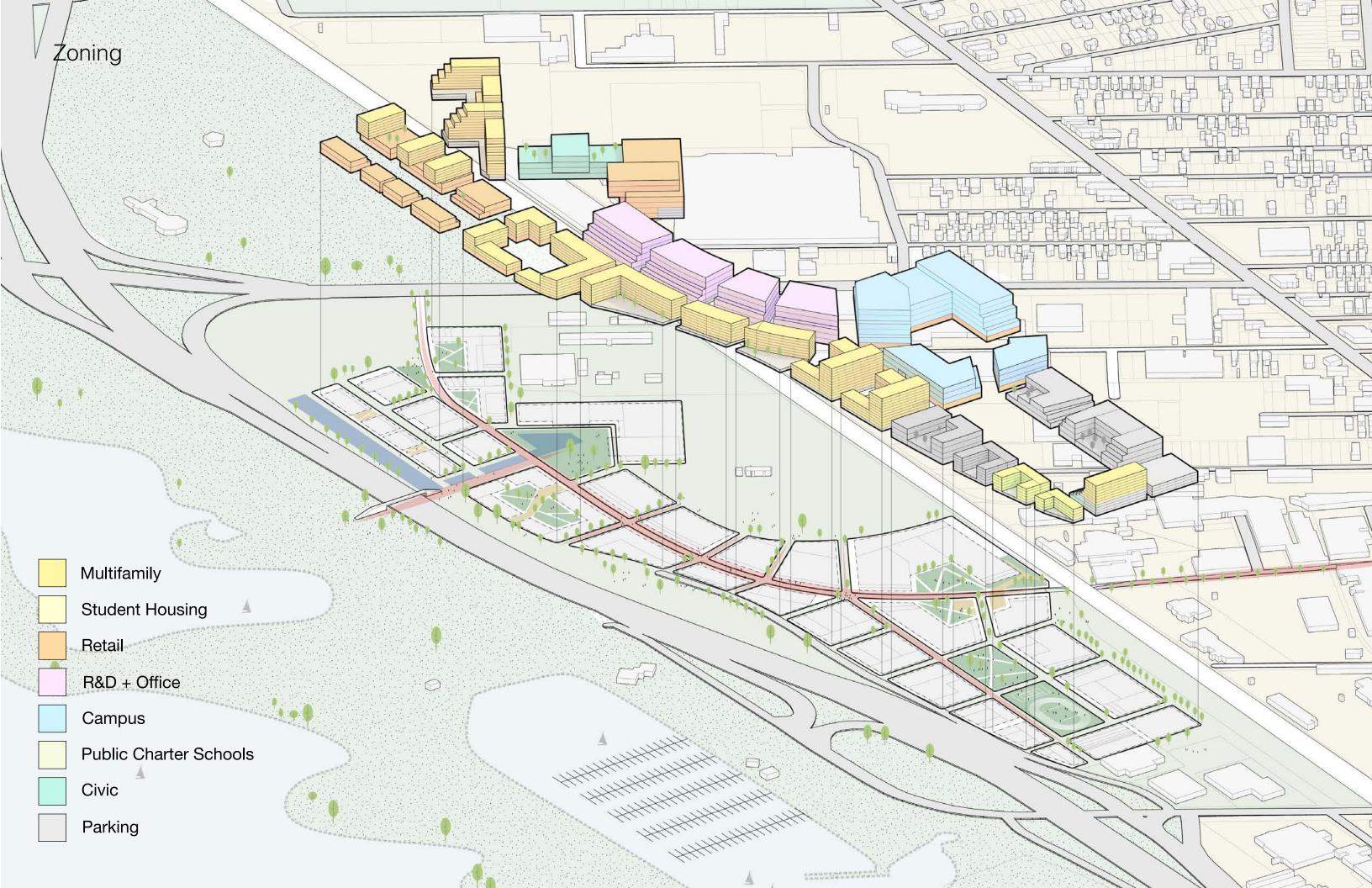
Resiliency



Community







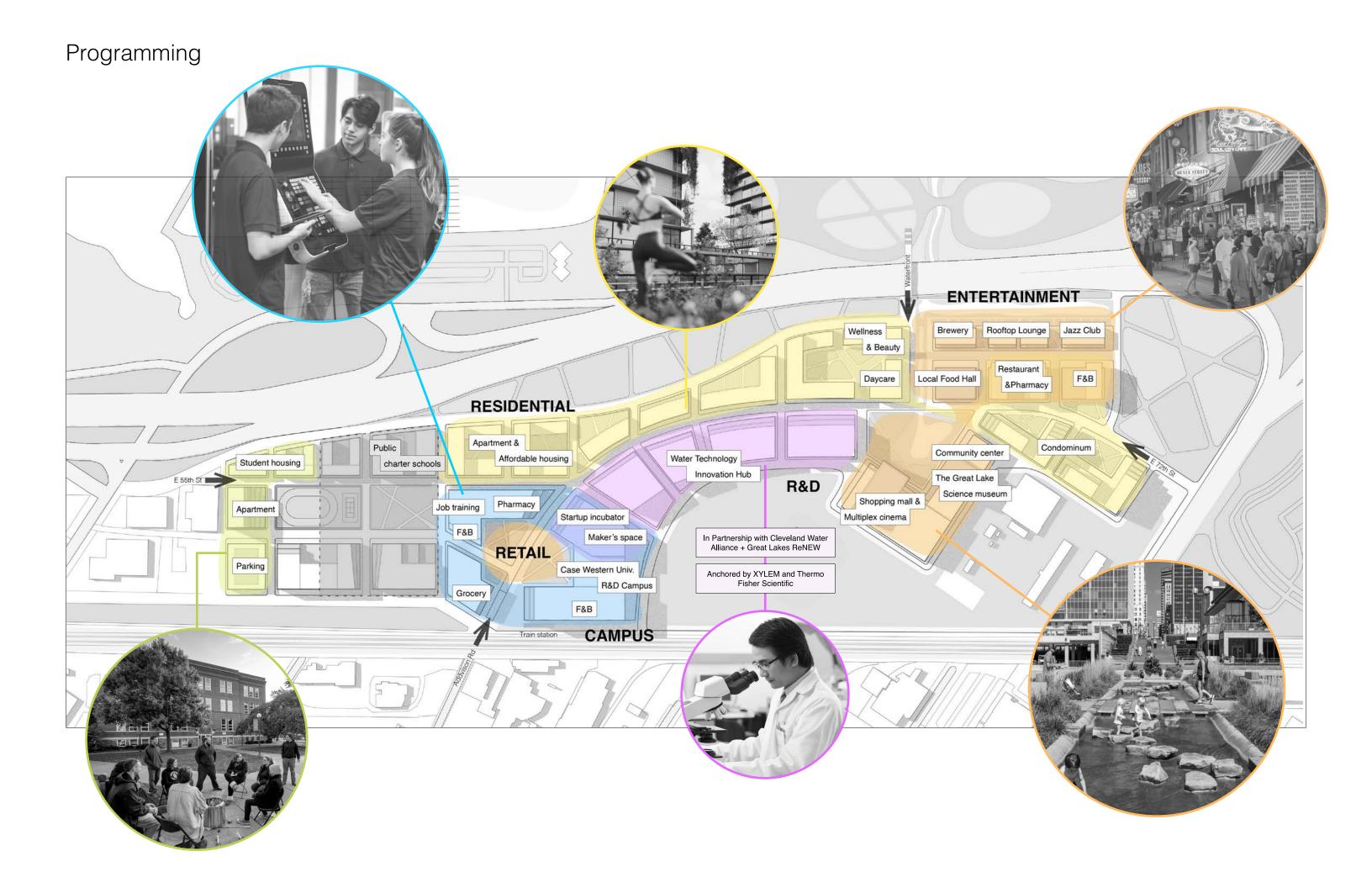
Shoreline Commons

Bringing waterfront into the center

Innovation Junction

Linking the community to the Anchor





User Experience



Dr. Sarah Taylor (29)

9:00 AM - Work at the Campus Lab



COMMUTE



ACTIVITY



Dining & Nightscene



John Harris (34)

Business consultant

7:00 AM – Workout at the gym

7:30 AM – Drop ovff child to childcare center

8:00 AM – Commute to Downtown

5:00 PM – Grocery Shopping

7:30 PM – Evening Walk with pet

RESIDENCE



Apartment

COMMUTE



Waterfront line

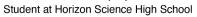
WORK





ACTIVITY

Carlos Martinez (16)



7:30 AM – Drive to school

8:00 AM – Morning lacrosse training

1:00 PM – Attend job training

4:00 PM – Catch a movie with friends

7:00 PM – Dinner with Friends

RESIDENCE

St. Clair Ave

COMMUTE

High school student









PhD researcher at Case Western Univ.

8:30 AM – Breakfast & Head to Work

12:00 PM – Lunch with Colleagues

1:30 PM - Run Start-Up Incubator Session

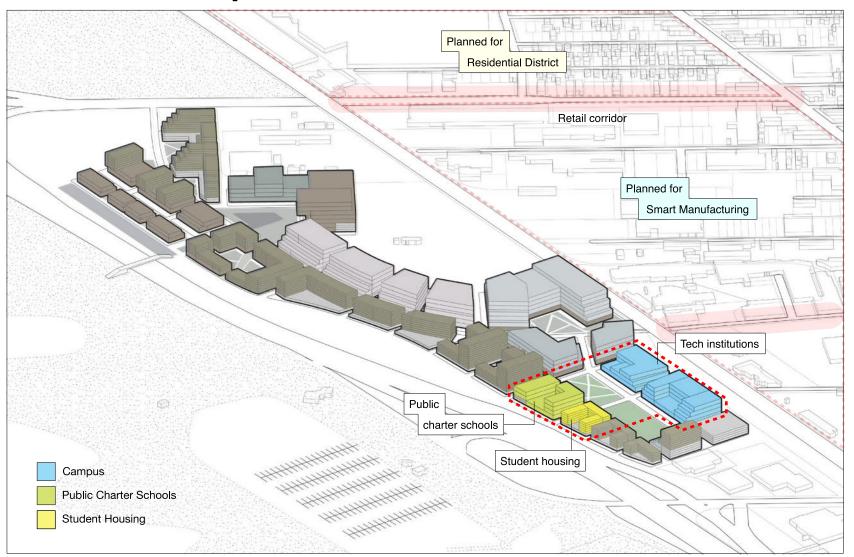
8:00 PM – Meet up with a friend

RESIDENCE

WORK

Campus Lab

Future Development Plan



Acquire additional parcels

Secure 105-02-008 and 105-02-009

Construct Campus buildings

Utilize the space as a replacement for operating schools

Rebuild Public Charter School

Horizon Science Academy Cleveland Middle and High School

Expand local job opportunities

Run workforce training program wth Public Schools

Create education hub

Expand partnerships with other educational institutions

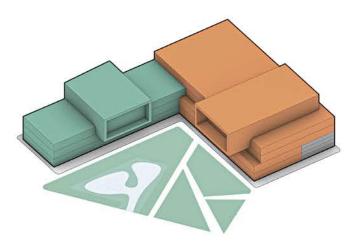
Develop surrounding neighborhood

Establish a retail corridor along Adison Rd.

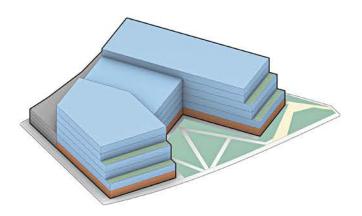
Create a smart manufacuring district

Develop residential district aroung the Gordon Park

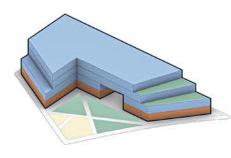
Building Typologies



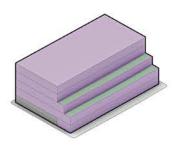
Civic Center + Retail Mall 631,000 SF Parking Podium



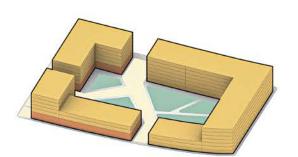
Research Hub 800,000 SF Retail Wrapper Parking Podium



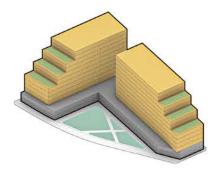
Campus Research Lab 112,000 SF Retail Wrapper



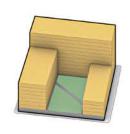
Water-Tech Incubator 140,000 SF Parking Podium



Garden Apartments 720,000 SF 483 Units Retail Wrapper Shared Garage Parking



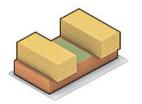
High-Rise Condos 260,000 SF 149 Units Mixed Income Parking Podium



Student Apartments 86,0000 SF 130 Units Parking Podium



Mid-Rise Apartments +
Campus
183,000 SF
71 Units
Parking Podium

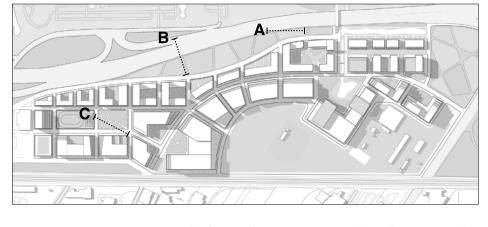


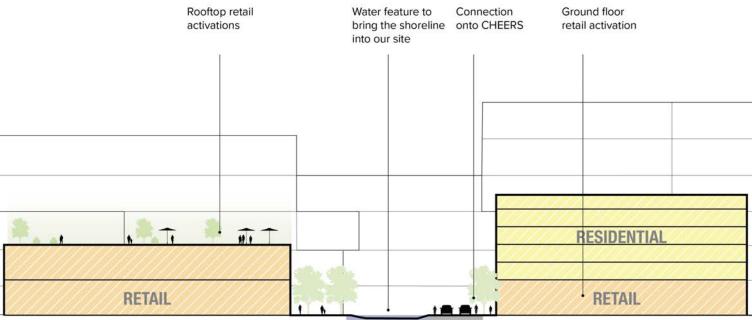
Mid-Rise Apartment + Retail Podium 150,000 SF Mixed Income 66 Units Retail Podium



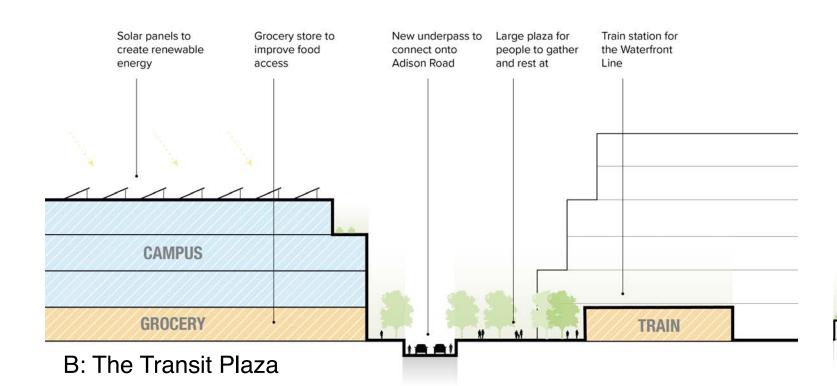
Stand-Alone Retail 25,000 SF Shared Garage Parking

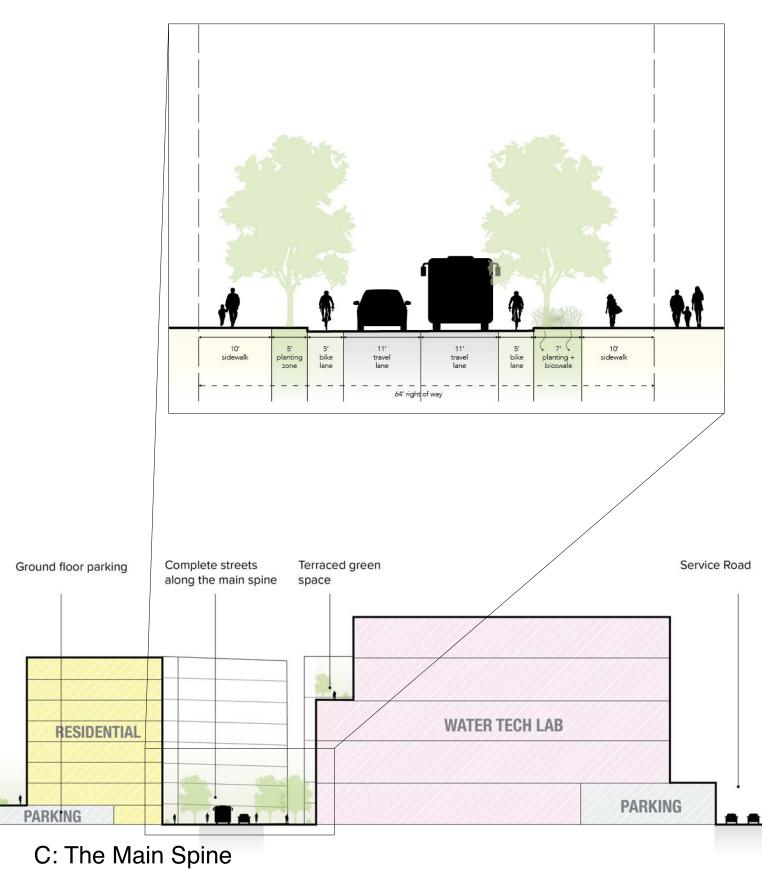
Sections + Road Typologies

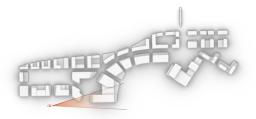




A: Connect From CHEERs







View 1: Entering Innovation Junction

This view showcases the entry into the main train station area, reimagined to expand rail service with a new waterfront line. The station serves as a dynamic hub where travelers can connect, explore, and enjoy the vibrant retail corridor, offering spaces to grab a coffee or relax while they wait.





View 2: Expanded Addison Road as Our Central Spine

This view highlights the main corridor, the vibrant spine of our development. Designed as a complete street for buses, cars, bikes, and pedestrians, it links the station, retail, and lakefront, bustling with activity.





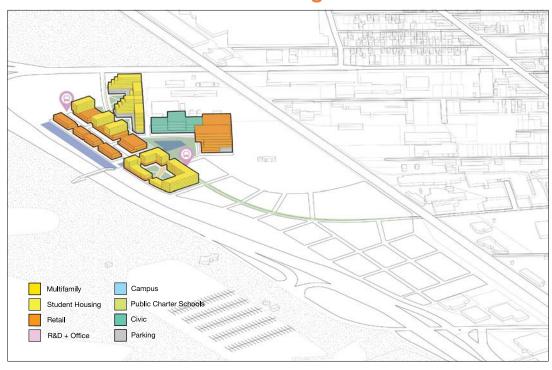
View 3: Waterfront Entertainment District

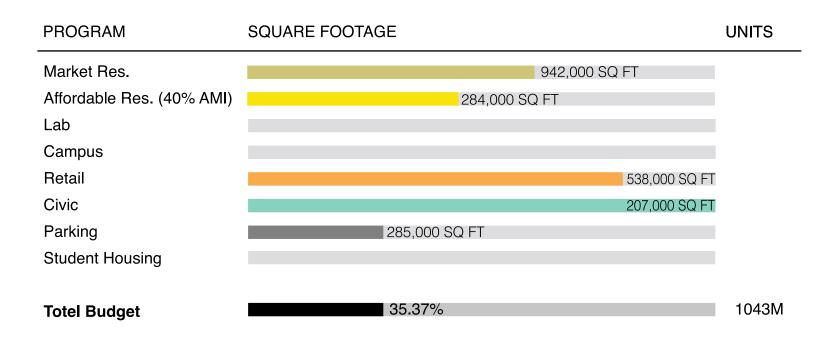
This view envisions a vibrant retail hub, with the existing canal transformed into a beautifully landscaped centerpiece. Designed as a standalone destination, this hub also serves as a gateway, connecting visitors to CHEERS and the Cleveland Cultural Gardens and creating a seamless experience of commerce and nature



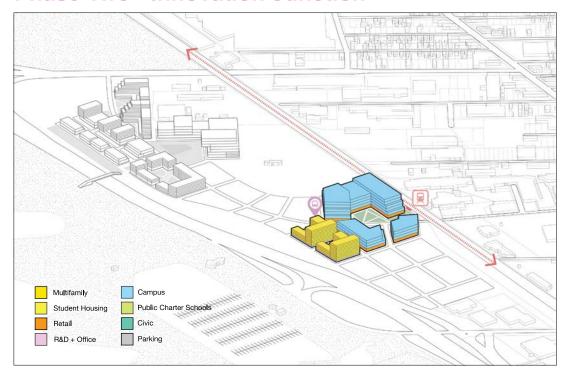
Development Phases

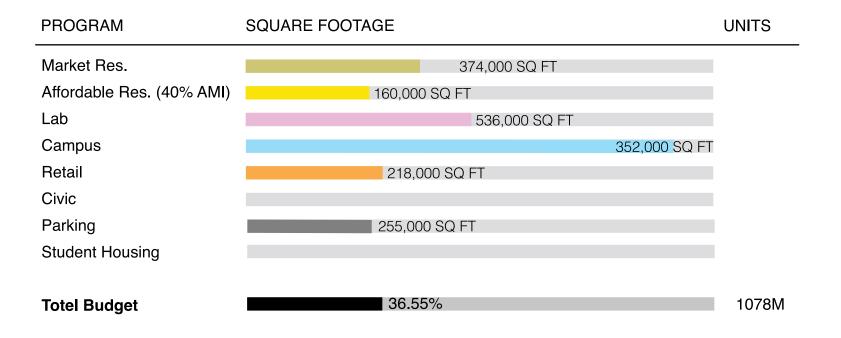
Phase One - Parkside Exchange





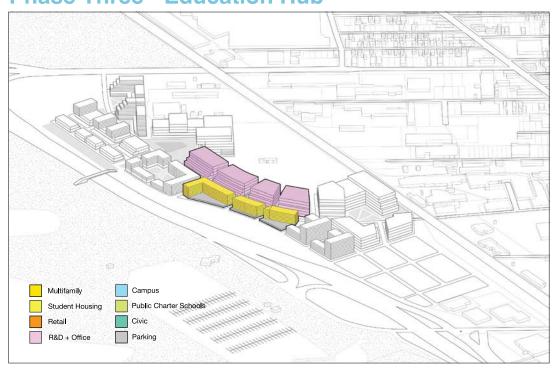
Phase Two - Innovation Junction

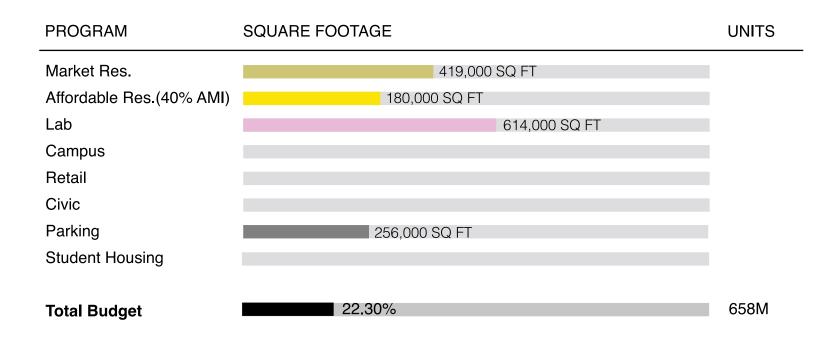




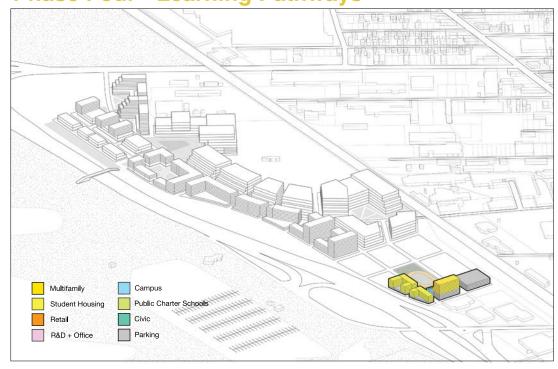
Development Phases

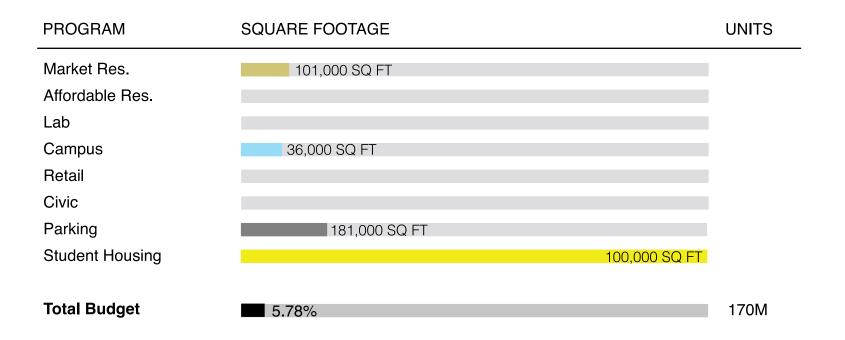
Phase Three - Education Hub





Phase Four - Learning Pathways

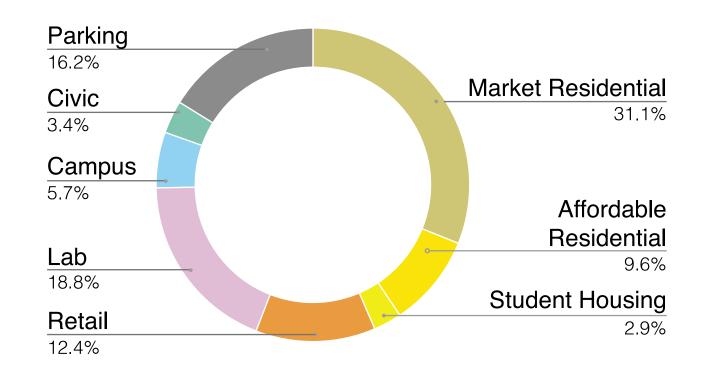




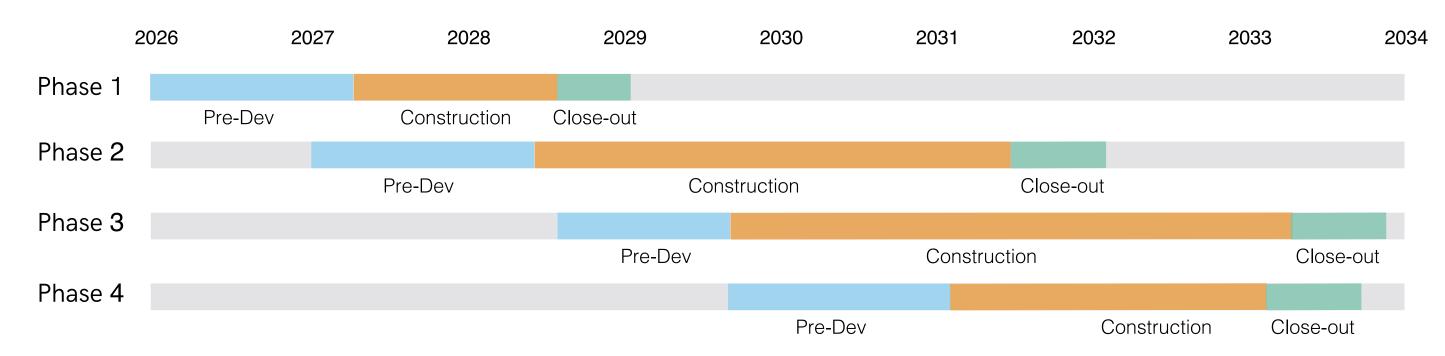
Development Phases

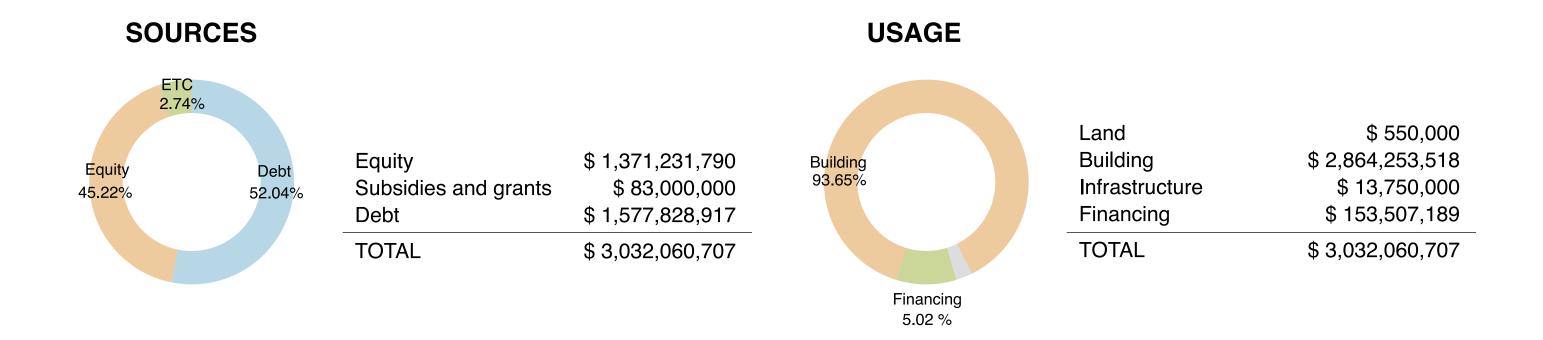


Programs



Construction Schedule





METRICS

Levered IRR 16.53 % Equity multiple 1.44 x