

ARCHITECTURE OF INTERSECTIONAL EMPOWERMENT

weaving the system of design
education + practice into community

2017 RALPH RAPSON
TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP

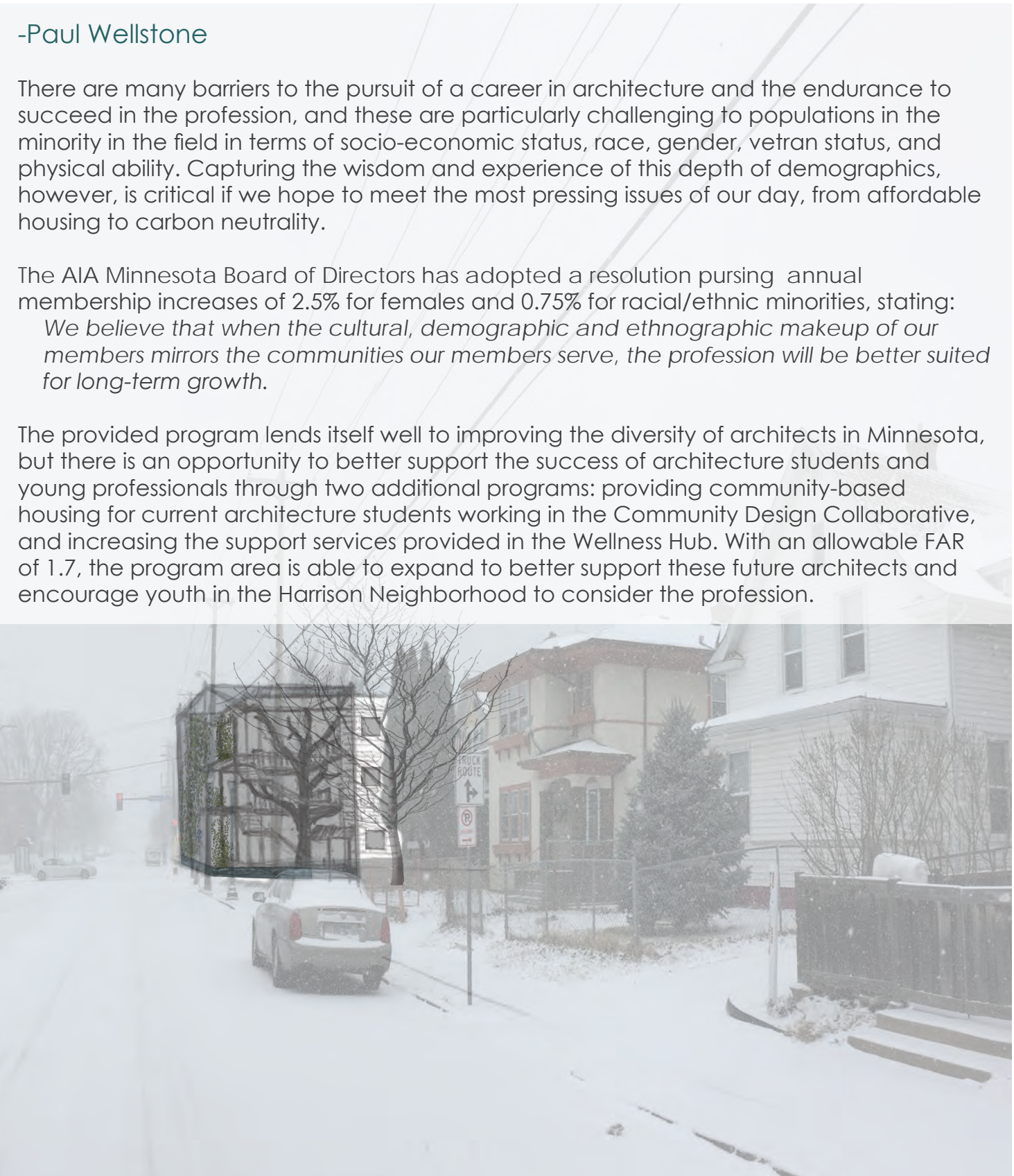
we all do better when we all do better

-Paul Wellstone

There are many barriers to the pursuit of a career in architecture and the endurance to succeed in the profession, and these are particularly challenging to populations in the minority in the field in terms of socio-economic status, race, gender, veteran status, and physical ability. Capturing the wisdom and experience of this depth of demographics, however, is critical if we hope to meet the most pressing issues of our day, from affordable housing to carbon neutrality.

The AIA Minnesota Board of Directors has adopted a resolution pursuing annual membership increases of 2.5% for females and 0.75% for racial/ethnic minorities, stating: *We believe that when the cultural, demographic and ethnographic makeup of our members mirrors the communities our members serve, the profession will be better suited for long-term growth.*

The provided program lends itself well to improving the diversity of architects in Minnesota, but there is an opportunity to better support the success of architecture students and young professionals through two additional programs: providing community-based housing for current architecture students working in the Community Design Collaborative, and increasing the support services provided in the Wellness Hub. With an allowable FAR of 1.7, the program area is able to expand to better support these future architects and encourage youth in the Harrison Neighborhood to consider the profession.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Economy + Environment

The past decade has seen over a 20% decrease in population in the Harrison Neighborhood, with cost of housing a significant factor. The definition of affordability of housing is spending 30% or less of household income on housing. In this neighborhood, an estimated 64% of owners with mortgages and 60% of renters spent 30% or more on housing.

Even as this project seeks to improve amenities, limiting the potential for gentrification will be critical. Fortunately, several factors that positively impact the environmental performance of the neighborhood also preserving affordability:

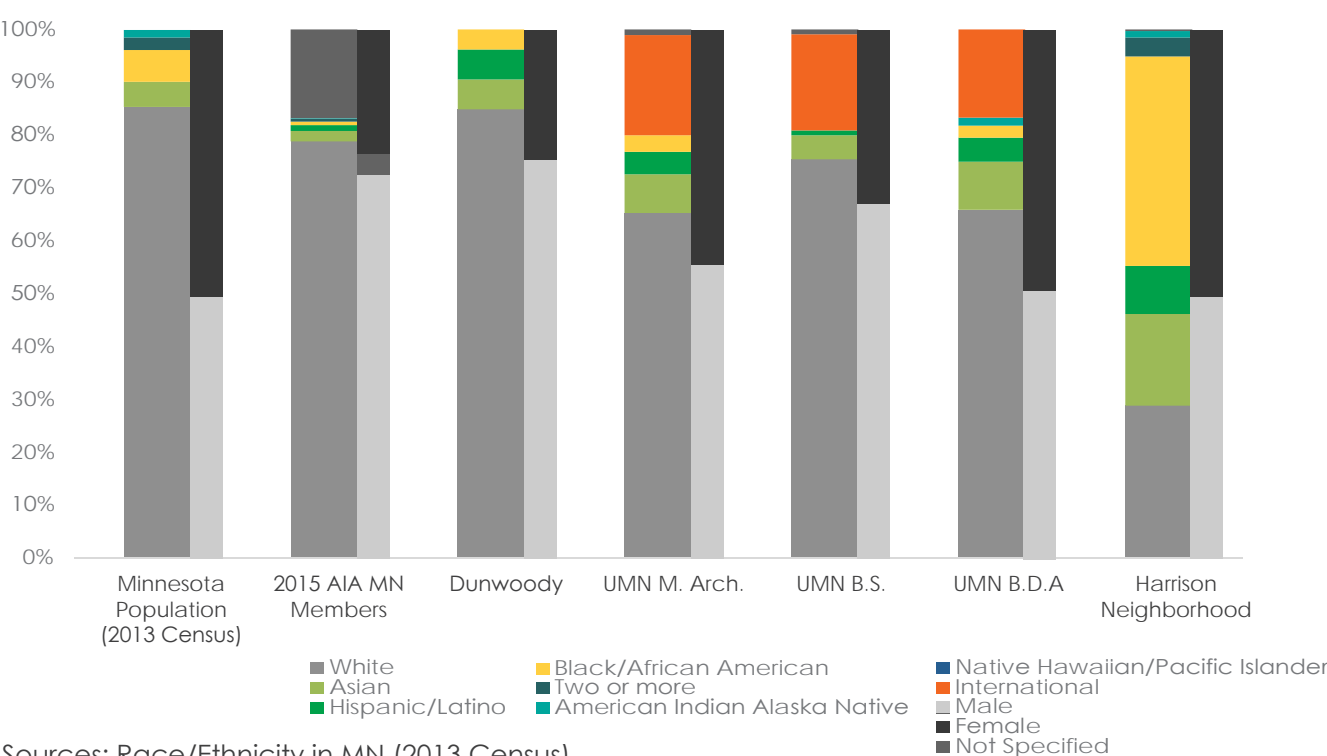
- Community Gardens build community and green space while providing affordable, healthy food. Existing gardens shown in green below.
 - Net Zero Energy is a strong strategy for affordable housing utilized within the neighborhood. More efficient homes mean less costly energy bills.
 - Public Transportation is critical in Harrison, where 30% of households have no vehicles and only 61.5% of workers drive to work, with 23.2% of workers utilizing public transportation and the remainder carpooling, working from home, or walking, or biking:
- Proposed Blue Line Extension
 - Proposed Green Line Extension
 - Metro Transit Bus Route 9
 - Bike Paths

Source: American Community Survey 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates

DIVERSITY IN DESIGN

Race + Gender

The charts below show that supporting students already in school is not enough to bridge the race and gender gap in the architecture profession in Minnesota, particularly for Black/African American professionals. Shown at far right, the Harrison Neighborhood is an ideal location for recruiting future architects to meet these goals. The collaborative, supportive community design supported in this project is also the type of effort needed to recruit, support, and mentor female architects.

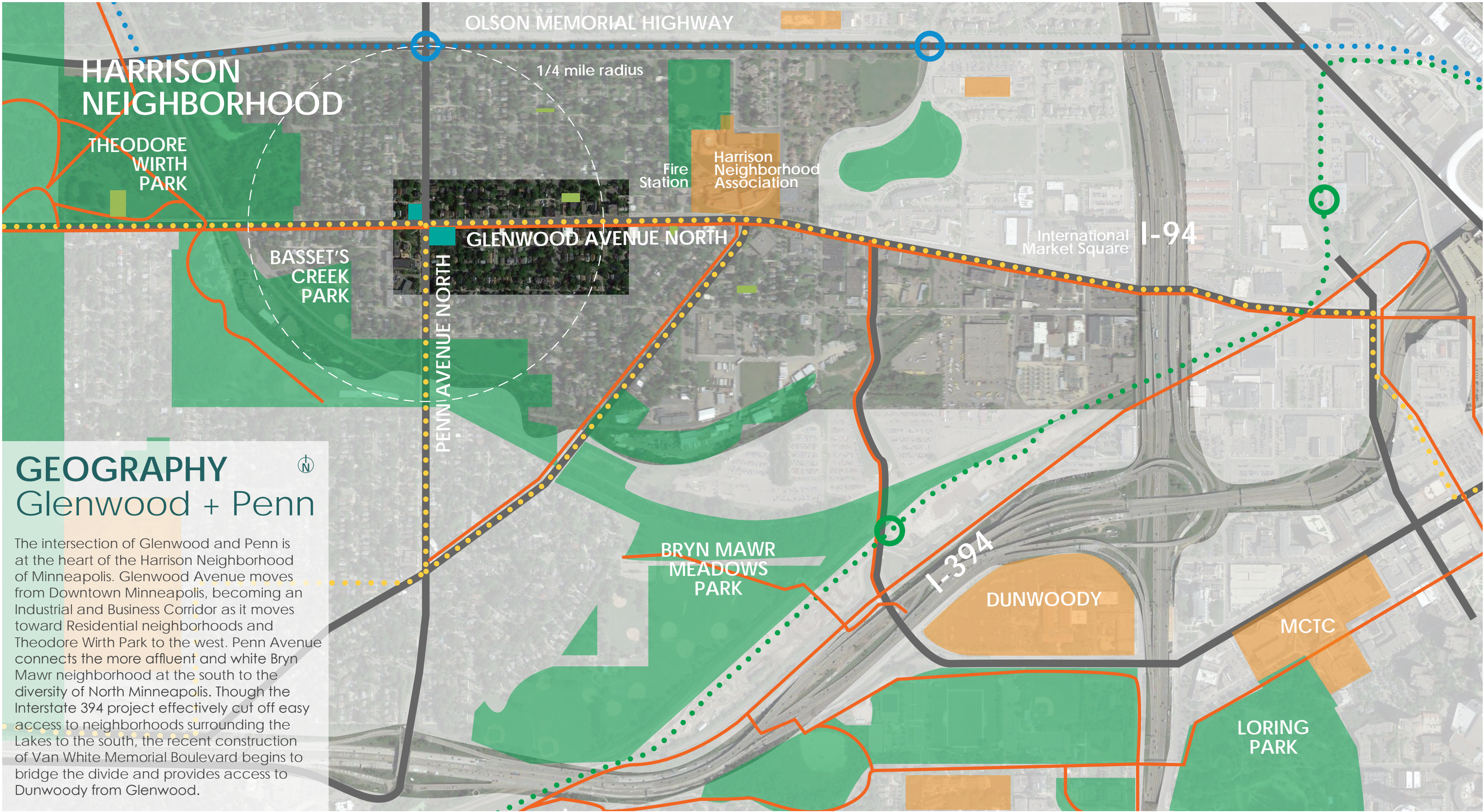


PARTNERSHIPS

Education + Meaningful Work

Rather than creating new organizations in a neighborhood with many non-profits, this design brings partners together at a central, highly-visible intersection who will continue their work to strengthen the community utilizing strategies designed to reduce the potential of gentrification.

- Redeemer Center for Life: Wellness activities, run in partnership with Fairview, currently take place in a converted workshop a few blocks east on Glenwood. They will move to fill the top two floors of the Corner Grocery, forming a Wellness Hub. Youth will engage in the work of managing the greenhouse, assist with the corner grocery as desired, and have the opportunity to use the commercial kitchen.
- Juxtaposition Arts: Currently operating successful arts programs in North Minneapolis, this organization is the perfect partner to run the Center for Public Interest Design, expanding its reach to architecture. Juxtaposition Arts develops community by engaging and employing young urban artists in hands-on education initiatives that create pathways to self-sufficiency while actualizing creative power.
- Metro Area Design Programs: The Community Design Collaborative provides low-cost efficiency housing for 18 current design students who work part-time at the Collaborative designing and building projects in the neighborhood. In addition to NAAB-accredited programs, including students from technical programs can welcome students who are pursuing a lower-investment option to design and potentially lead to their pursuit of an accredited degree and eventual licensure. Five larger units house current architecture professionals who will live near and mentor current students. Partner programs may include:
 - Dunwoody College of Technology (B. Arch)
 - Minneapolis Community and Technical College (Architectural Technology Diploma)
 - University of Minnesota (M. Arch., B.S., Bachelor of Design in Architecture)
 - Century College (Kitchen and Bath Design (formerly at IMS) and Interior Design)



economic equity

- neighborhood stores sell Harrison-designed-and-made products
- makerspace accessible to all community members
- career training and mentorship for aspiring designers in the neighborhood
- classrooms on-site reduce burden of coursework, and bring the classroom to others in the community as well
- amenities at intersection allow students and young professionals time to focus on work and study rather than meeting basic needs

energy independence

- passive design (air tight, highly insulated walls, southern glazing, operable windows)
- maximized daylight (north light through monitors in makerspace, filtered southern light in wellness hub, minimized east-west windows)
- high-efficiency lighting and appliances
- real-time monitoring of energy use, particularly for equipment
- solar panels provide energy to near net-zero and are islandable, making facilities community safety hub during power outages

sustainable materials

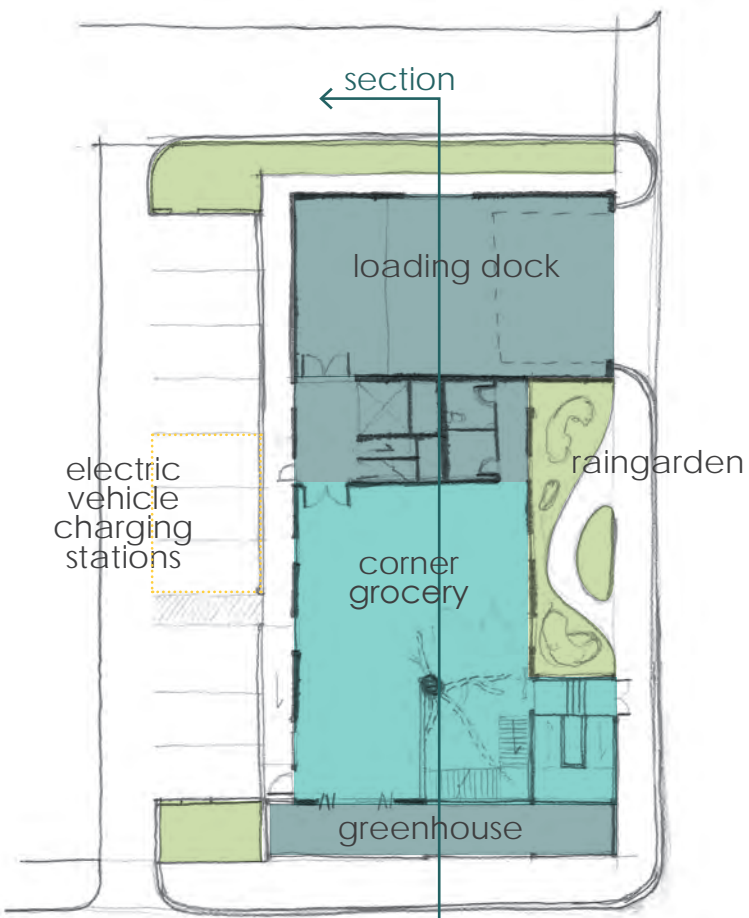
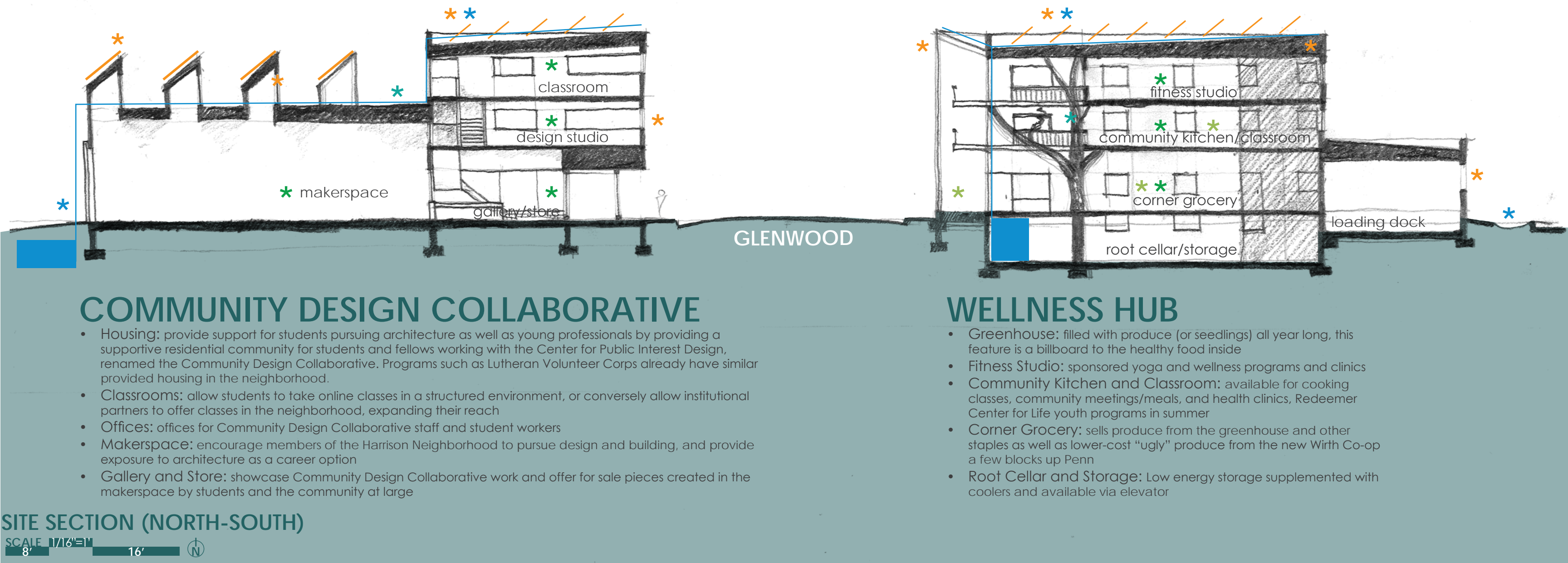
- structure primarily wood (heavy timber and cross-laminated timber), sequestering carbon
- oak tree preserved from site and utilized as primary column (through Wisconsin company Whole Trees)
- green roof (reduces heat island effect, provides relaxation for students and staff)

water cycles

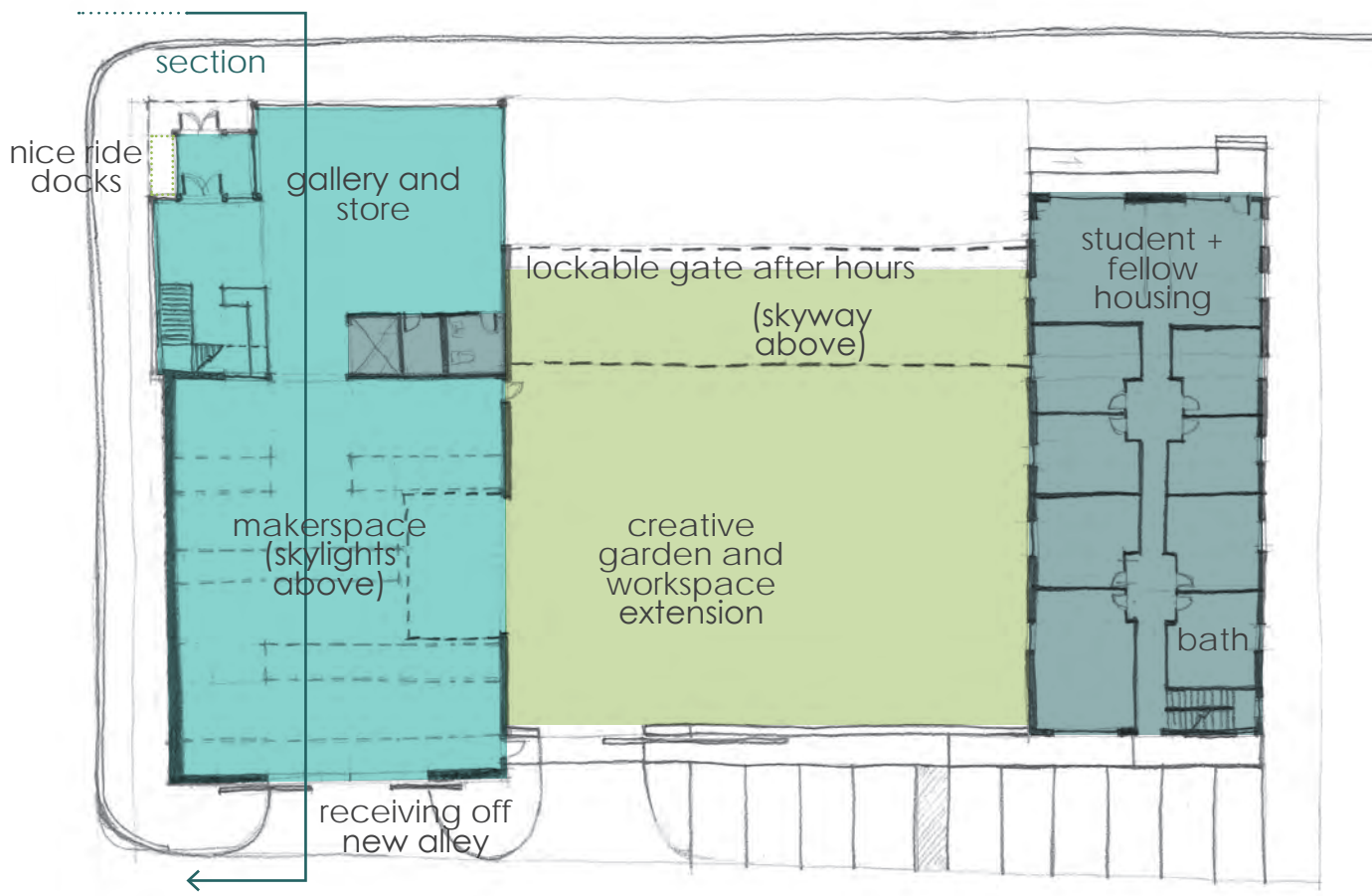
- rainwater collected off of all roofs and stored in underground cisterns and used on-site
- site rainwater filtered through raingardens and pervious paving
- high-efficiency water fixtures throughout

food security

- affordable, healthy, local produce visibly available
- cooking education
- shared meals



BEACON OF HOPE: View North on Penn



community asset
food
new development



- 1 Ripley Gardens: Redeveloped by Aeon in 2007, these new and historic buildings provide mixed-income housing. The site was formerly established as a maternity hospital for un-wed mothers by Dr. Martha Ripley in 1886, pioneering de-institutionalized care. Directly south, The Villa at Bryn Mawr is a residential hospital.
- 2 Wellness Hub
- 3 Traffic Calming Art: Commission local youth artists through Juxtaposition Arts
- 4 Community Design Collaborative
- 5 Alley Extension: Provides easier access for deliveries to makerspace and access to parking for maker space users, visitors, and residents.
- 6 Case Study Home Sites: These vacant lots owned by the Twin Cities Community Land Bank provide a nearby opportunity for design-build projects for students and fellows to develop affordable and sustainable housing.
- 7 Roger's Market: Convenience Store
- 8 City of Lakes Community Land Trust: Creating community ownership that preserves affordability and inclusivity.
- 9 Former Peace Palace: Former home of Redeemer Center for Life youth programs as well as Juxtaposition Arts. Currently retail.
- 10 Venture North Bikes & Coffee (RCL): Bikes and coffee are foundation for community hub, youth programs, and spoken word events.
- 11 SunnySide Coffee Cafe
- 12 Community Garden and Pizza Oven (RCL)
- 13 Redeemer Lutheran Church: A faith community that has been part of the Harrison neighborhood for over 100 years.
- 14 Redeemer Center for Life (RCL): Non-profit founded in 1999 by Redeemer Lutheran in response to the neighborhood's identification of three primary desires: job growth, attainable housing, and youth development. Outreach along Glenwood identified (RCL).
- 15 Milda's Cafe: Community cafe anchors first floor of housing developed by RCL in 2000.
- 16 The Living Room (RCL): The Living Room is a community space that hosts activities and events by neighbors, for neighbors, including Health Commons, a drop-in health and wellness center including fitness classes. In partnership with Fairview.