Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda

August 19, 2026
4:30 PM

City Hall
Aspen Room
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA

Virtual Meeting Credentials:

Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 220 841 959 653
Passcode: vXa8CB

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. Approval of the June 17 PRAC meeting minutes
3. **Community Forum**
   To provide public testimony, please see instructions below.
4. **Workshop**
   a. Introduction to Lynde Wallick, Senior Parks Planner
   b. Budget Update
   c. Arts Hub Update
5. **Commission and Staff Reports**
   a. Department Director
   b. Commission Chair

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Members

Jenny Thompson, **Chair**
Angilo Fletcher, **Vice Chair**

Jeremy Robbins
Stephen Wille
James Luce
Valerie Striplin
AJ Panter, VPS
Cale Piland, EPS

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department
P.O. Box 1995 Vancouver, WA 98668
360-487-8311
TTY: 711
cityofvancouver.us

c. Evergreen School District

d. Vancouver Public School

e. Parks Foundation

6. Open Discussion & New Business

Adjournment

Community Forum Instructions

The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:

1. In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5 pm on the day before the meeting.
2. Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting
3. In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting

City Hall is served by C-TRAN. Route information and schedules are available online at www.c-tran.com. You also may reach C-TRAN at (360) 695-0123 for more information on times, fares, and routes.

Anyone needing language interpretation services or accommodations with a disability at a Vancouver City Council meeting may contact the City Manager's staff at (360) 487-8600 (RELAY: 711). Assistive listening devices and live Closed Captioning are available for the deaf, hard of hearing and general public use. Please notify a staff person if you wish to use one of the devices. Every attempt at reasonable accommodation will be made. To request this agenda in another format, please also contact the phone numbers listed above.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
4:30 p.m.
City Hall
Aspen Room

Commissioners Present:
Luce, Robbins, Striplin, Thompson, Wille

Commissioners Absent:
Fletcher, Piland and Panter

Item 1: Call to Order
Vice Chair Fletcher called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:32p.m. in the Aspen Room at City Hall and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Piland and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes
PRAC approved May 20, 2026, meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment
None Presented

Item 4: Workshops
a. Budget Update
Perlick and Stokke provided an overview of the PRCS 2027-2028 Biennial Budget process.

The City budgets on a biennial, 2-year basis. We are currently preparing the budget request for 2027-2028. Operating and capital requests are included; Capital includes a number of dedicated available revenues. Operating is generally supported by the City's general fund.

There is a projected deficit in the biennium. The current process does not include a request for reduction packages.

Members

Jenny Thompson
President, PFCC

Angilo Fletcher
Vice President

Jeremy Robbins
Stephen Wille
Valerie Striplin
James Luce
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Cale Piland, EPS

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To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:
Alicia Nilo | 360-487-8311 | TTY: 711 | parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us

Key process steps and presentation dates:

- Budget prioritization process NEW – Submitted in May
- Operating and capital budget submission – July 12
- Oct 1 – City Manager Recommended Budget Published
- Oct 12 – City Council Operating Budget Workshop
- Oct 26 – City Council Capital Budget Workshop
- Nov 2 – City Council 1st Reading – Biennium Budget
- Nov 16 – City Council Public Hearing and Adoption of Biennium Budget

A high-level overview of General, Street, and Fire Funds forecast was shared. The first set of measures focuses on FTE positions in the department. These numbers have been consistently reported over time. Department staffing has been reduced by 35.5 FTEs despite population growth of over 47,000 residents in that time period. This is a reduction of 37.5% in department FTEs from 2007-2025.

Budget Prioritization Process includes:

- City Events
- Community Event Permitting
- Inspire Vancouver
- Arts Hub
- Volunteer Program
- Major Park Development
- Playground Replacement Program
- Parks Capital Repair
- Parks Acquisition
- Parks Planning and Funding
- Parks Reservations and Parking
- Firstenburg Community Center
- Marshall Community Center
- Aquatics Programming
- Youth and Teen Programming
- Fitness and Adult Programming
- Free & Subsidized Programs
- Historic Reserve & Historic Trust Management

Staff shared PRCS values and approach, highlighting initial thoughts on development of the budget proposal:

- Optimize available general fund / baseline to cover existing core services.
- Live within existing FTE count and adjust to meet emerging needs.
- Holding some current vacancies.
- Targeted requests aligned with City Council priorities.
- Optimize capital revenues to deliver existing projects.
- Request funds for significant capital maintenance and repair.
- Be prepared for targeted service reductions to address deficit.
- Consider capacity needed to plan for new funding opportunities and annexation.

Suggested role of PRAC, and opportunities to impact the process:

- Discuss feedback and overall approach today
- Update at July meeting to review initial budget submission
- Monitor City Council budget presentations
- Community forums
- Testify to Council

- PRAC position or letter
- Work on dedicated funding options

The floor was open for discussion. Luce asked for updates related to impact fees on commercial PIF. Perlick confirmed that we are revisiting indexing for non-residential impact fee programs that could be implemented in 2027. For multi-family and affordable housing, applicants can apply for deferral for impact fees as an incentive.

Wille asked how much funding comes from grants or outside sources for new projects, since most new projects would be put on hold. Perlick commented that state grant programs that are focused on park development are often competitive and require a high match, however we will have a new staff member in the Parks Planner position to review those opportunities more strategically. We do anticipate seeking more funding in the coming biennium.

Robbins asked about newly started projects with multi-phases, such as The Heights, being paused because of the pause on projects. Perlick confirmed that we are maximizing our funding to complete as much work as possible in the current biennium so that we can complete most of the work. We anticipate our playground replacement program will be continued at the same level. We anticipate continued partnerships for our programming.

Striplin asked for clarification around the PRAC position letter and advocacy support. Perlick recommended gathering more information on impacts and options before touching on additional dedicated funding. Striplin asked for the best practices in engaging their community neighborhoods with information.

Thompson asked staff to send commissioners dates and times for upcoming critical milestones in the budget process. Thompson reminded commissioners to monitor city emails for timely communications.

b. Clark County Sustainable Parks Funding Team Update

Perlick shared a snapshot of the regional funding task team. The Clark County parks system is not meeting its existing needs due to a lack of available funding, rising costs, and rapid population growth. For the past 5 years, the County has had to use reserve funds just to cover the basic services at our Regional Parks.

An overview on national benchmarking vs. regional expenditures was shared. Each park system compared their metrics to the national median for communities of their size. All park systems are below the national median for operating expenditures of similar populations.

All park systems are below the national median for regional FTEs per 10,000 residents.

Future needs:

- County expected to grow 34% over the next 20 years
- Parks systems need to grow to match these needs

Staff shared an overview of a funding model comparison between a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD) funding structure and a Regional Levy (county-wide). The existing MPD map shows the Greater Clark Park district boundary.

Recommended Actions:

1. ***Conducting mark research*** to provide data, feasibility evaluations, and ***conducting public education*** and other preparatory work needed for County Council to make a decision on the potential future ballot measure.

2. ***Determining viability and process*** for adopting either funding mechanism by conducting formal legal reviews.
3. ***Developing a framework for revenue sharing*** by directing county staff to continue to work with city representatives so that city park providers can also benefit from a potential revenue source dedicated to parks.

Next Steps:

- Do you feel the project will provide the appropriate information for further Council discussion?
- What specific information will be helpful for your decision-making?

An open discussion was held regarding next steps. Striplin asked if the City and County have similarly aligned values for public education purposes, and how to engage volunteers, ambassadors, and partners with talking points to advocate in the community. Perlick shared that there are a lot of shared language, standards, and common goals since we used to have the same impact fees.

Robbins expressed concern that while cities like Camas and Ridgefield would be opening new parks, other cities would have less infrastructure and buy in; the County doesn't have a lot of resources to generate funds. He hopes that research will add more clarity.

Luce compared the merits and processes of the different approaches for MPD or a Regional Levy. If we are to be joint City-County effort, it would simplify the process. He is curious to see how members of City Council will weigh in.

Thompson added that it would be advantageous to make a decision as quickly as possible based on our sense for buy-in and engagement from other cities.

Striplin asked how PRAC can support this effort moving forward. Perlick has committed to sharing updates on public research and the status of presenting to the other cities.

c. Playground Replacement Update

Snyder shared an update on Franklin & Bella Vista play equipment replacements based on need from recent evaluations.

Franklin Park is a 12-acre park that serves the Fruit Valley and Northwest neighborhoods, with the current play equipment installed in 2007. The equipment is in poor condition and does not meet current ADA standards and will become a safety concern if not replaced. The budget is $500,000, focused on play equipment replacement and may include adding a few amenities to improve accessibility.

Several survey questions were shared with neighbors to collect feedback on play equipment preferences. Common equipment theming included:

- Views and Vistas – Tall towers, platforms, and rope climbers
- Sky's the Limit – Planes, hot air balloons, gliders, and motion
- Lakes and Waterways – Frogs, fish and slides (neighbors were most partial to this option)

Equipment replacement timeline;

- April/June 2026

   - Project start
   - Public survey
   - Design
- July – December 2026
   - Share playground design with PRAC
   - Apply for permits
- Spring – Sumer 2027
   - Secure contractor
   - Start construction
   - Project complete

The floor was open for questions and discussion regarding Franklin Park play equipment replacement.

Snyder shared an overview of Bella Vista Park Play Equipment Replacement. A 5.3-acre park serves the Bella Vista neighborhood in east Vancouver. The equipment was installed in 1999 and is in poor condition and does not meet current ADA standards. Budget is $500,000, focused on replacing play equipment and may include adding other amenities to improve accessibility.

Several survey questions were shared with neighbors to collect feedback on play equipment preferences. Common equipment theming included:

- Insects and Bugs – Flying insects, crawling bugs, spiderwebs, leaves
- Fantasy Forst – Mushrooms, whimsical, fantastical creatures (neighbors were most partial to this option)
- Farm Life

Equipment replacement timeline;

- April/June 2026
   - Project start
   - Public survey
   - Design
- July – December 2026
   - Share playground design with PRAC
   - Apply for permits
- Spring – Sumer 2027
   - Secure contractor
   - Start construction
   - Project complete

The floor was open for questions and discussion regarding Bella Vista Park play equipment replacement.

Striplin expressed excitement for the upcoming replacements as a neighbor at Bella Vista, and to share updates on accessibility improvements with the neighborhood association. Striplin was curious about emails and ways to amplify communications as part of the information sharing process. Snyder shared that mailings, emails, posted signage are currently shared. Burton followed up that we can extend survey timing, and we have school flyers and communications on Next Door; we would love to hear more ideas on ways to communicate with more neighbors. Commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming phases.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director's Report

Gutierrez shared an update on the VIC online open house that will be open through 6/22. We are in the early stages of community engagement, and commissioners are welcome to share surveys with their networks on Be Heard Vancouver. Gutierrez shared an interior view of the park trails, outlining the highly forested grounds and open meadows of the site, as well as the community park edges – noting that noise is reduced the farther you travel from the property edge. Save the date for Saturday, August 15, October 3, and November 21 to review next steps for the project onsite.

Parks: We are briefly closing two neighborhood playgrounds in July to complete surfacing improvements. The work will be completed at My Park in the Harney Heights neighborhood, and Gretchen Fraser Park in the East Mill Plain neighborhood from July 6-21. We will be removing the aging rubber tiles and replacing it with Forever Lawn artificial turf to improve accessibility and durability.

Recreation: Summer camps at Marshall Community Center start on Monday. Our camps at Fircrest Elementary and ATR camp will begin on June 29. Both our Marshall and Fircrest Day Camps for ages 6-10 are full. There is still some space available in ATR camp.

We also have our free Summer Playgrounds programs at Crestline, Evergreen and Hough starting June 29. New this year is a three-session Kids Climb Camp at Firstenburg, which is also fully registered.

The summer pool schedules will start June 29, and we are already seeing a lot of interest in summer swims. I'm excited to share that the Aquatics team has been working hard to increase program capacity, so June through August we will be almost doubling the number of swim lessons we offer. We're also expanding afternoon water exercise programs, lap swims and community access at Marshall Pool

Cultural Services: It's officially event season! Our summer concerts and movies will start in July but before then, we have some fun free community events with partners.

July 20:

- Juneteenth Freedom Celebration at Esther Short Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're partnering with Odyssey World International Education Services for this event.
- Pollinator Festival at Marshall Community Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're partnering with Vancouver Bee Project for this event.

July 3:

- Vancouver Celebrates America 250 at Fort Vancouver Parade Grounds from noon to 11 p.m. We're partnering with the Historic Trust, and National Park Service for this event.
- More information about all these events is on the City's website calendar.
- The Pollinator Festival will take place on June 20th at Marshall Park.

b. Chair Report

Thompson challenged commissioners to volunteer for at least one event this summer.

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report
None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report
The Historic Trust is also doing a concert series, starting June 26.

The Parks Foundation is holding its annual cornhole tournament on August 1 at Esther Short Park.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business
No new business.

ADJOURNED
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

2027-2028 Budget Overview

David Perlick
Director

Katherine Stokke
Sr. Management Analyst

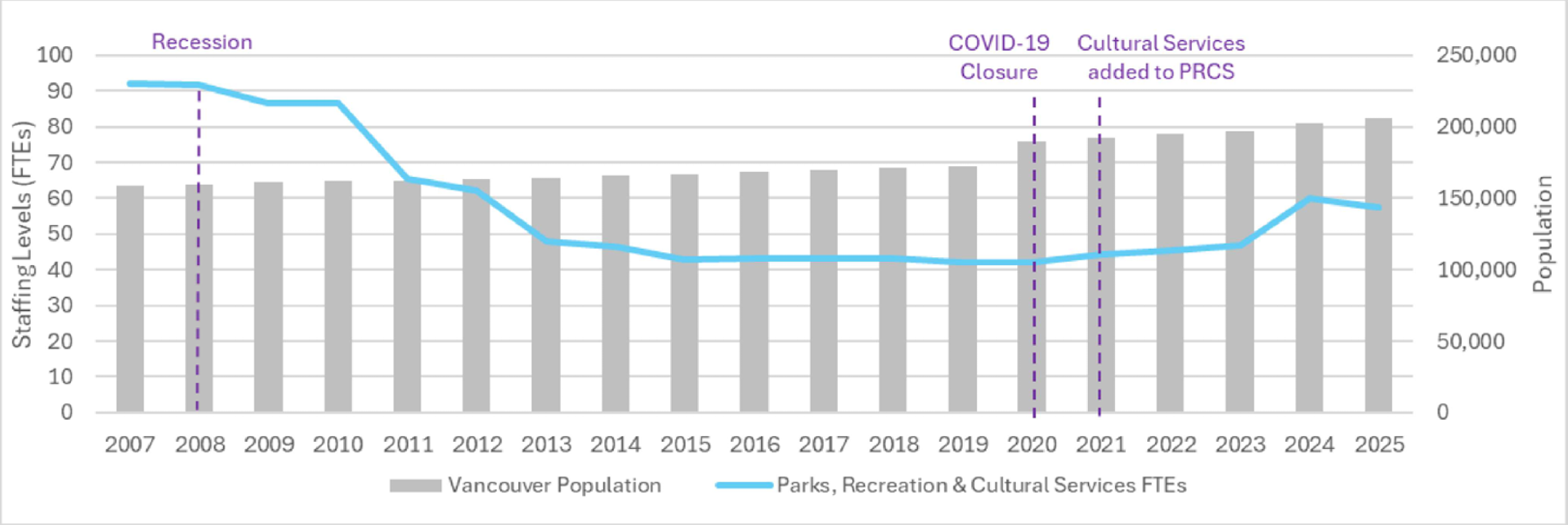
August 19, 2026

Agenda

- Overview of Approach and Key Objectives
- Overview of Requests - Operating
- Overview of Requests – Capital
- Next Steps
- Discussion

The first set of measures focuses on full time equivalent positions in the department (FTE). These numbers are very consistently reported over time. The table below shows that department staffing has been reduced by 35.5 FTEs despite population growth of over 47,000 residents in that time period. This is a **reduction of 37.5% in department FTEs from 2007-2025**.

Full Time Equivalent Staffing by Year and Vancouver Population, 2007-2025



Approach and Key Objectives

Core services – stable, efficient & mission aligned

- Maintain current core service levels and facility schedules
- Deploy strategic technology to improve efficiency
- Improve access and inclusion efforts
- Increase park repair and operations support
- Maximize capital resources for current project priorities

Approach and Key Objectives

Future focus – optimize use of dedicated revenues and plan for growth

- Establish Inspire Vancouver program
- Renovation and operating plan for the arts hub
- Advance Climate Action Framework (CAF) strategies focused on natural systems
- Strategic update of PRCS comprehensive plan with future focus
- Create capacity to focus on growth and stable funding

Area of Focus – PRCS Comp. Plan Update

- Update needed to address Our Vancouver plan update
- Strategic scope concept:
  - Update impact fee program, incl. adding non-residential fees
  - Review standards to reflect best practices with increasingly urban park system
  - Updated planning for trails and other special facilities
  - Strategic outreach – what does the com. want and what are they willing to pay?
  - And more…
- Ensure that work supports strategic funding efforts

Request	Amount	Source and Notes
PRCS comp. plan update	$450,000 in 2027	Dedicated BLS revenue + grant pending; professional services

Area of Focus – Natural Systems

- Advance innovative approaches to landscape mgt. to support climate, pollinator and other policies/goals
- Direct alignment to Climate Action Framework and Our Vancouver policies
- “Trees and green spaces” is the highest rated funding priority in recent climate priorities survey; highly rated in Council prioritization exercise
- Proposal includes strategic planning, funding for enhanced implementation, and focus on updating citywide strategy

Request	Amount	Source and Notes
Expand Naturespaces sites	$99,000 in 2028	Dedicated BLS revenue to support analysis and site implementation
Create Natural Systems Coordinator Pos.	?	Pending review, would require action in 2027 supplemental budget process

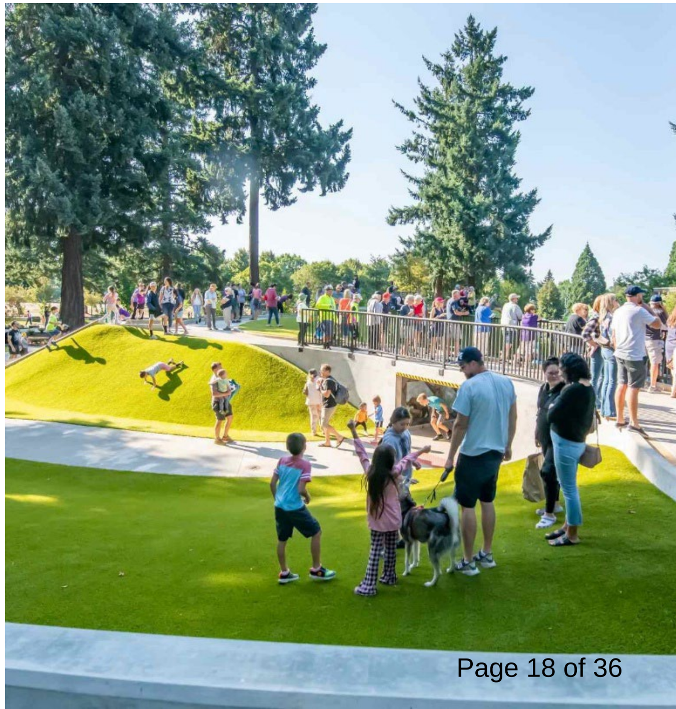
Area of Focus – Others

Request	Amount	Source and Notes
Establish Deputy Director pos.	$133,697	GF portion; repurpose of existing FTE
Establish Park Operations pos.	$9,035	GF; repurpose existing FTE
Recreation system replacement	-$222,500	GF; new system increases capability and reduces costs; also externalizing taxes/fees
Event permit system	$35,000	GF; creates workflow efficiencies for growth; anticipated in 2028
Communications support	$30,000	GF; reflects strategic focus of City Comms
Establish Inspire Vancouver prog.	$6,390,000	Dedicated sales tax revenue for grants
Arts hub – capital and operating	Multiple	Combination of existing and new budget

Capital Budget – Guiding Values

More flexible use of resources to achieve balanced priorities

- Complete priority community projects
- Address major capital maintenance needs
- Continue playground replacement program
- Maintain capacity for strategic acquisitions
- Advance trails program
- Increase natural systems efforts
- Plan for the future



Capital Budget – Project Detail

Project	Carryforward	New Request	Funding Source
Shaffer Community Park	$1,539,870		PIF
Bagley Community Park		$1,994,890	PIF, BLS, matches ARPA
Heights Civic Plaza		$6,000,000	BLS
Vancouver Innovation Center Park	$3,734,847	$1,445,258	PIF
Playground Replacements	$850,703		BLS
Major maintenance	$200,000	$425,000	BLS
Acquisitions	$8,355,141	$765,622	PIF, BLS
Trails	$4,000,000		REET
ADA		$150,000	BLS
Natural Systems		$99,000	BLS
Planning		$450,000	BLS

Budget Process Overview

Key process steps and presentation dates:

- Oct 1 – City Manager Recommended Budget Published
- Oct 12 – City Council Operating Budget Workshop
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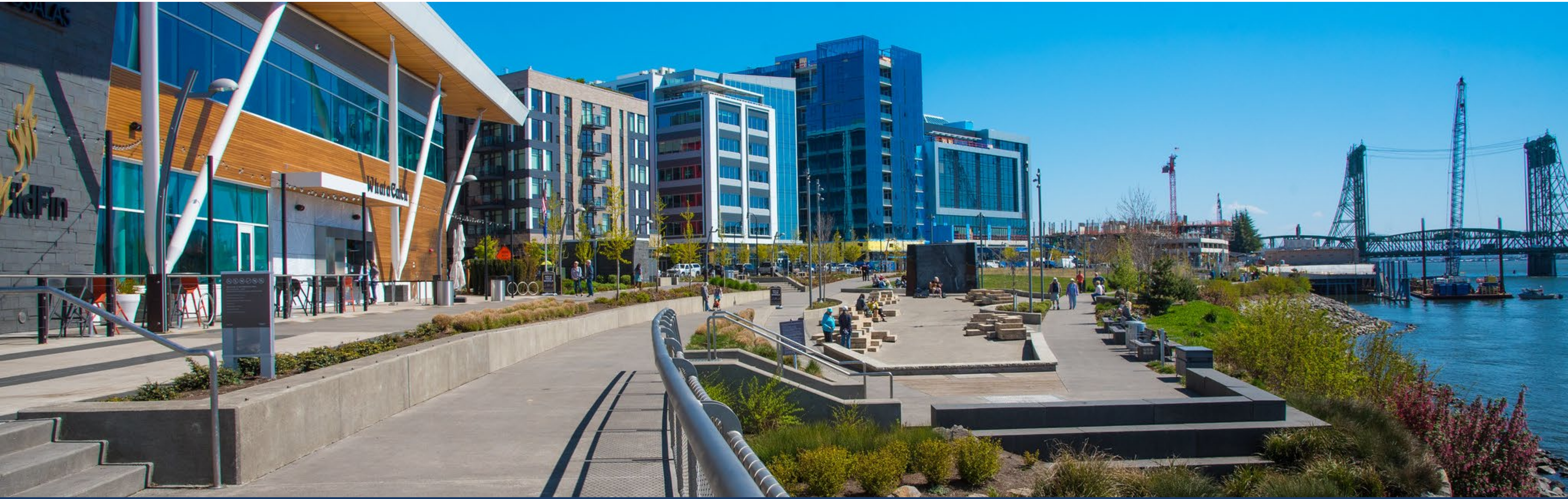
Operating – Discussion



Vancouver Arts Hub Framework

David Perlick
Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Stacey Donovan
Cultural Services Manager, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Kevin Kearns
Capital Projects Project Manager, General Services

August 17, 2026

Agenda

- Framework Overview
- Community Priorities
- Operating Model
- Phase 1 Recommendations
- Cost Analysis
- Next Steps

Framework Overview

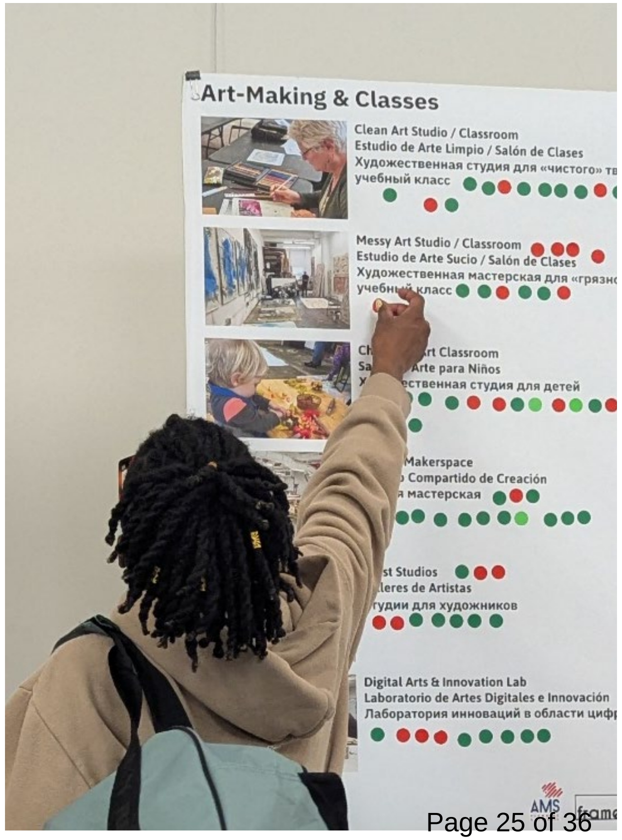
Coordinated operating and capital recommendations

- Builds on the reuse study and initial activation
- Community informed
- Aligns with best practices in comparable facilities
- Prioritizes core improvements that support innovation and growth
- Sets the stage for future investments

Community Priorities

Performance, community and multicultural events spaces

- Multicultural Events
- Gallery Exhibits
- Studio Theater
- Café/Retail
- Outdoor Performance
- Children’s Art
- Dance Studios



Operating Model Development

Guiding decisions with research and real-time learning

Best Practices:

- Researched 5 similar facilities
- All included City ownership role with operating partner(s)
- Identified best practices for nonprofit operator agreements

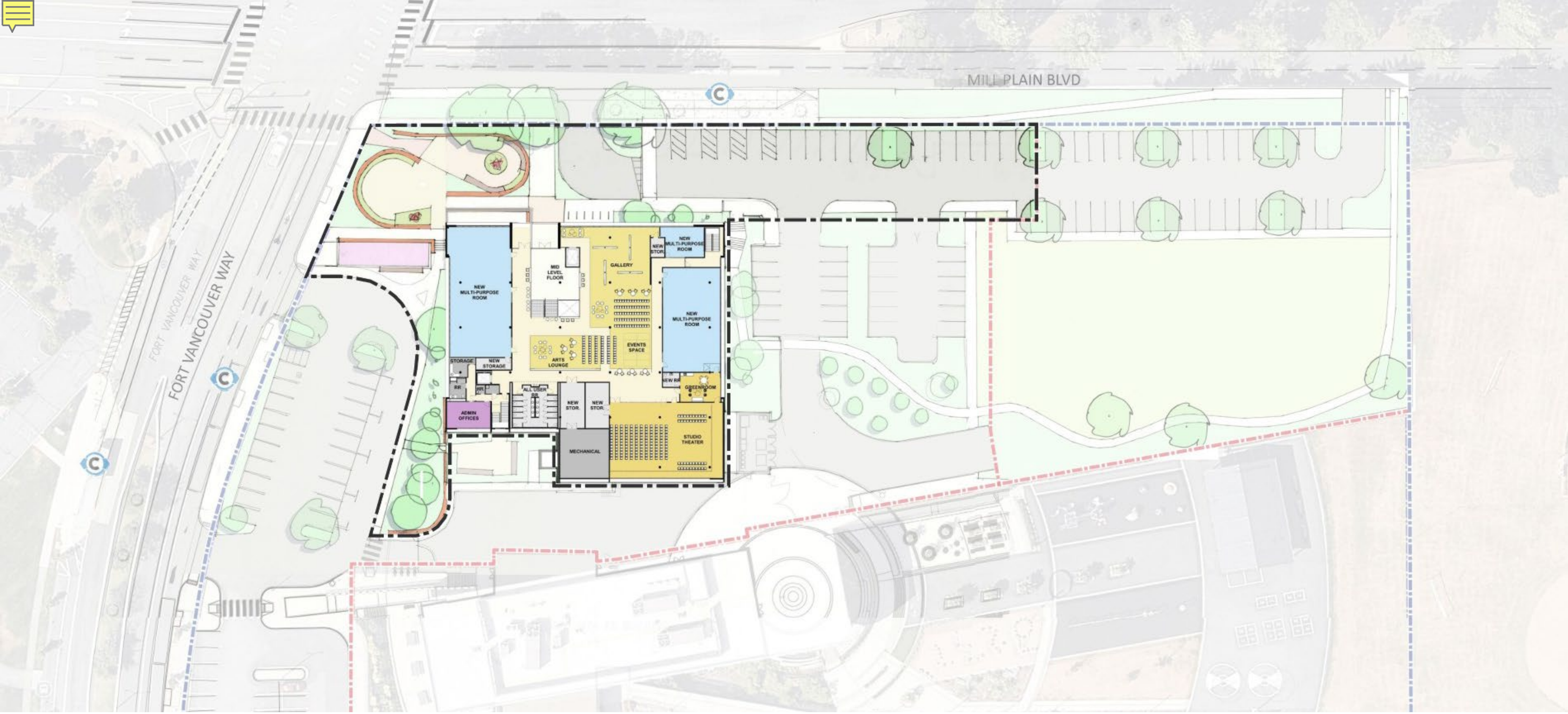
Current Activation:

- Insights from current operator
- Interviews with 18 users from 14 arts and culture organizations
- Inventory and review the spaces, activity types, building usage, and rate of growth from 2024-26

Proposed Operating Model

Updated approach based on best practices and the current activation

2022-23 Study Recommendation: High investment, high control	2026 Updated Recommendation: Shared investment, shared control
City Role • Operate and maintain the building • Manage all programming, rentals, and partnerships • Oversee revenue from classes, membership fees, and rentals	**Operator Role** • Single, mission-aligned nonprofit • Manage programming, rentals, day-to-day operations **City Role** • Maintain capital assets • Support operating costs with operator • Define direction, performance measures



Phase 1 Framework

Phase 1 Essential Improvements

- Improve ADA accessibility
- Seismic enhancements
- Improve energy performance and prepare building to support increased use
- Increase occupancy with improved egress and life safety upgrades
- New all-user restrooms







Phase 1
Lower Level

Program Spaces

- New multipurpose space
- Existing multipurpose spaces are updated
- Shared workshop

existing multipurpose space

new multipurpose space

admin offices

Phase 1
Upper Level

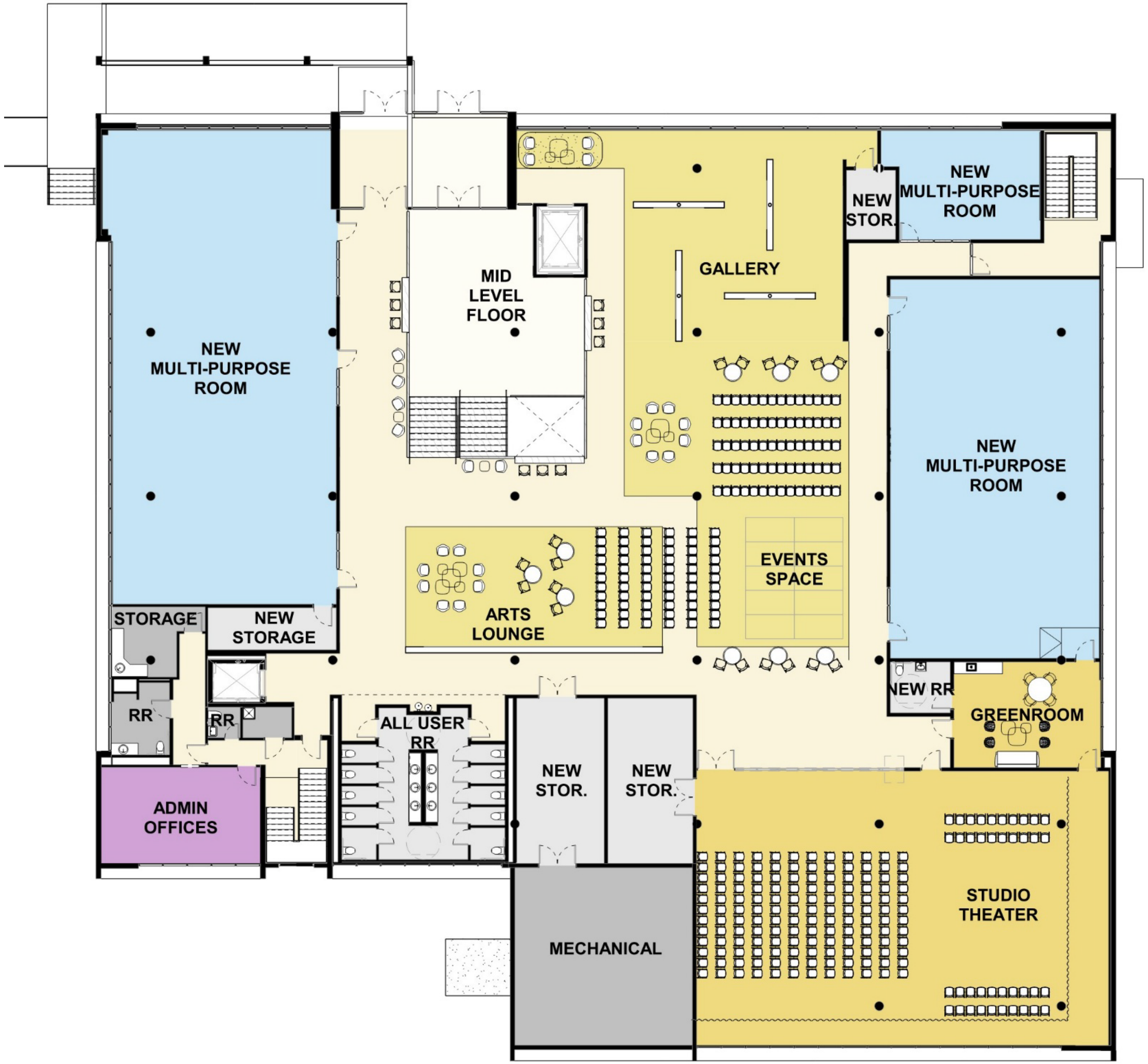
Program Spaces

- New multipurpose spaces
- New Studio Theater
- Flexible Gallery/Event Space

studio theater

new multipurpose space

admin offices



Cost Analysis

	Cost estimates through 2028
Essential Improvements	$12.4M
Program Space Additions/Enhancements	$2.3M
Phase 1 Construction Cost	**$14.7M**
Completed Work	$2.7M
Soft Costs	$4.6M
Phase 1 Total Project Cost	**$22.0M**
Potential Future Investments	**$13.0M** additional

Arts Hub Timeline with Proposed Framework

- **2023**
  - Building Reuse Study completed
  - Critical building repairs identified
- **2024**
  - Initial activation begins
  - Budget approved for critical repairs
- **2025**
  - Critical repairs started
- **2026**
  - Begin new framework development
  - Select operator
- **2027**
  - Move from master planning to design with City Council direction and community feedback
- **2028**
  - Est. Phase 1 construction begins

Building activities and community outreach may continue until construction begins

Discussion and Next Touchpoints with Council

- Biennial budget submissions in capital and operating
- Review and approve the contract for the operator