

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

208772

Ana Mari Cauce Welcome Center Project Update

CUCAC Meeting
March 10, 2026



Presentation Agenda

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Project Overview**
- 3. Development Site & Standards**
- 4. Site Approach**
- 5. Next Steps**



Welcome Center



Lease Crutcher Lewis & Studio Tsien Architects



2. Project Overview

Problem Statement



As the UW continues to grow and evolve, the need for a centralized, visitor-focused space has become increasingly important. The idea for a comprehensive Welcome Center to address this need has been in development for over seven years.

The project is focused on enhancing the experience of prospective students, visitors, alumni and neighbors, and will be designed to be a dynamic, engaging space that serves as a gateway to the University.



porch

Serve as a front porch for the University - a launching place with a generous welcome for generations

bridge

Create a community bridge with an active approach to engaging and connecting the public to the University's ethos

home

Create an action-oriented working facility and a permanent campus home

character

Contribute to the campus's exceptional character with an iconic physical representation of the UW



Project Overview

- > **27,000 gsf** admissions, visitor and alumni welcome center facility
- > Adjacent to Burke Museum, northwest corner of campus

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Project Program

The proposed Welcome Center will be a vibrant, inspiring place housing a variety of uses, including:

- the UW Visitors Center
- the starting point for campus tours and prospective student programming
- the alumni center and UW Alumni Association (UWAA) programming
- community and neighborhood programming
- event, conference, and lecture space
- University-branded retail sales
- social space for casual gatherings, coffee service
- programmed exterior plaza

Broad Program:

- Meeting/gathering spaces
- Administrative offices
- Collaboration spaces



Anticipated Timeline

- > Pre-Planning January 2024 – December 2024
- > DB Team Selection January 2025 – July 2025
- > Project Definition August 2025 – December 2025
- > Design & Preconstruction January 2026 – December 2026
- > Construction January 2027 – August 2028
- > Occupancy September 2028

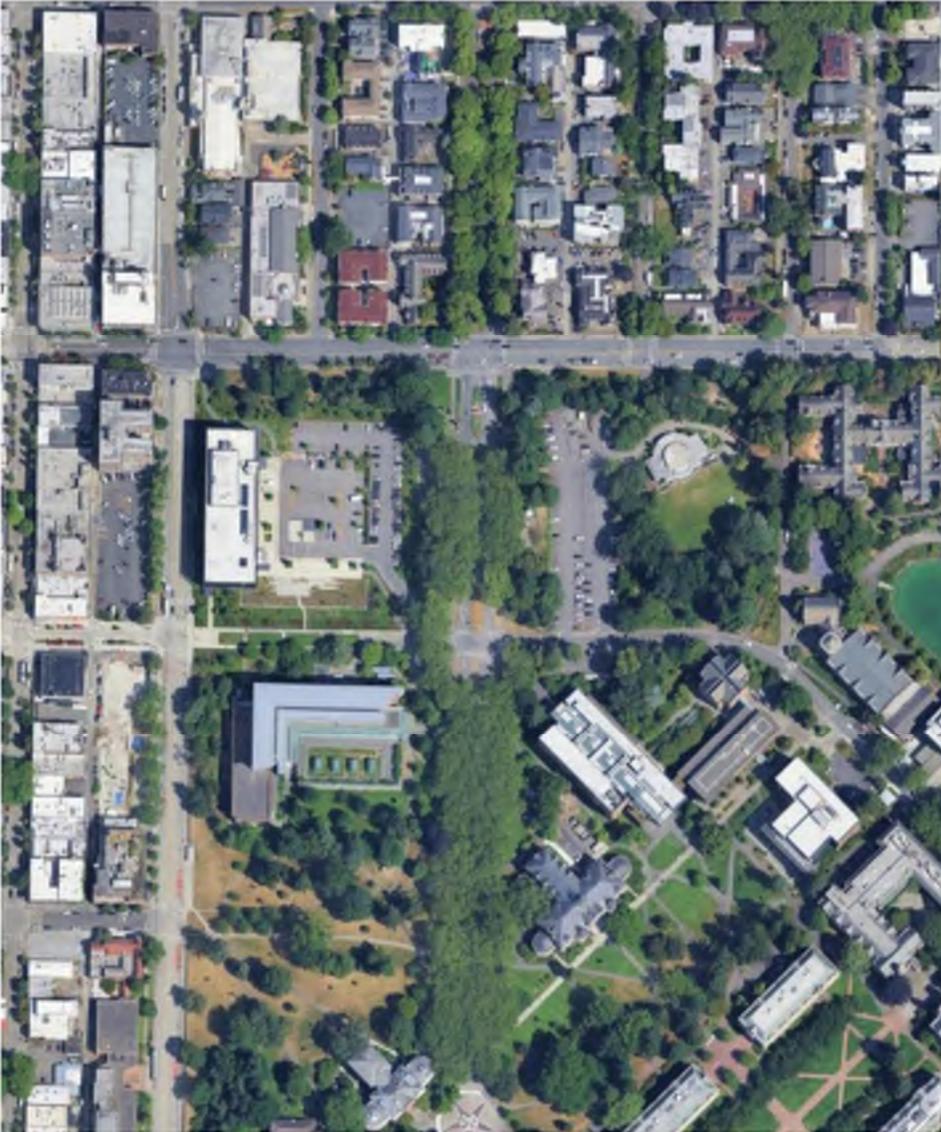


3. Development Site & Standards

Site Selected – C1



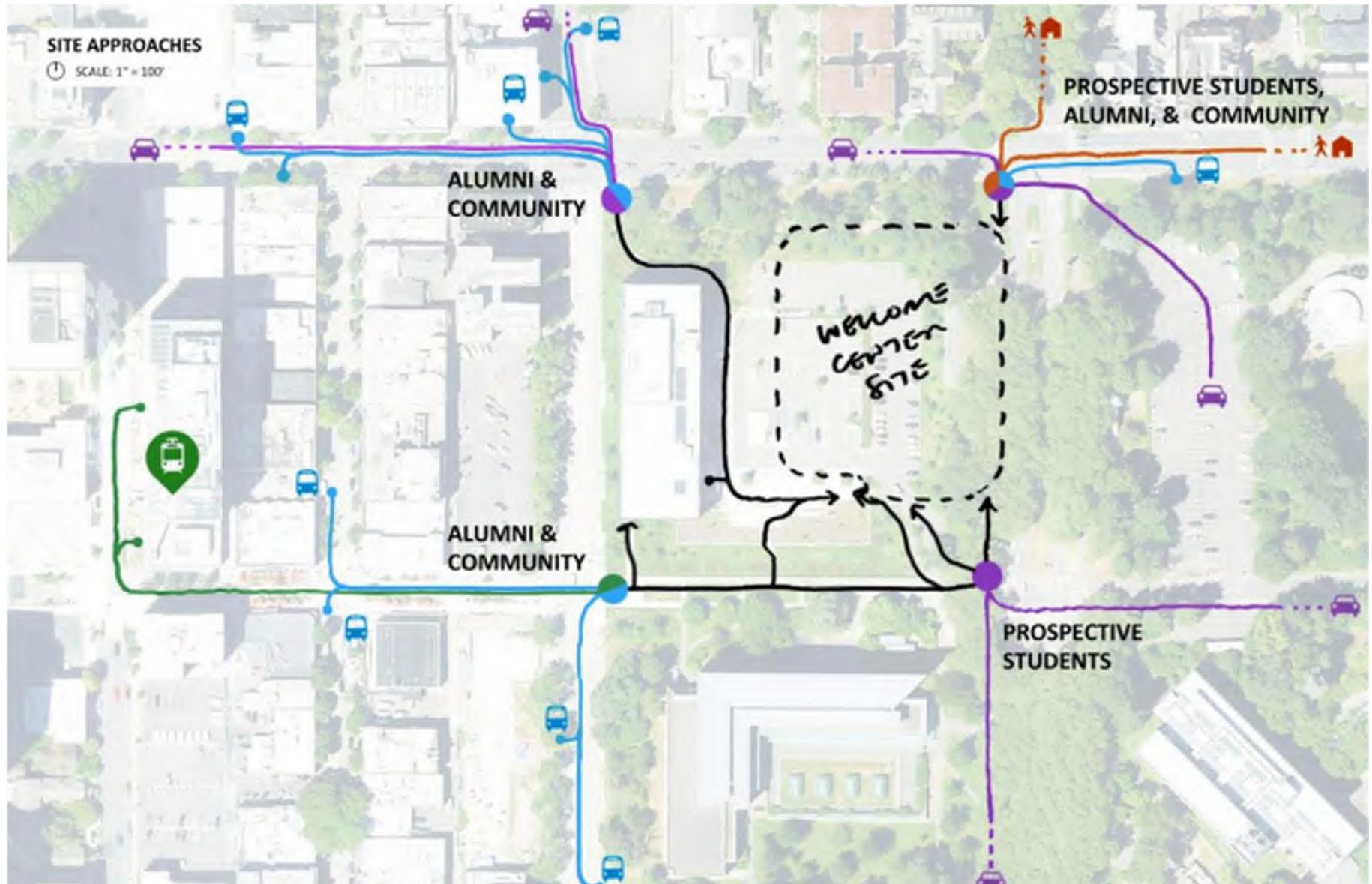
Project Location



View to west



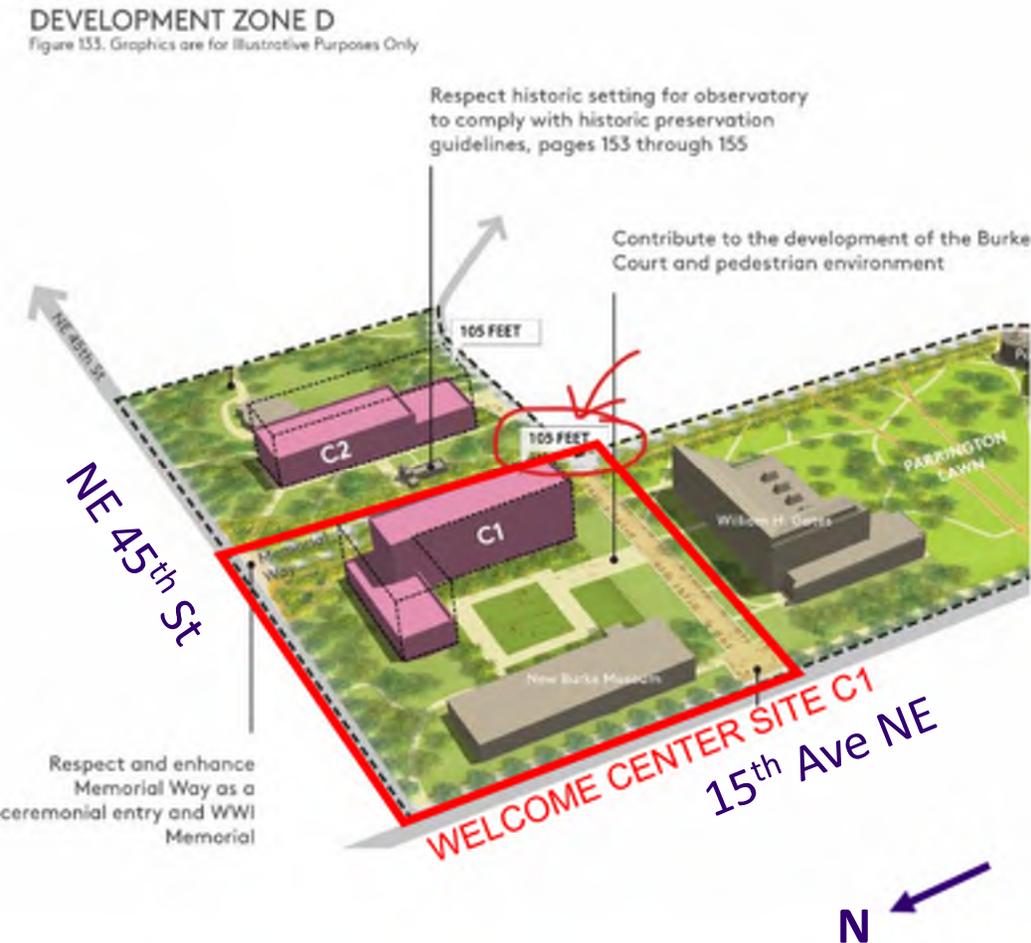
Site Arrival & Circulation



Project Location



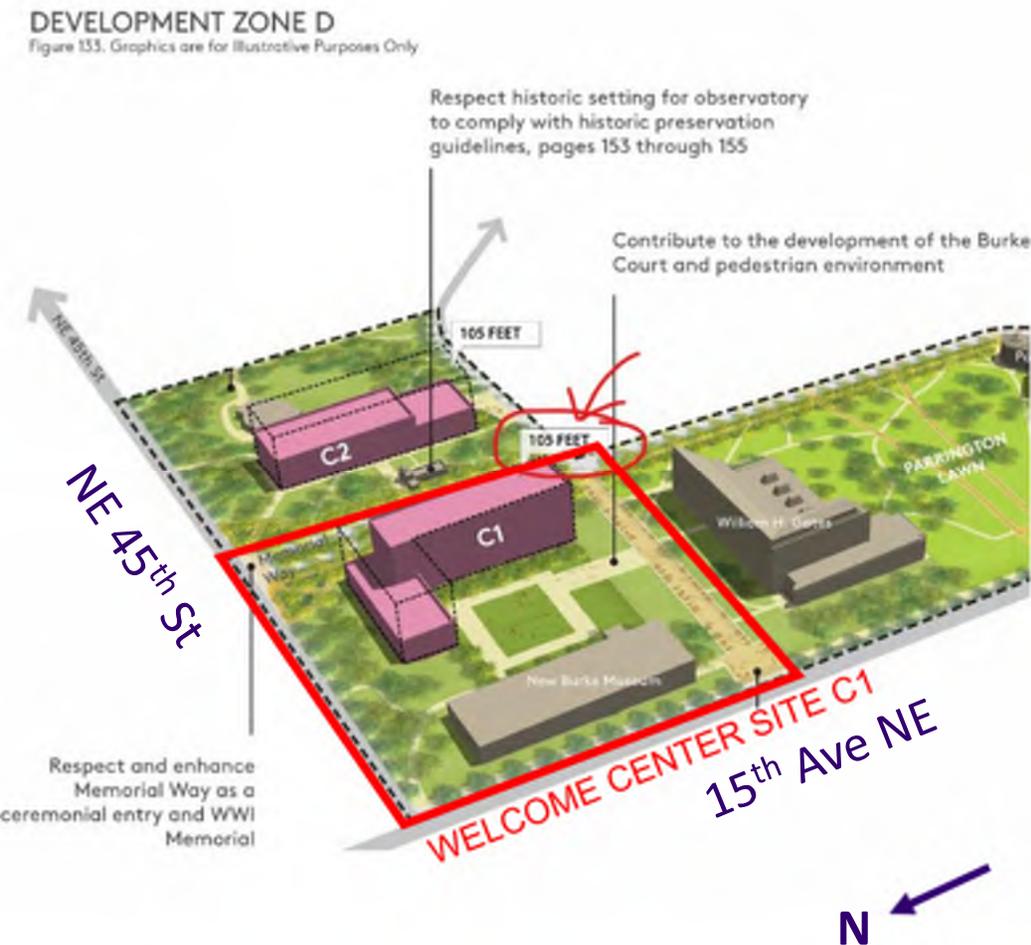
Preferred Site – Site C1 on Memorial Way



- Welcome Center design aims for **30,000 gsf**
- Building will be about **20-30 feet tall**

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Preferred Site – Site C1 on Memorial Way



- Close proximity to Burke Museum and formal Memorial Way entry to the University
- C1 site accommodates up to **200,000 gsf, 105-foot height limit**
- Challenges include significant topographic change and loading access needs

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4. Site Approach

Site Fit

- Building location is toward the northeast corner of site
- Entry is off Memorial Way



Site Overview

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS OF THE SITE

The location of the Ana Mari Cauce Welcome Center on the site has been studied in relationship to the following principals, which have been identified by the design team as primary goals of the project relative to establishing identity and presence for the University (Character), fostering community with the Burke and the U District beyond (Bridge), and stitching itself into an existing campus fabric (Home). This is based on feedback from stakeholders.

Preserve the Canopy

The north and east sides of the site are defined by a mature tree canopy, which is a distinctive and historic feature of the north edge of the UW campus. The eastern canopy is also partially comprised of London Plane sycamore trees, which comprise a WWI Memorial. The design team would like to maintain the canopy, while also creating a presence for the Welcome Center through the trees on Memorial and 45th Street.

By keeping the building footprint largely within the already paved areas of the site, the project minimizes the need for tree removals and reduces the potential for impacts on the critical root zone of mature trees. Some removals will be necessary, and these will be guided by the arborist's report.

Maintain Burke Access

The project will maintain the existing access to the Burke Museum. Accessible pedestrian access will be preserved from the Stevens Lane intersection to serve the Burke's main entry. Although this area will no longer provide public parking, the museum's vehicular access will be maintained to support service needs, bus drop-off, bus parking, and ADA parking access.

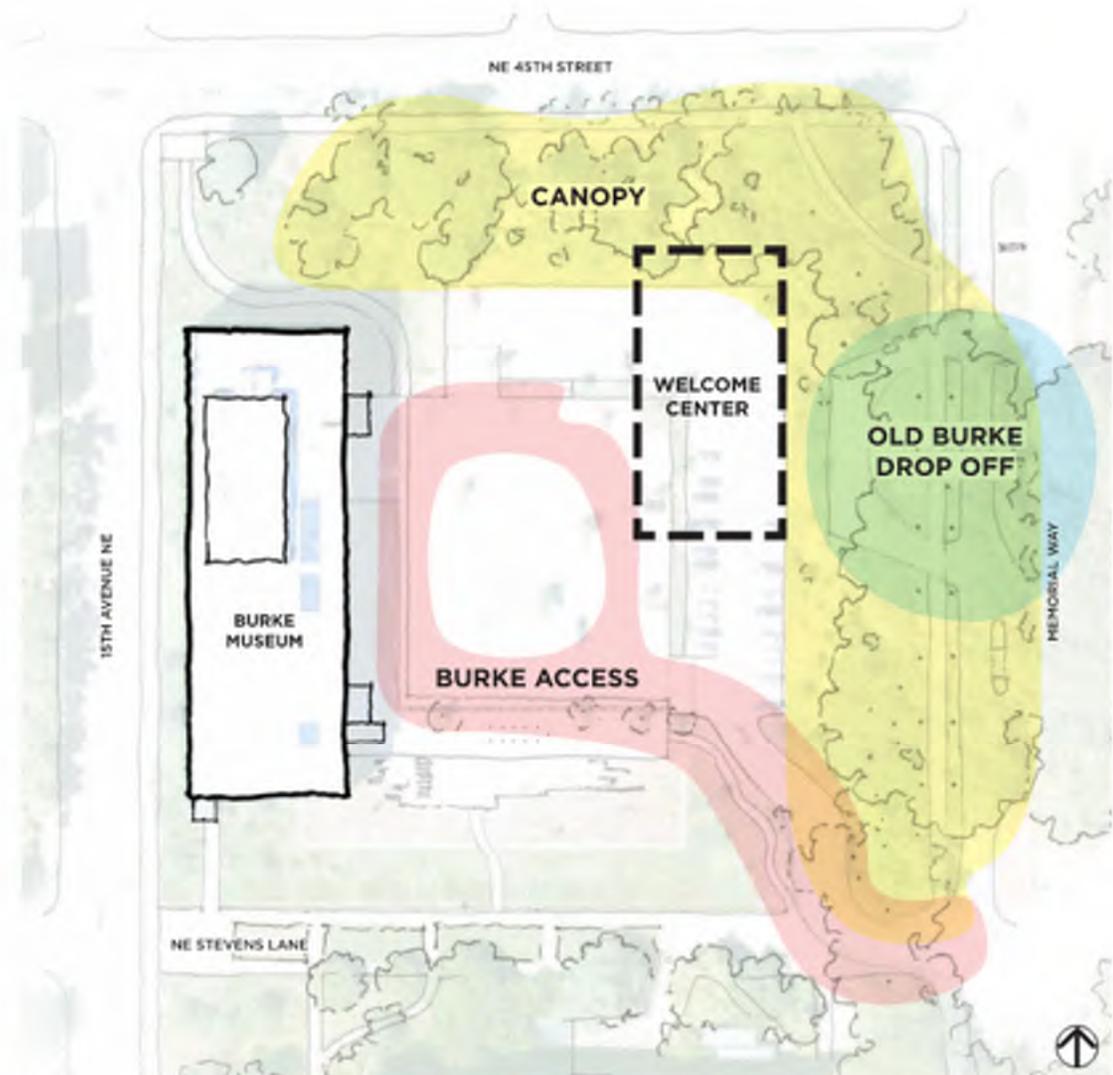
Utilize Existing Infrastructure

The old Burke Museum faced onto Memorial Way. The curb cuts and asphalt area that remained following the demolition of this building are well-situated to serve the Welcome Center entrance, allowing for vehicles to pick-up and drop-off. Reusing these paved elements resourcefully serves a programmatic need for the Welcome Center while reducing site disturbance.

By locating the building closer to Memorial Way, the Welcome Center will be able to access existing utilities (including water, fire, and sewer) more cost-effectively.

Working Assumption

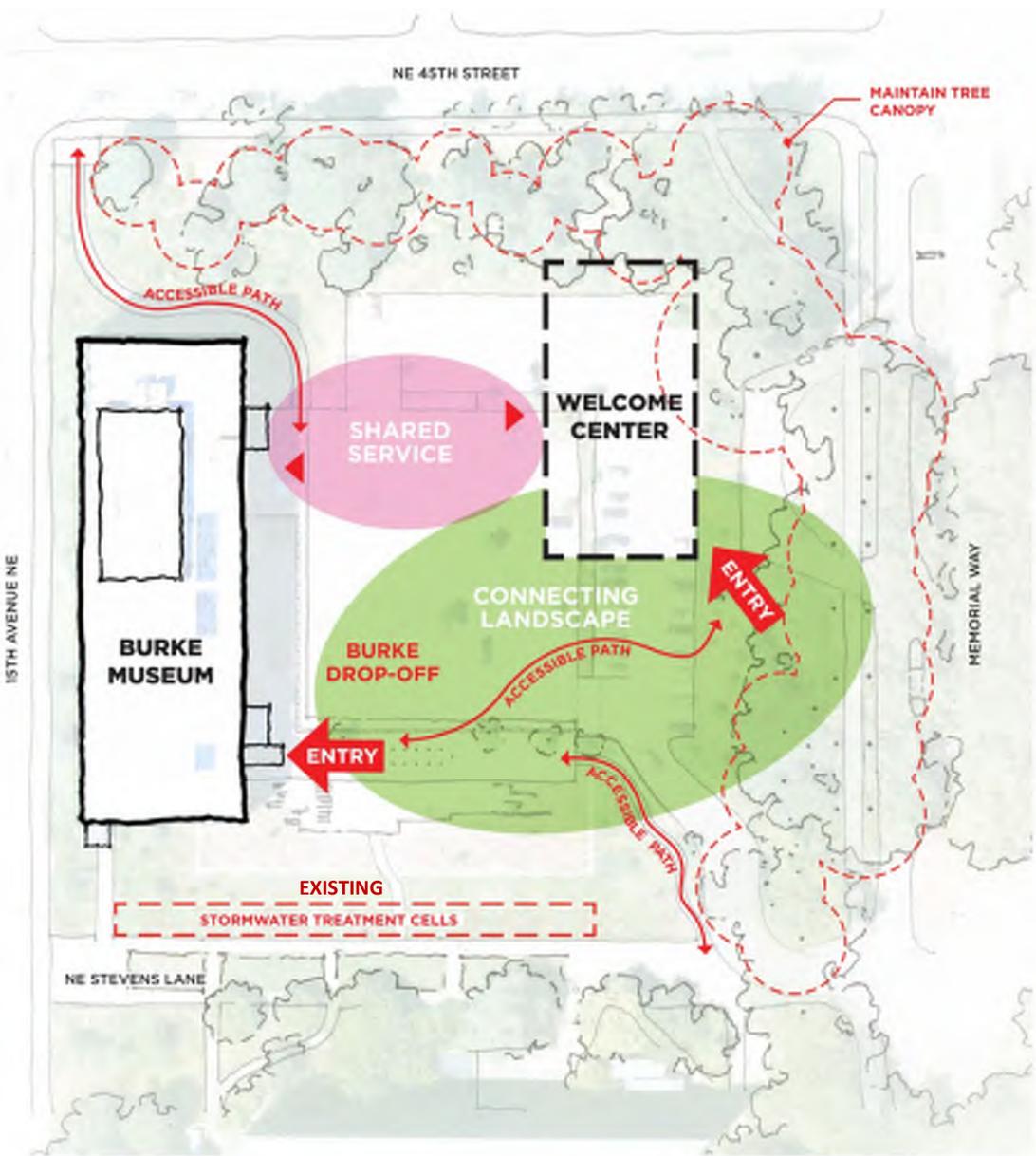
The Ana Mari Cauce Welcome Center will situate itself in the northeast corner of the site, utilizing the old Burke drop-off curb cuts and preserving the canopy. Through this position and landscape intervention, the Welcome Center will create new relationships with the Burke, the U District, and the UW campus.



Approximate Building Location

Site Design

Welcome Center + Burke Site Plan



LEGEND

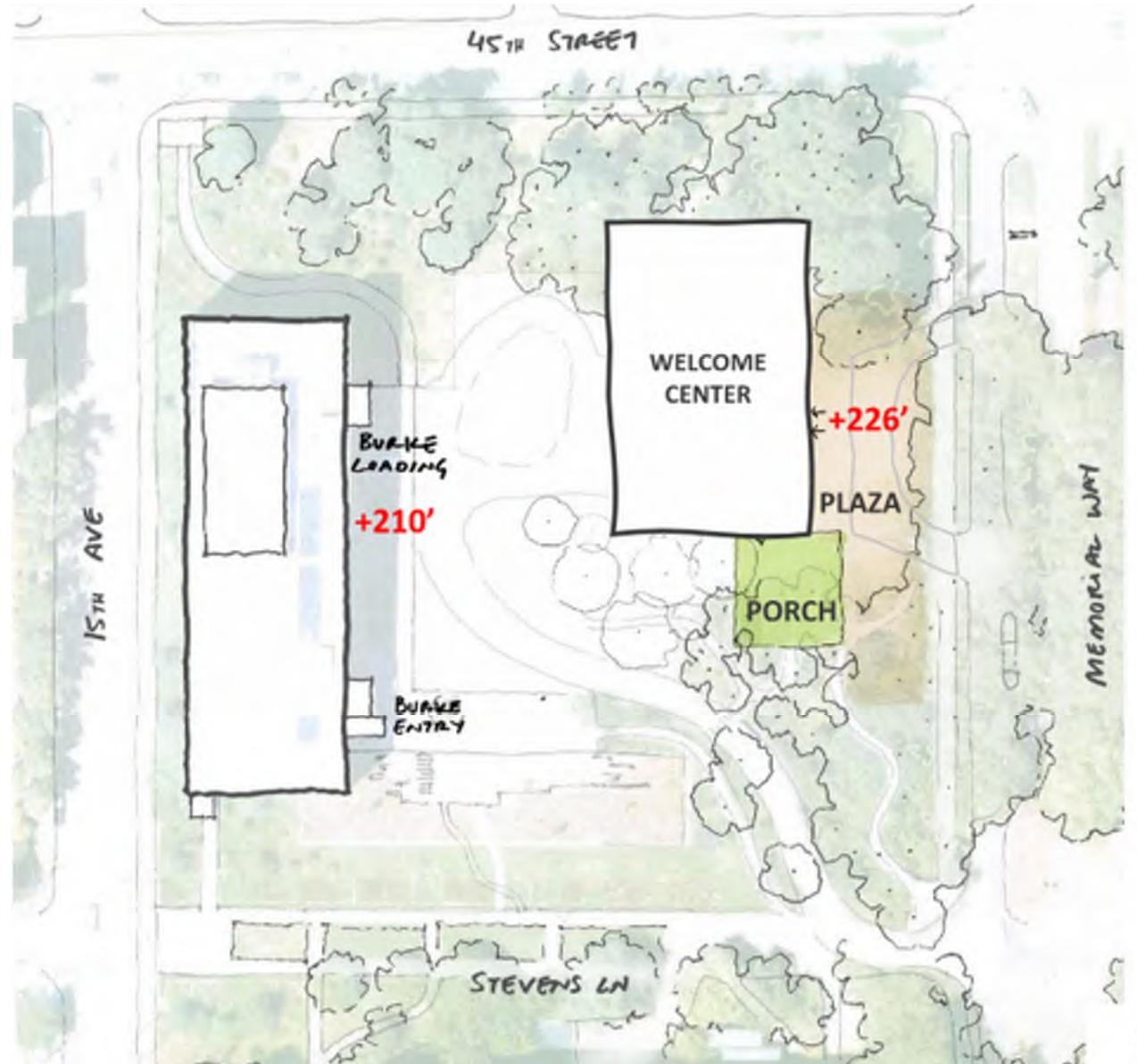
- Connecting Landscape
- Shared Service
- Accessible Paths

SCALE: 1" = 1/8"

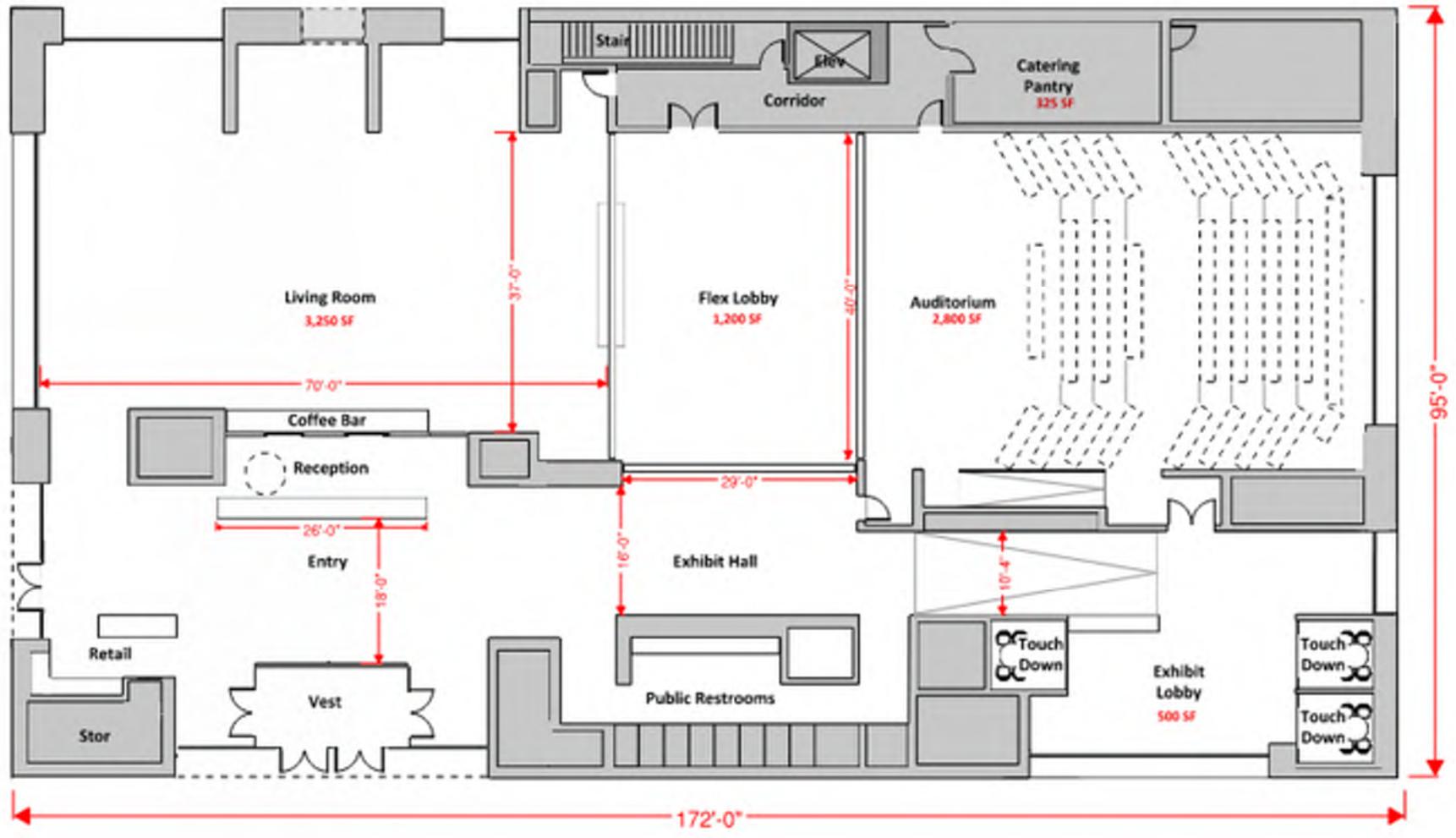
Site Fit

Site design to include:

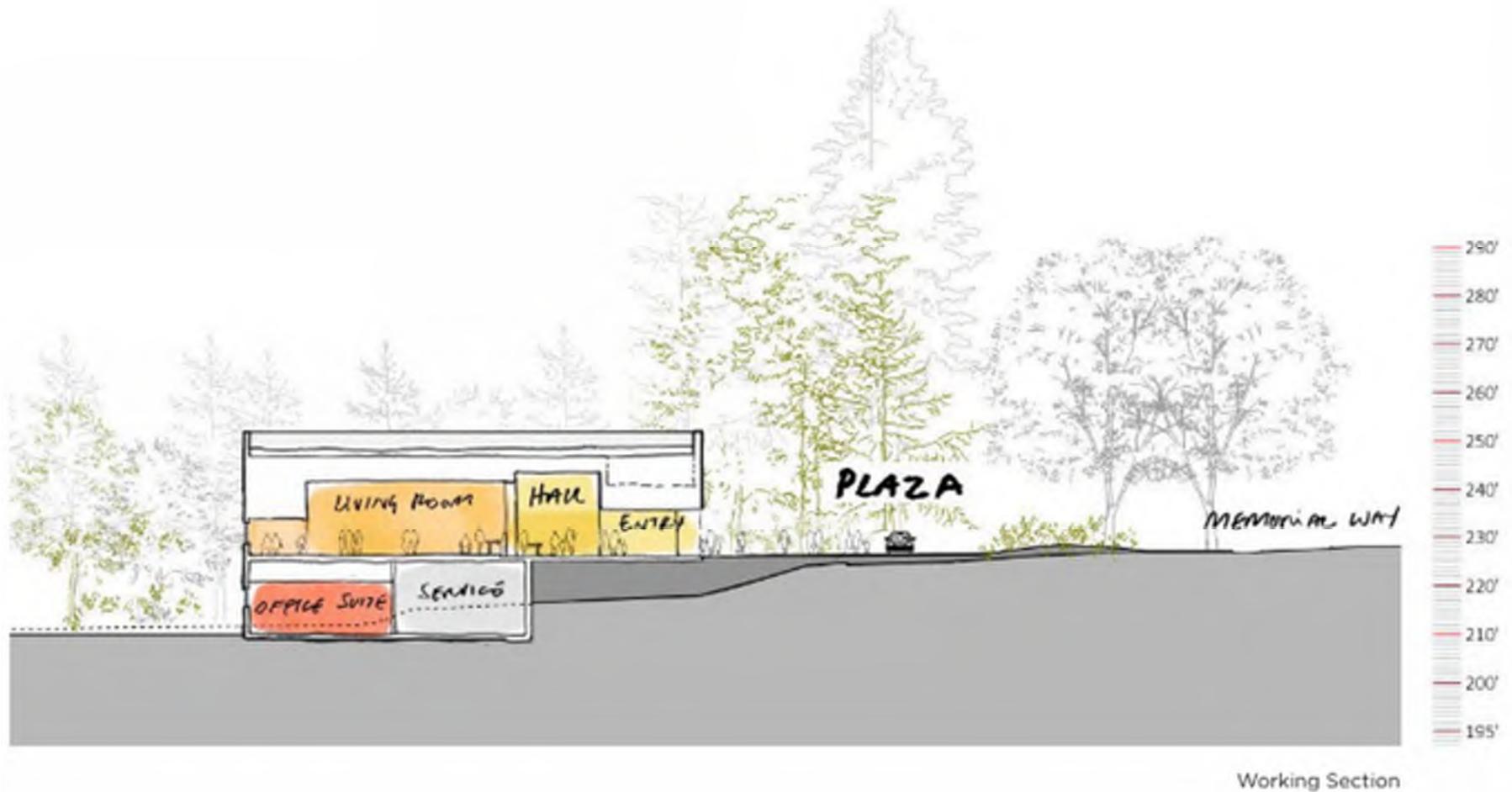
- Main Entry Location (off Memorial way) existing drop-off/curb cuts
- Cross-site pedestrian circulation
- Required vehicular circulation (car, bus, truck)
- Loading for Burke/Welcome Center is between buildings
- Engaging Porch + Plaza
- ADA Parking



Plan Studies



Section Studies



Building Height: 44' max.
Floor to floor heights: Main Level = 20-24' (15' interior)
Lower Level = 16'

Site Design

OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

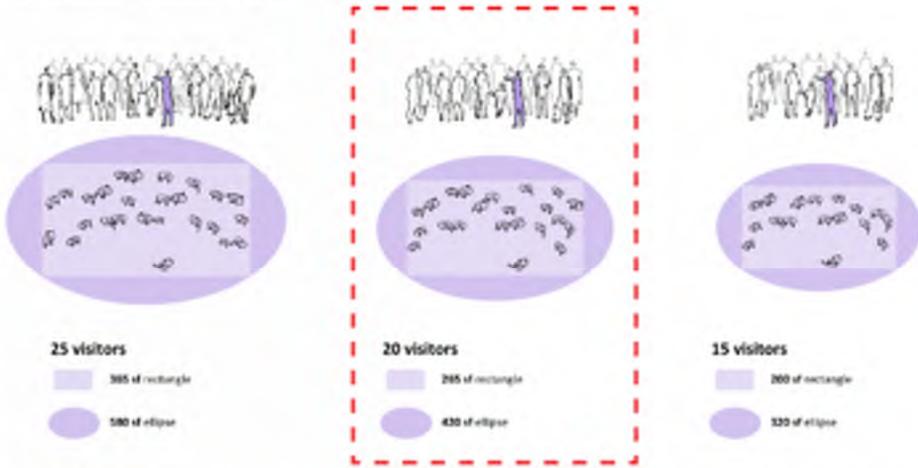
Student Tour mustering outside of the Welcome Center is an important program element and operating parameter for the project.

Working Assumption:

8X Admissions Tour Groups

160 visitors + 8 tour guides

30ft min spacing between groups



Example of student tour groups gathered outside the HUB



20 person tour groups gathered outside Welcome Center

*Working Assumption for Landscape Program: this is not representative of a final design, but rather a scope of work that is supported by the project budget. The landscape will continue to be developed in the design phase.

Look and Feel



Through the Forest

The Welcome Center will give presence to the University of Washington along its edge, as a signature building of quiet power. View on 45th St.

Look and Feel



Arriving to the Welcome Center

An entry plaza off Memorial Way creates a sense of arrival and space for gathering. The Welcome Center will be a gateway for the University of Washington. View on Memorial Way.

Look and Feel



A connective landscape dissolves perceived boundaries between the campus and Seattle at large. As more and more people come to the University of Washington via light rail, they will be met with a place of generosity and welcome. View from Steven's Lane.

5. Next Steps

Draft Project Schedule

Today
(March 10)

Building Occupancy
(September 2028)



SCHEDULE																				
CALENDAR YEAR	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Feasibility	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow																
Oil Team Selection					Green	Green	Green													
Design and Permitting							Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Construction																				

Onboarding
(Summer 2025)

Project Definition
(Sept-Dec 2025)

Design
(Jan-Dec 2026)

Construction
(Oct '26 - Oct '28)

Look Ahead

Ongoing & Upcoming:

- Begin Design phase
- Site due diligence (geotechnical work)
- Fundraising (ongoing)
- Stakeholder engagement (ongoing)



Questions?

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