

Project Description/Narrative

Walking through the halls of Rochester Prep High School you can feel the dynamic energy of the space and its students. Inspirational quotes and the school's motto "Change History" are ever present. They aren't just hollow words, Rochester Prep truly intends to change history. Established as a charter school in 2006, Rochester Prep aims to prepare students from low-income communities to graduate from college. In a city with a graduation rate of only 71%, they are not only graduating 100% of their students, 100% of their students receive college acceptances. To meet their growing needs, they needed a larger high school. They chose an area ripe for urban revitalization – an impoverished neighborhood full of abandoned and run-down homes – and purchased a building that was originally built as a catholic school in 1928, with an addition built in 2016. The building needed not only a renovation, but also another addition. Their goal was to create a campus that would honor the character of the historic brick school building while greatly improving functionality, accessibility, and interior circulation. The new campus would demonstrate their commitment to the underprivileged and hope to elevate the community with each successfully graduated student.

The renovation and new addition needed to solve three key challenges of the original space – entry, circulation, and organization. The architecture needed to address design and scale with a unique approach.

The original entry into the building was elevated from street level and continued directly into a staircase and main hallways, not ideal for controlling visitors nor for accessibility. The school needed an entry that provided security, transparency, and an immediate sense of the school. The solution was a modern glass entry that showcases an ornamental, colorful three-story stairwell. The hub connects the new to the old, with exposed brick from the original building on one end, glass on the other and connects the student population and programs vertically with a statement. The transparency of the entry gives the immediate feeling of a vibrant learning hub, accessible to all.

The rhythmic exterior massing of the addition with the existing building now echoes the internal organization of the school. Gone are the undesirable maze-like corridors, common to older schools with ad-hoc additions. Global organization of circulation flows ensures efficient movement, sight lines, and security, with minimum disruption. This includes the creation of a main circulation hallway.

The program layout was simplified and organized. Distinct building zones organize the school into classrooms, administration & support spaces, and multi-purpose gym & cafeteria areas. School offices were centrally located at the entry. Learning spaces were transformed into modern, high tech learning environments that promote creativity and productivity. With the community in mind, a separate entry into the cafeteria and gym/event spaces offers an invitation to attend events.

While they have only been at their new location a short while, they are already seeing a difference in the community they now call home. The Rochester Police Department told school officials they have seen a significant decrease in the number of police calls in the immediate area. Higher graduation rates, lower crime. They are indeed "Changing History."

AIA's Framework for Design Excellence

As we are less than a decade away from the [AIA 2030 Commitment](#), AIA Rochester continues to include a focus on sustainability in our annual Design Awards this year and into the future.

Please choose a minimum of **three** of the ten measures of the [AIA's Framework for Design Excellence](#). In 300-500 words, please explain how your project addresses these three measures. You may duplicate this slide to accommodate your responses. **(The minimum font size should be 10pt/Arial.) DO NOT change the background of this slide.**

The name of the project can be mentioned generically. For example entrants can say “The education center was designed for the university.” Instead of “the John Johnson Educational Research Center was designed for the university.”

The ten measures in the Framework for Design Excellence are:

1. Design for Integration: What is the big idea behind this project and how did sustainability inform the design concept?
2. Design for Equitable Communities: How does this project contribute to creating a walkable, human-scaled community inside and outside the property lines?
3. Design for Ecology: In what ways does the design respond to the ecology of its place?
4. Design for Water: How does the project relate to the regional watershed?
5. Design for Economy: How does the project efficiently meet the program and design challenges and provide “more with less”?
6. Design for Energy: Is the project energy-efficient and sustainable while improving building performance, function, comfort, and enjoyment?
7. Design for Wellness: How does the design promote the health of the occupants?
8. Design for Resources: How did the design team optimize the amount and makeup of material used on the project?
9. Design for Change: Is the building resilient, and able to easily accommodate other uses in 50-100 years?
10. Design for Discovery: What lessons for better design have been learned through the process of project design, construction, and occupancy, and how have these been incorporated in subsequent projects?

See Project Narrative for Integration, Equitable Communities, and Wellness. Also, Inclusivity and Safety.

AIA Rochester Community Impact Award

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SCAROLA
SMITH

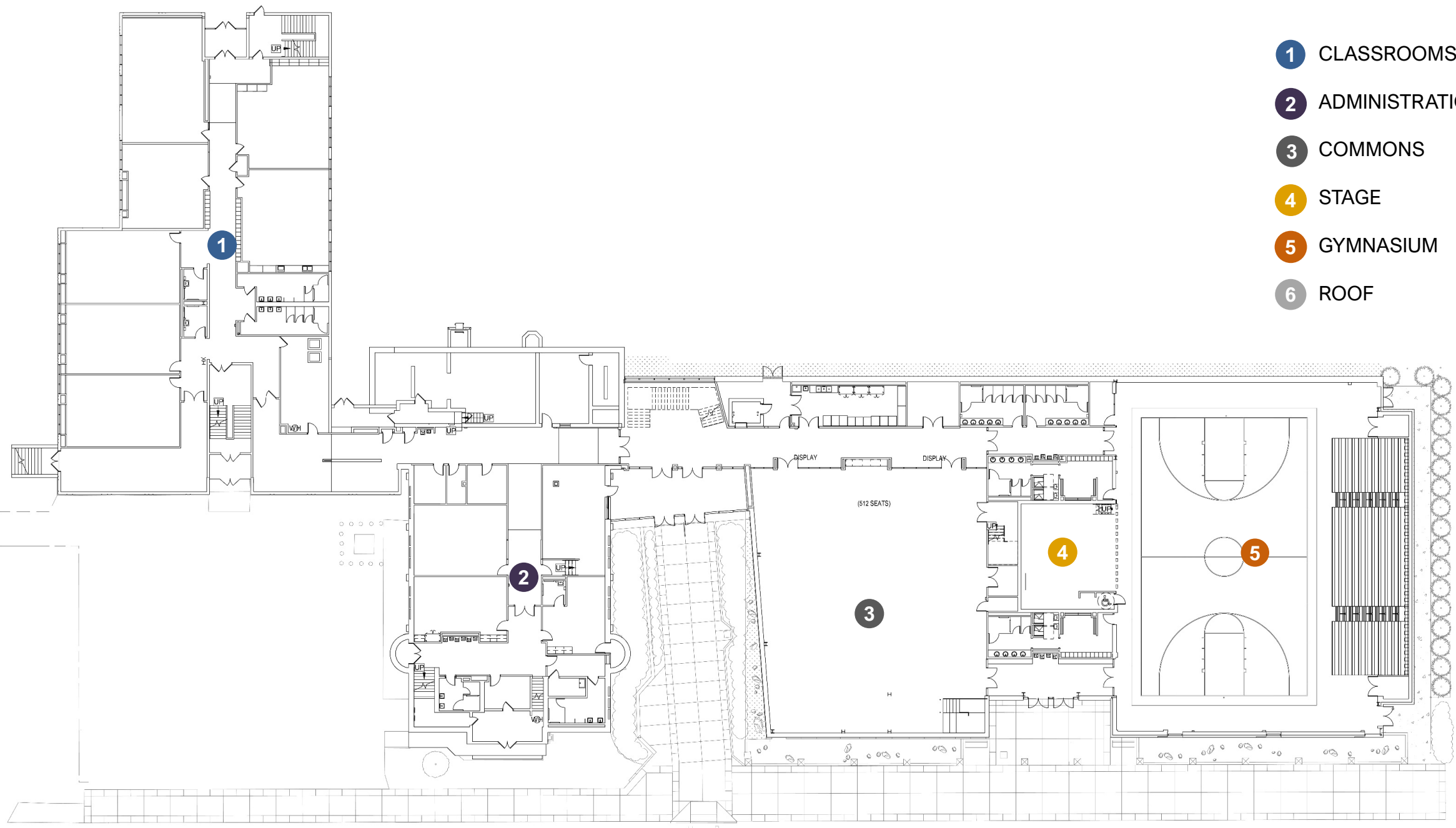
GYMNASIUM

PREP
SUCCESS

SITE MASTER PLAN



- 1 CLASSROOMS
- 2 ADMINISTRATION
- 3 COMMONS
- 4 STAGE
- 5 GYMNASIUM
- 6 ROOF



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

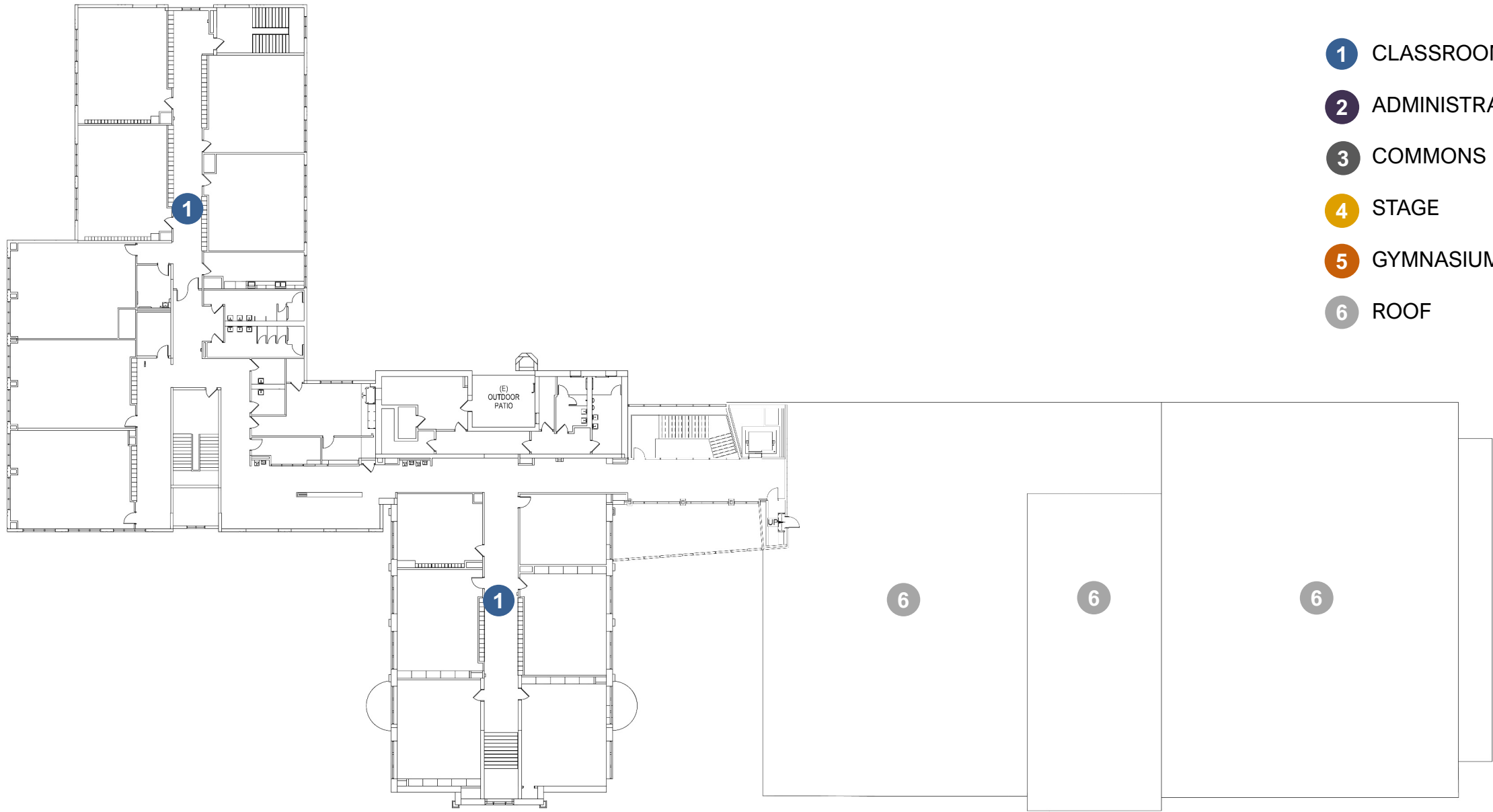


- 1 CLASSROOMS
- 2 ADMINISTRATION
- 3 COMMONS
- 4 STAGE
- 5 GYMNASIUM
- 6 ROOF



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

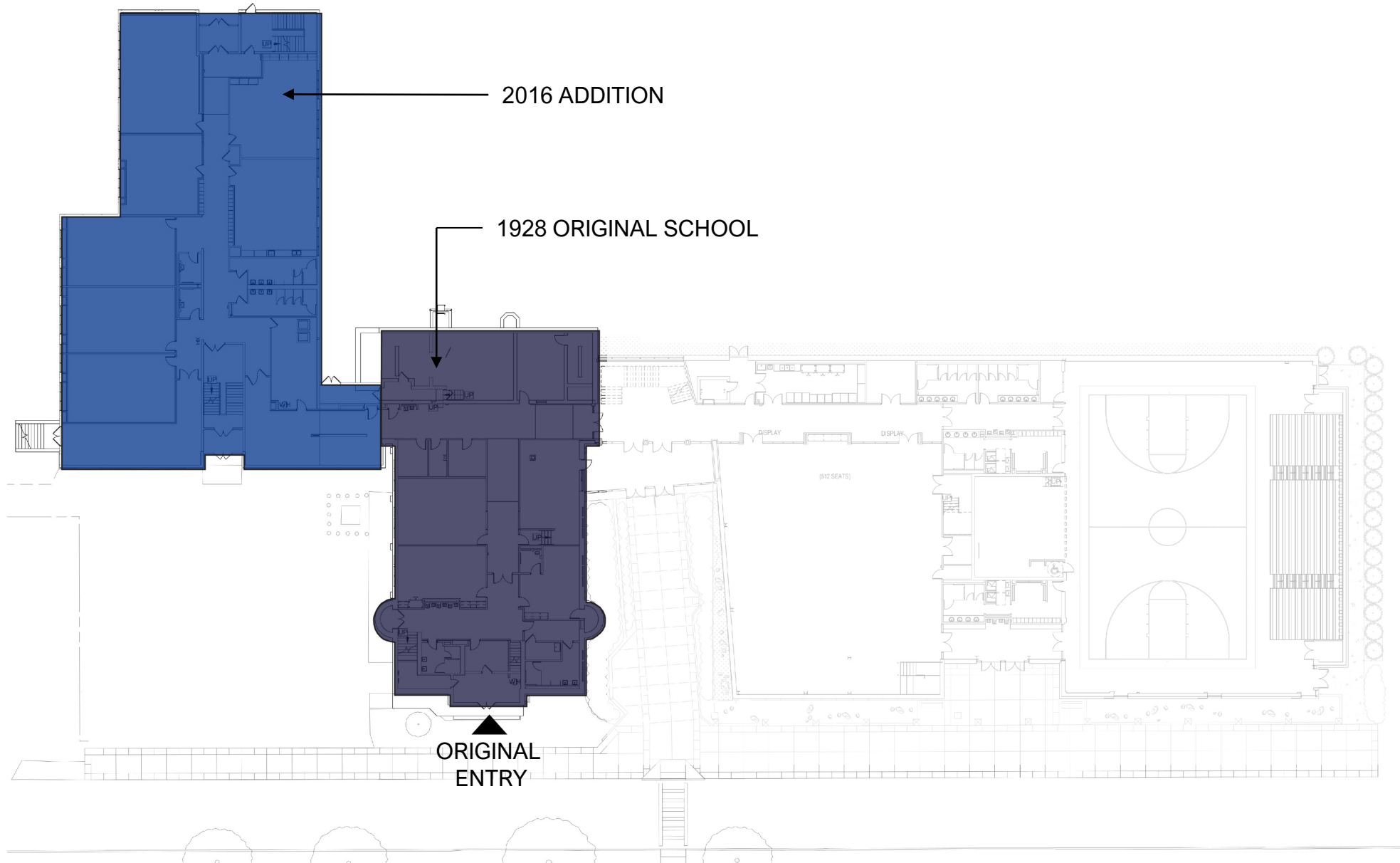




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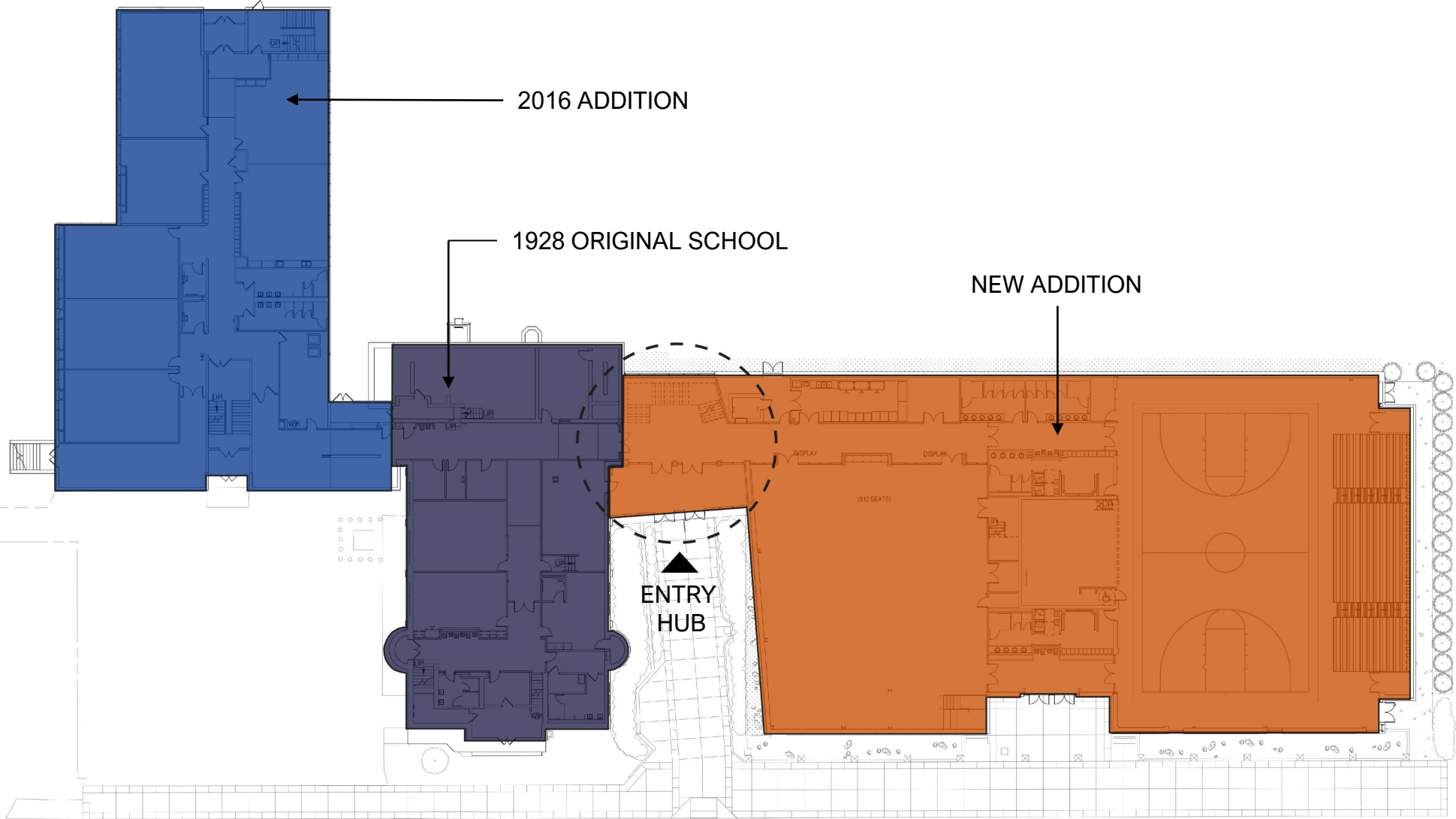
THIRD FLOOR PLAN





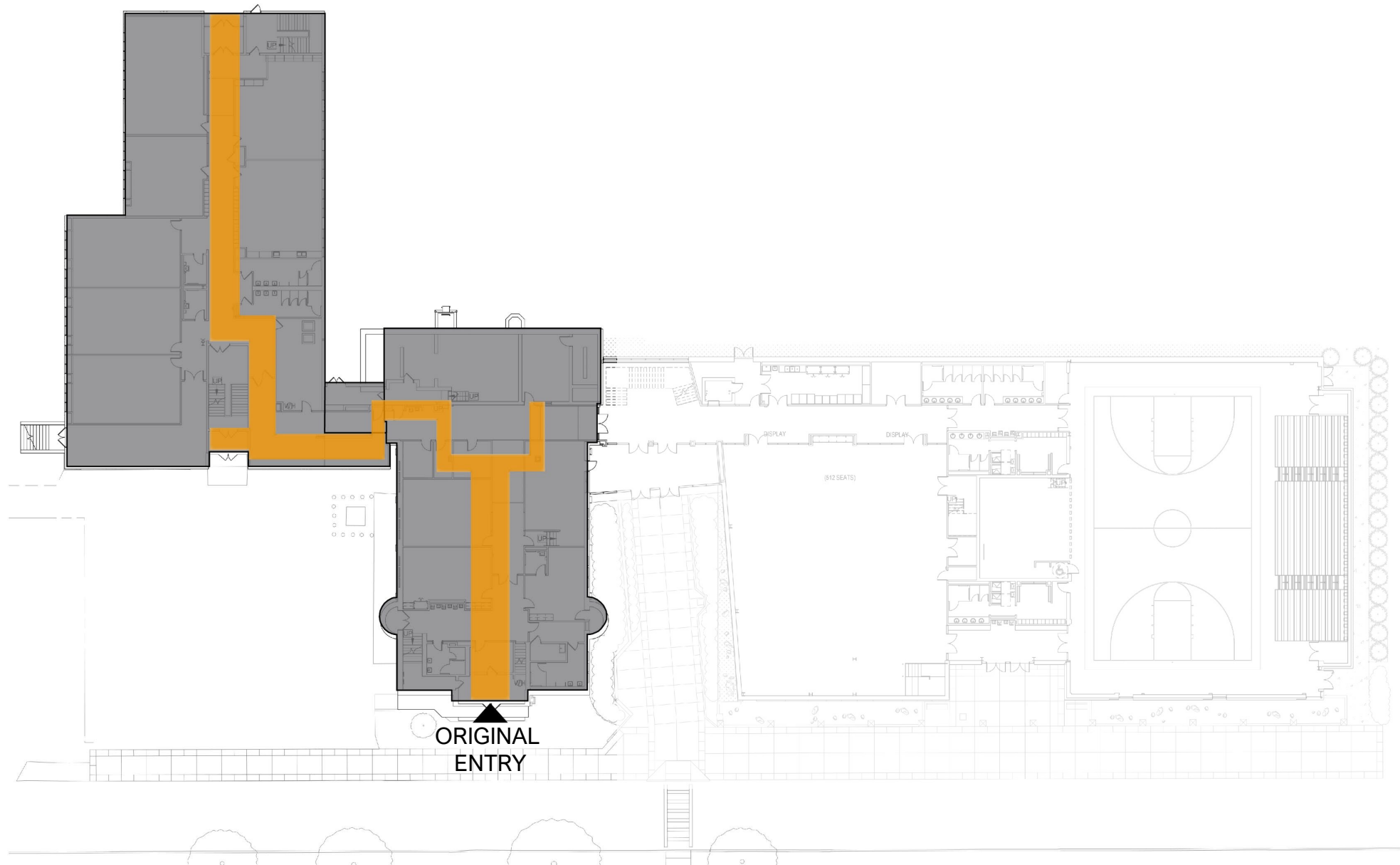
BUILDING MASS: BEFORE





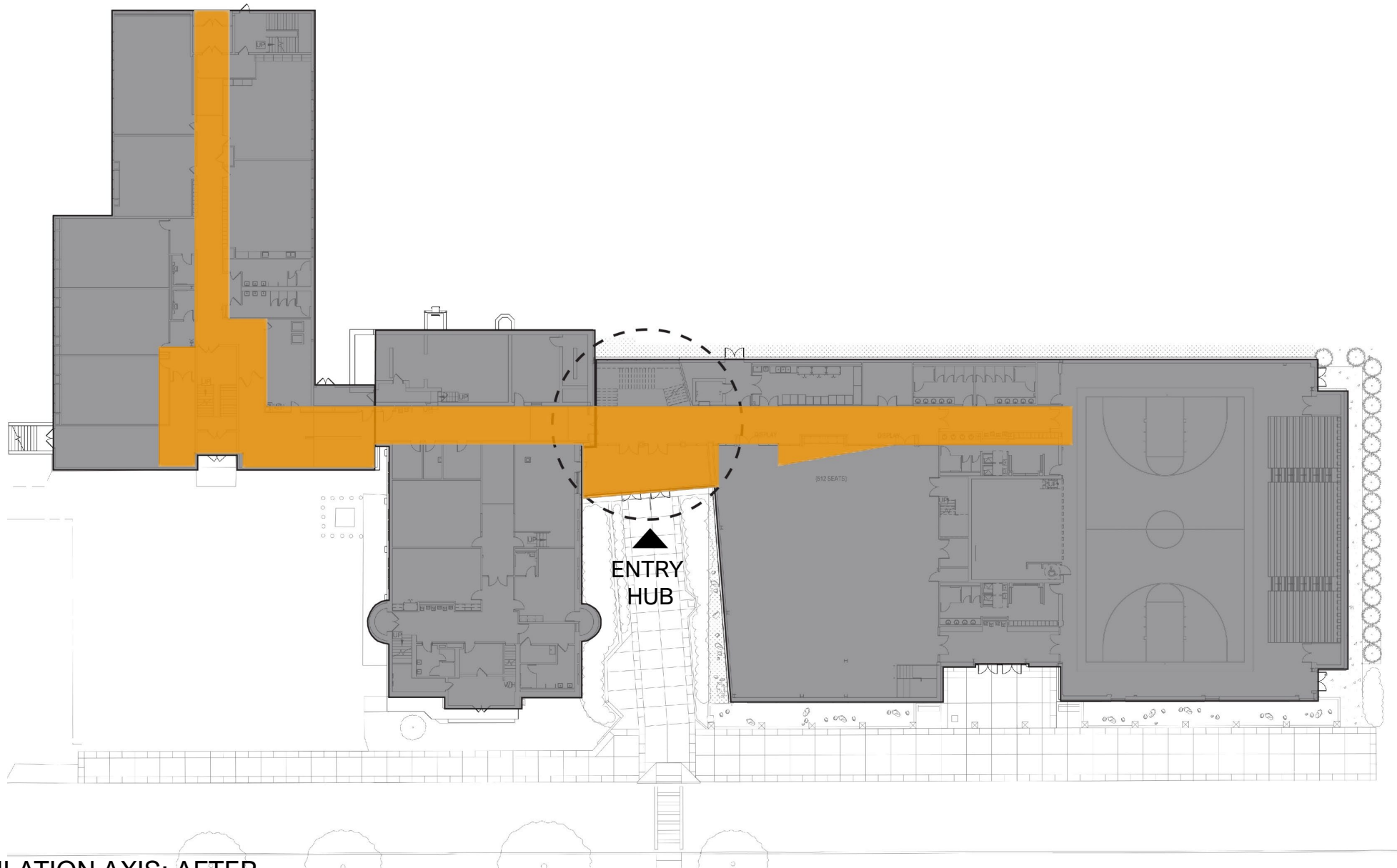
BUILDING MASS: AFTER





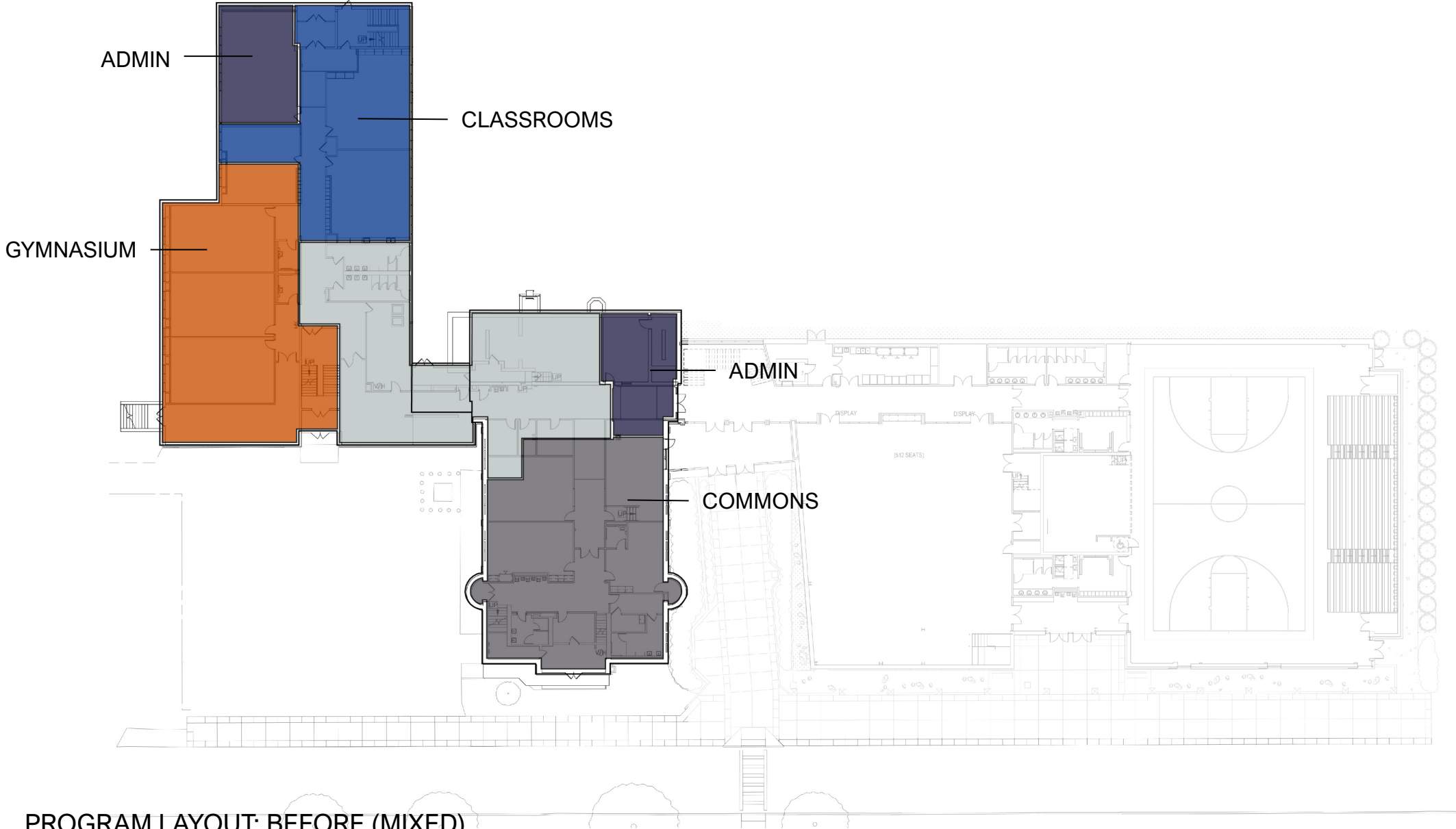
CIRCULATION AXIS: BEFORE





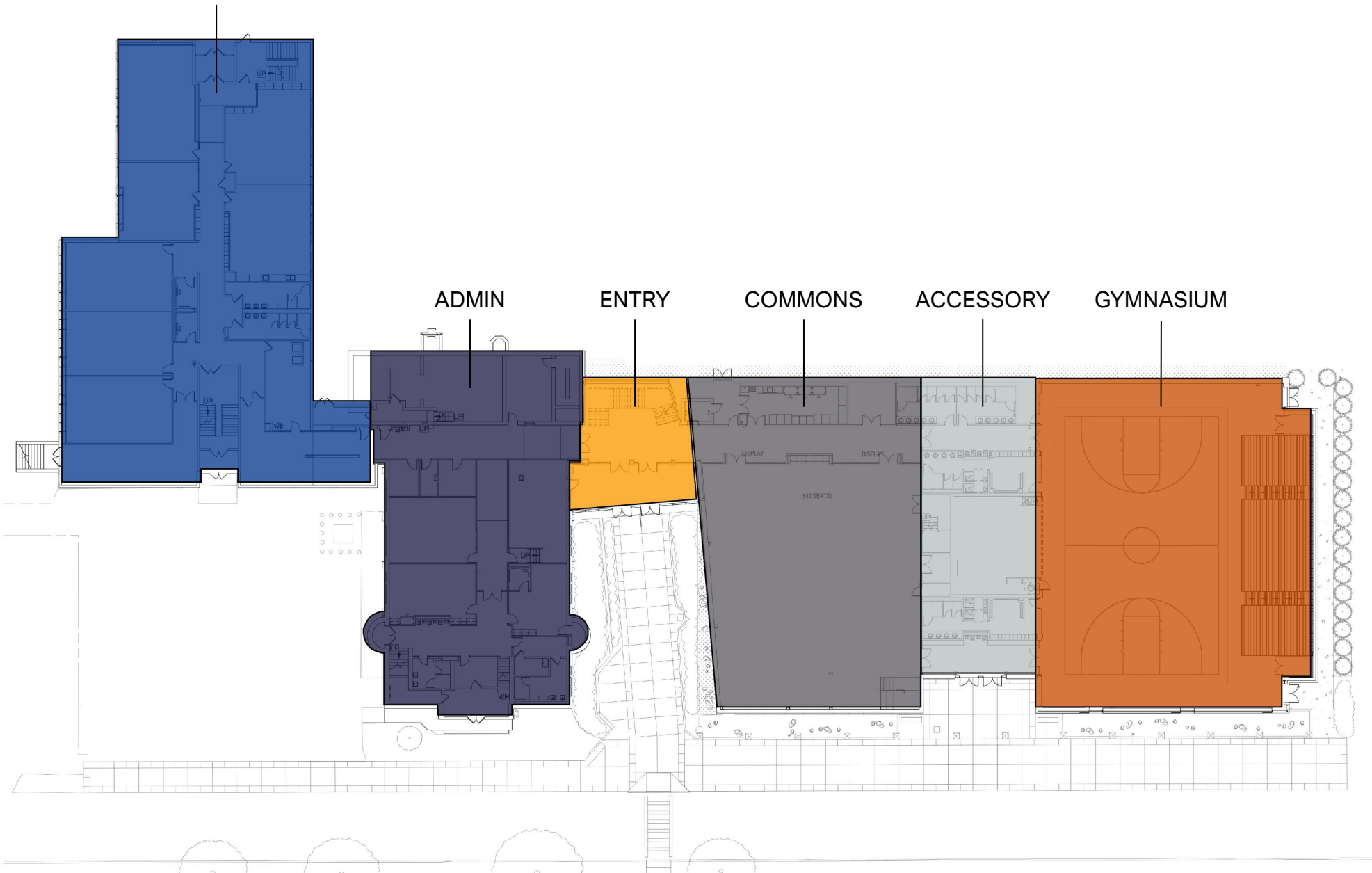
CIRCULATION AXIS: AFTER





PROGRAM LAYOUT: BEFORE (MIXED)

CLASSROOMS



ADMIN

ENTRY

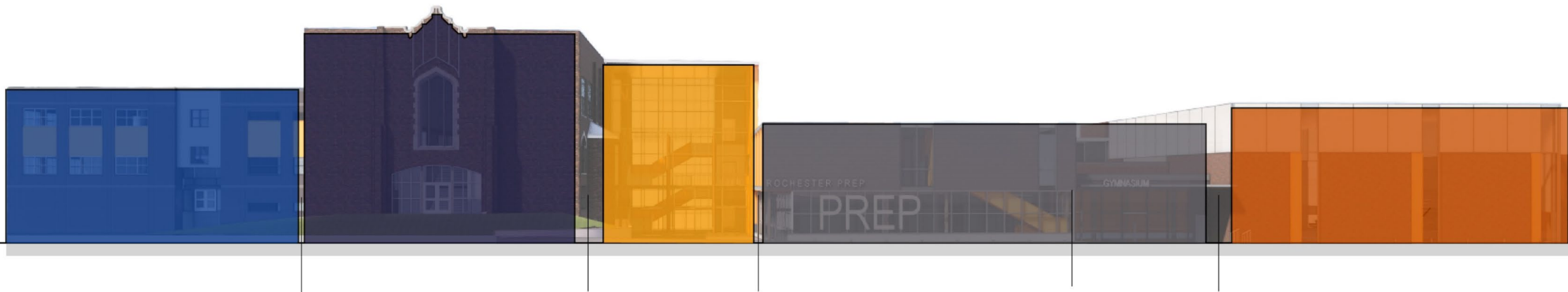
COMMONS

ACCESSORY

GYMNASIUM

PROGRAM LAYOUT: AFTER (SIMPLIFIED/ORGANIZED)





BUILDING ELEVATION





BEFORE



AFTER





GYMNASIUM

PREP









"WHEN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF GRAB IT. HOLD ON TIGHT AND DON'T LET GO." — CELIA CRUZ





ROCHESTER

PREP

CHANGE
HISTORY

HOME	36	2	1:48	GUEST	27
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ROCHESTER PREP
TIGERS



SCAROLA
SMITH

GYMNASIUM

PREP
SUCCESS