

KIERANTIMBERLAKE

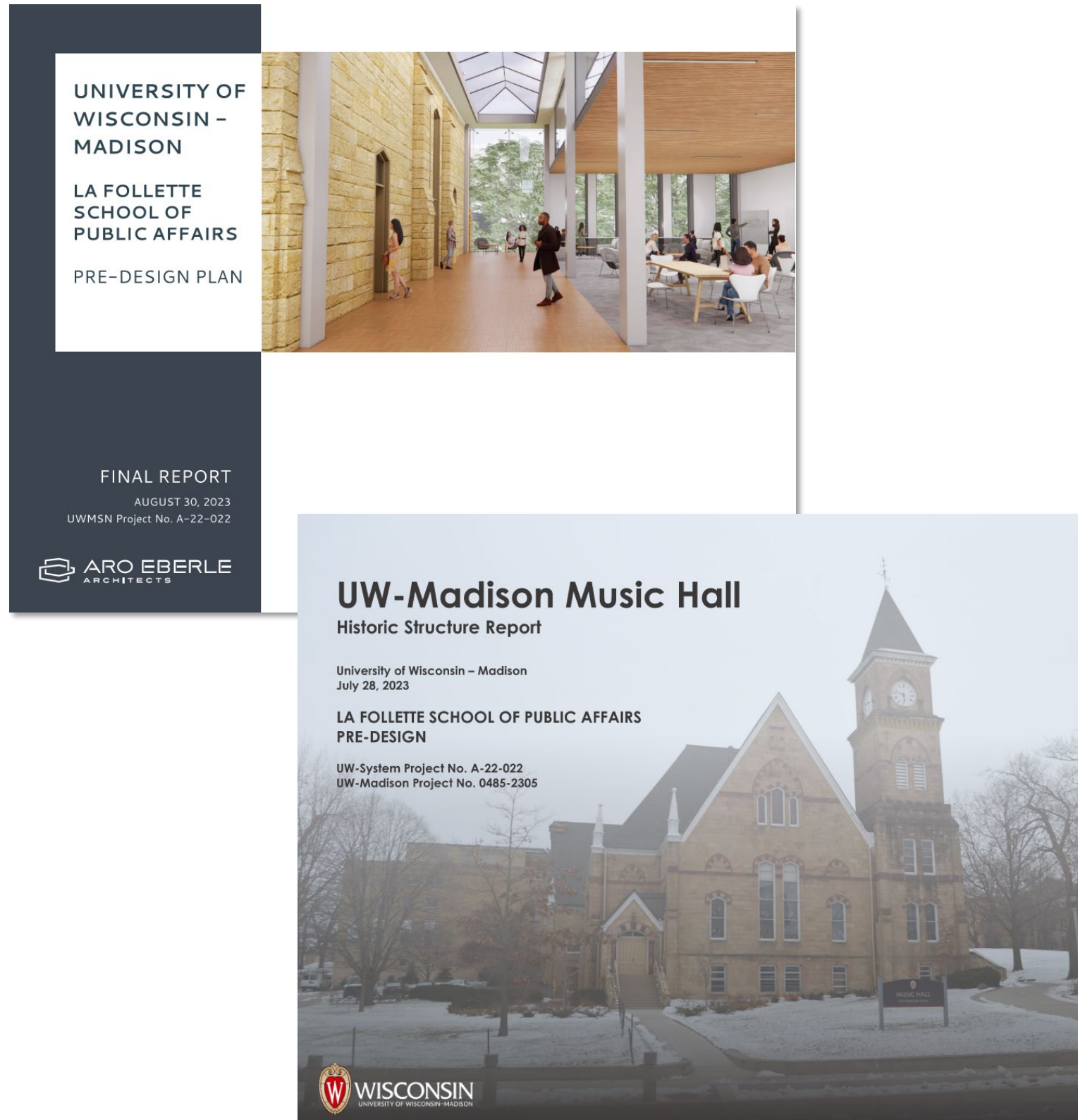
Music Hall Renovation + Addition

University of Wisconsin-Madison



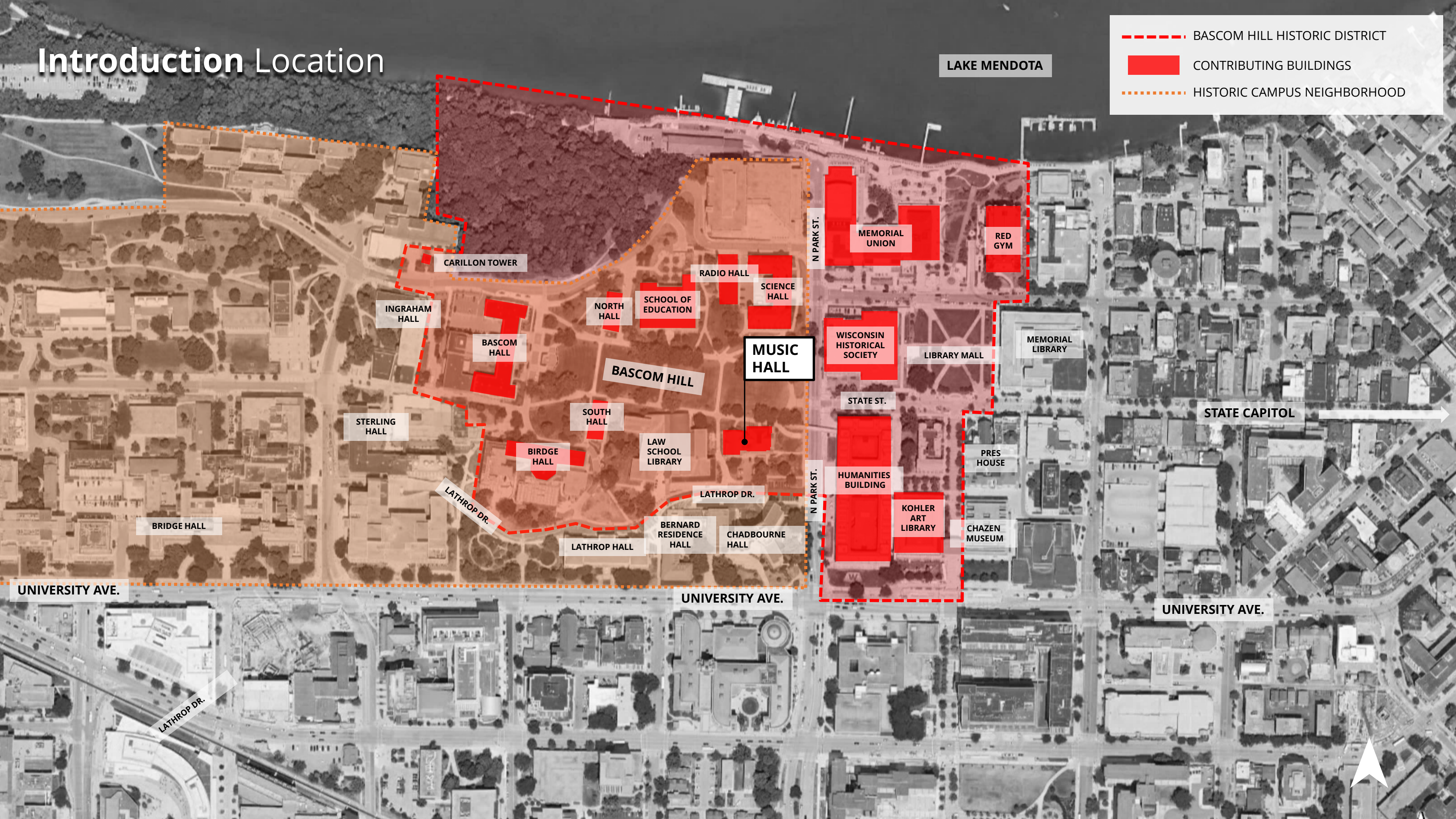
Joint Campus Area Committee | 23 October 2025

Introduction Project History



- As part of a pre-design planning study completed Summer 2023, this project was previously presented to the DRB for initial review/feedback.
- The Final Pre-Design Report and Historic Structure report were completed by Aro Eberle Architects and River Architects – these deliverables have served as a foundation, to provide a baseline program and a reference for evaluation of the historic building.
- Building upon this previous study, additional analysis, research, exploratory work in the field, and stakeholder engagement have shaped the current vision and trajectory of the project.

Introduction Location



BASCOM HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

HISTORIC CAMPUS NEIGHBORHOOD

LAKE MENDOTA

STATE CAPITOL

UNIVERSITY AVE.

UNIVERSITY AVE.

UNIVERSITY AVE.

LATHROP DR.

LATHROP DR.

LATHROP DR.

N PARK ST.

N PARK ST.

BASCOM HILL

MUSIC HALL

Introduction Bascom Hill



Introduction Historic Building



ca. 1915

A print based on a hand-colored photograph of Music Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus from the early twentieth century.



ca. 1890

View of Music Hall and Library Hall

- Music Hall (originally named “Assembly Hall”) was constructed in 1878-1880 as an assembly space for the entire student body and to provide a home for the university’s library.
- The building is constructed using load-bearing masonry construction with wood and timber framing. It is finished with beige, coursed Madison sandstone, with Lake Superior red sandstone accents.
- The historic building contributes to the Bascom Hill Historic District.
- Previous exterior modifications include added/reduced window and door openings, and removal of architectural details like skylights and masonry ornaments.
- Previous interior modifications have been extensive over time, with the auditorium and connector substantially modified most recently in 1985; the former library largely reflects a 1916 renovation.

Introduction Historic Building



ca. 1914
Interior of Auditorium



ca. 1892
Interior of Library Hall

Introduction Historic Building Today



Historic Preservation

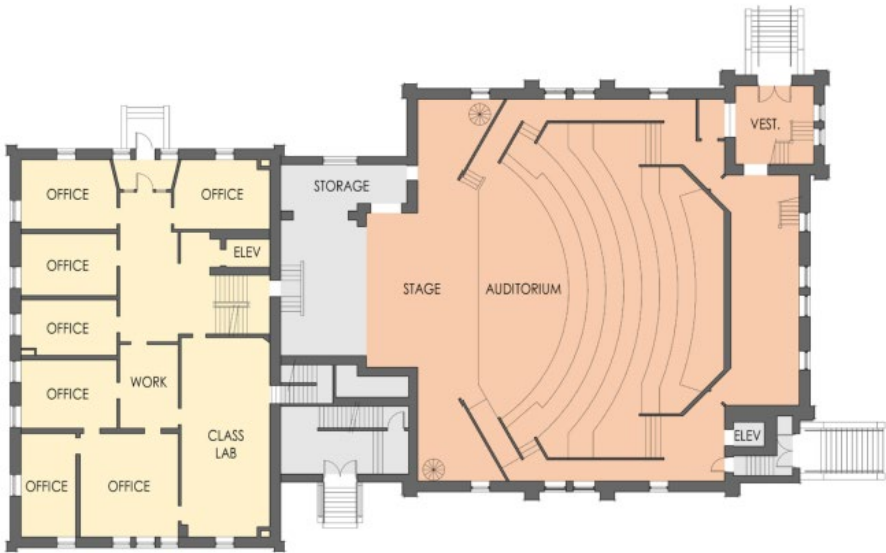
PRIORITY 1

PRIORITY 2

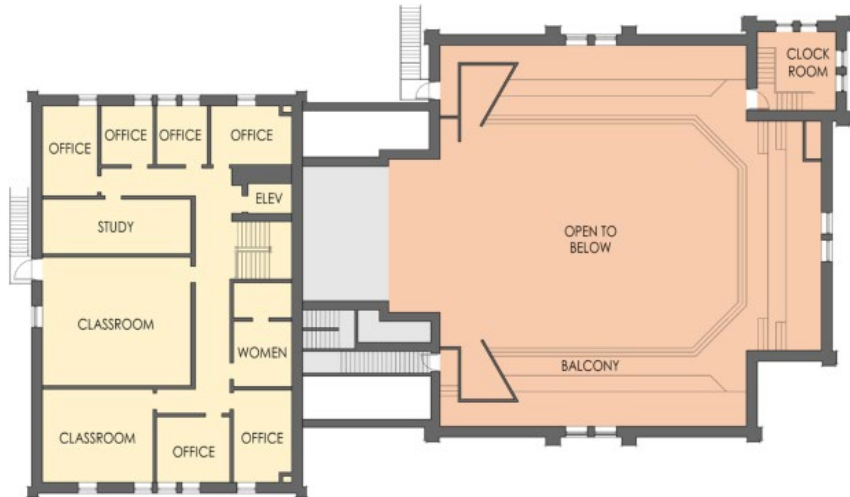
PRIORITY 3



Level 0



Level 1



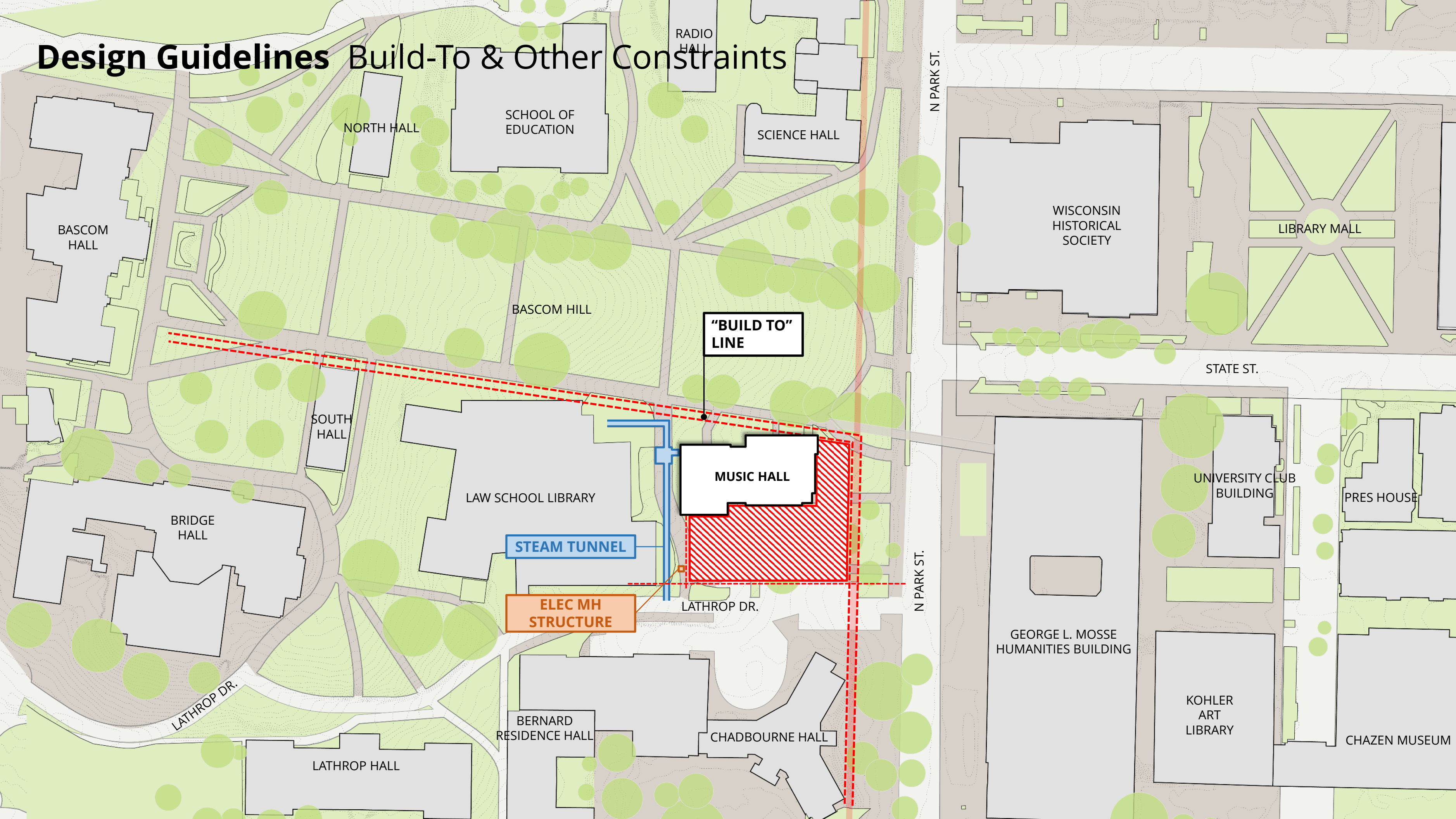
Level 2

Current Building Plans



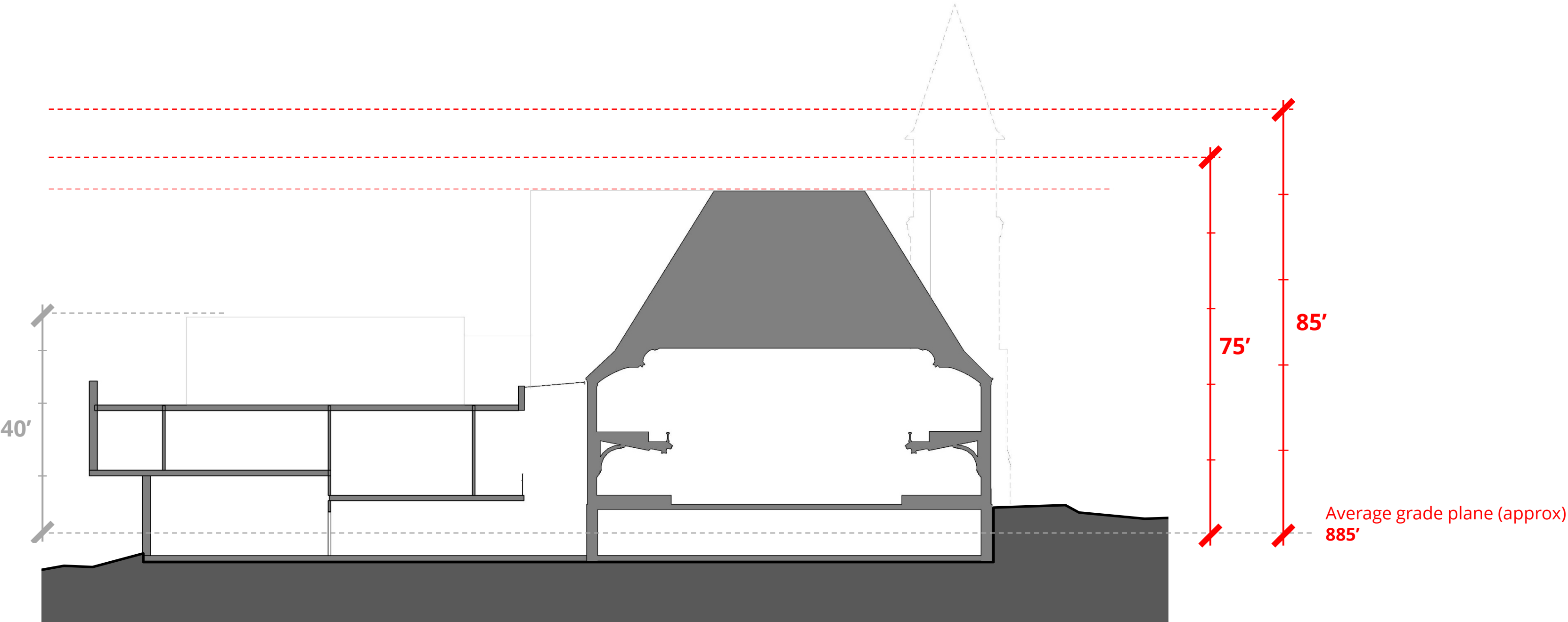
Elevations of Original Construction

Design Guidelines Build-To & Other Constraints



Design Guidelines Building Height

NOTE: CLOCKTOWER BEHIND,
SHOWN FOR REFERENCE



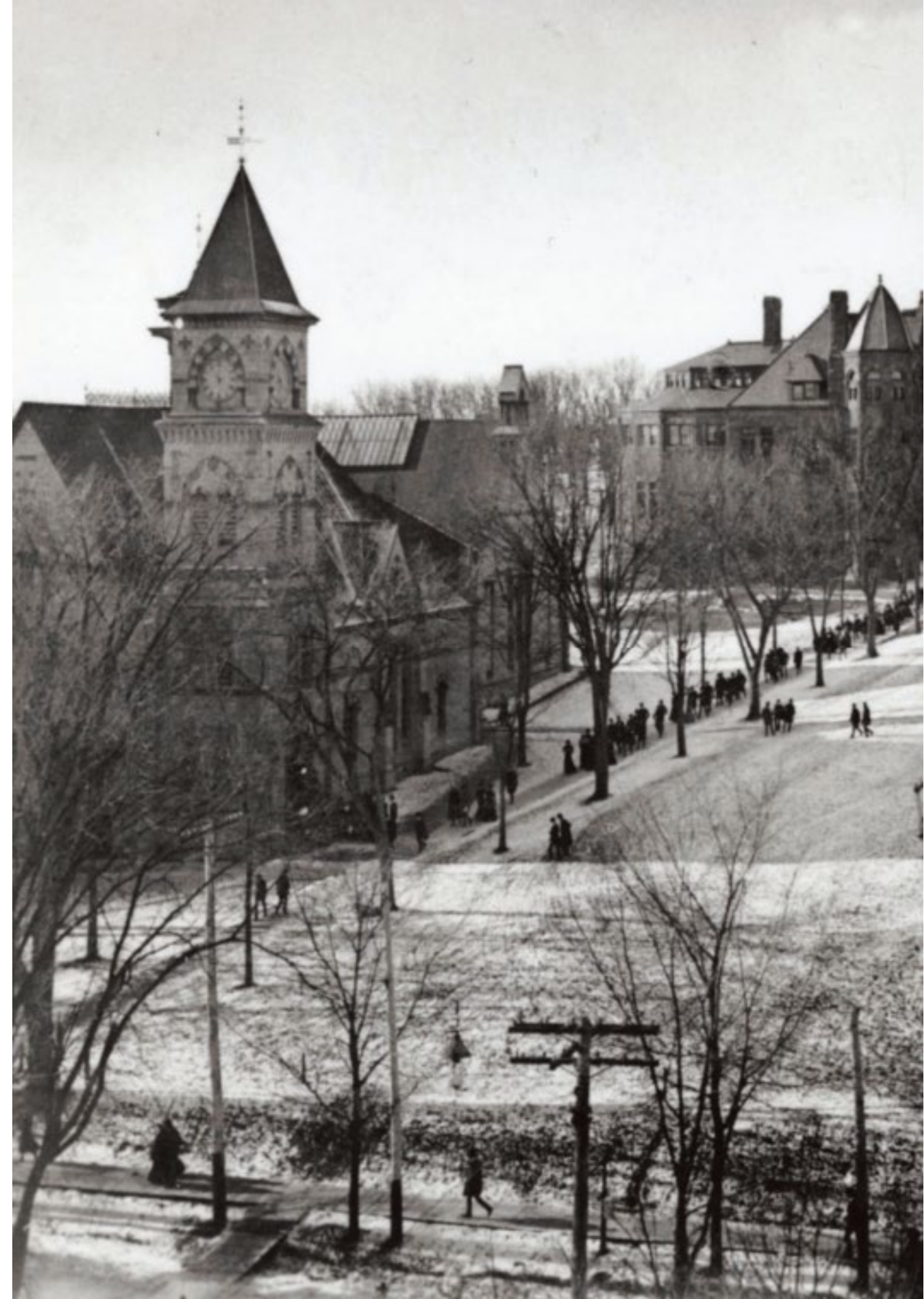
CURRENT PROPOSED ADDITION
3 LEVELS

CAMPUS INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT
MASTERPLAN
DESIGN GUIDELINES & STANDARDS
5 STORIES: 75'-85'

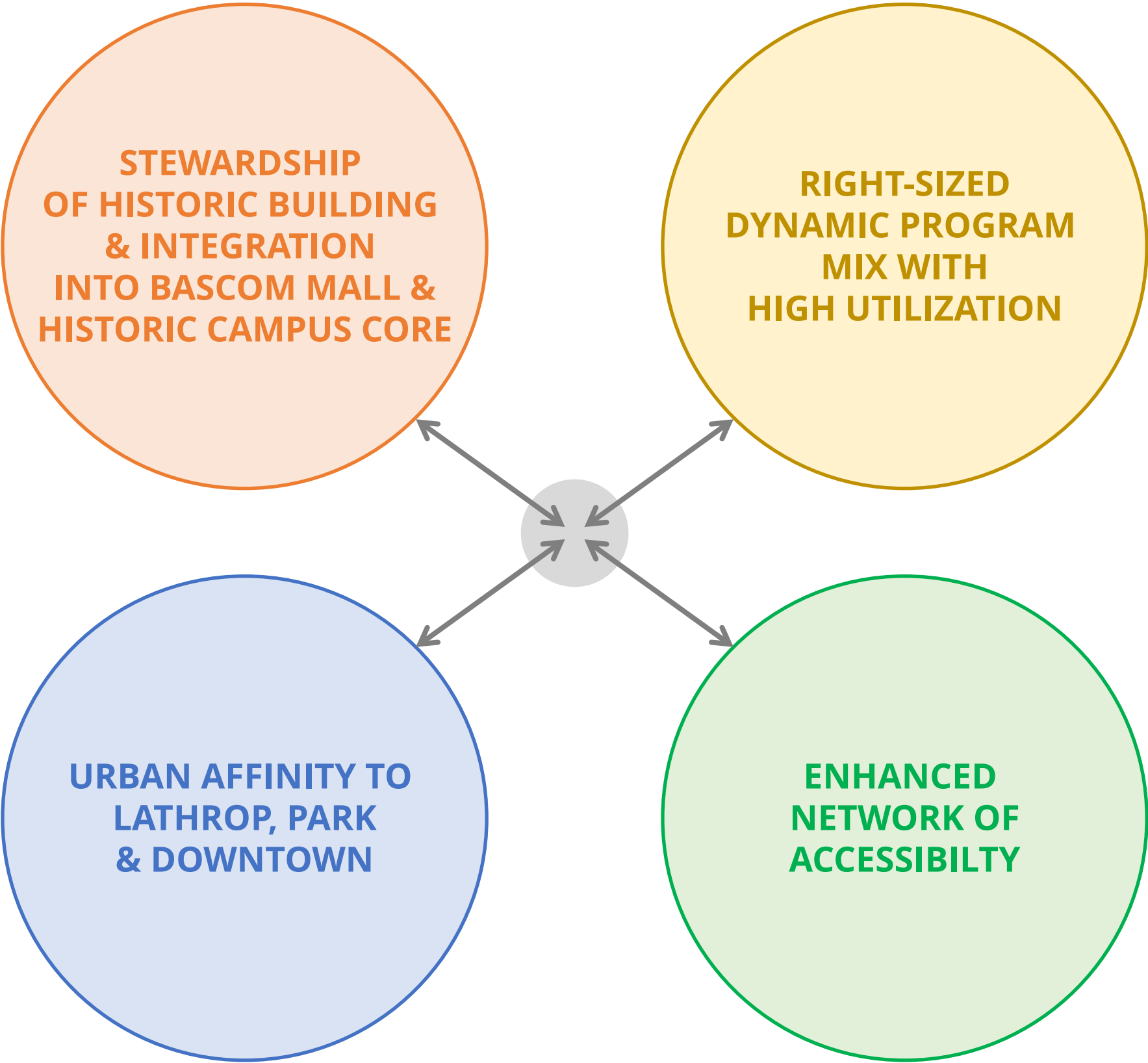
Project Vision & Goals

A new home for the La Follette School of Public Affairs will embody democratic ideals, balance public access with departmental needs, and create welcoming, flexible environments for students, faculty, and the community. By adaptively reusing Music Hall, the design will honor the past while providing bright, functional, and future-ready spaces that foster connection, collaboration, and the Wisconsin Idea.

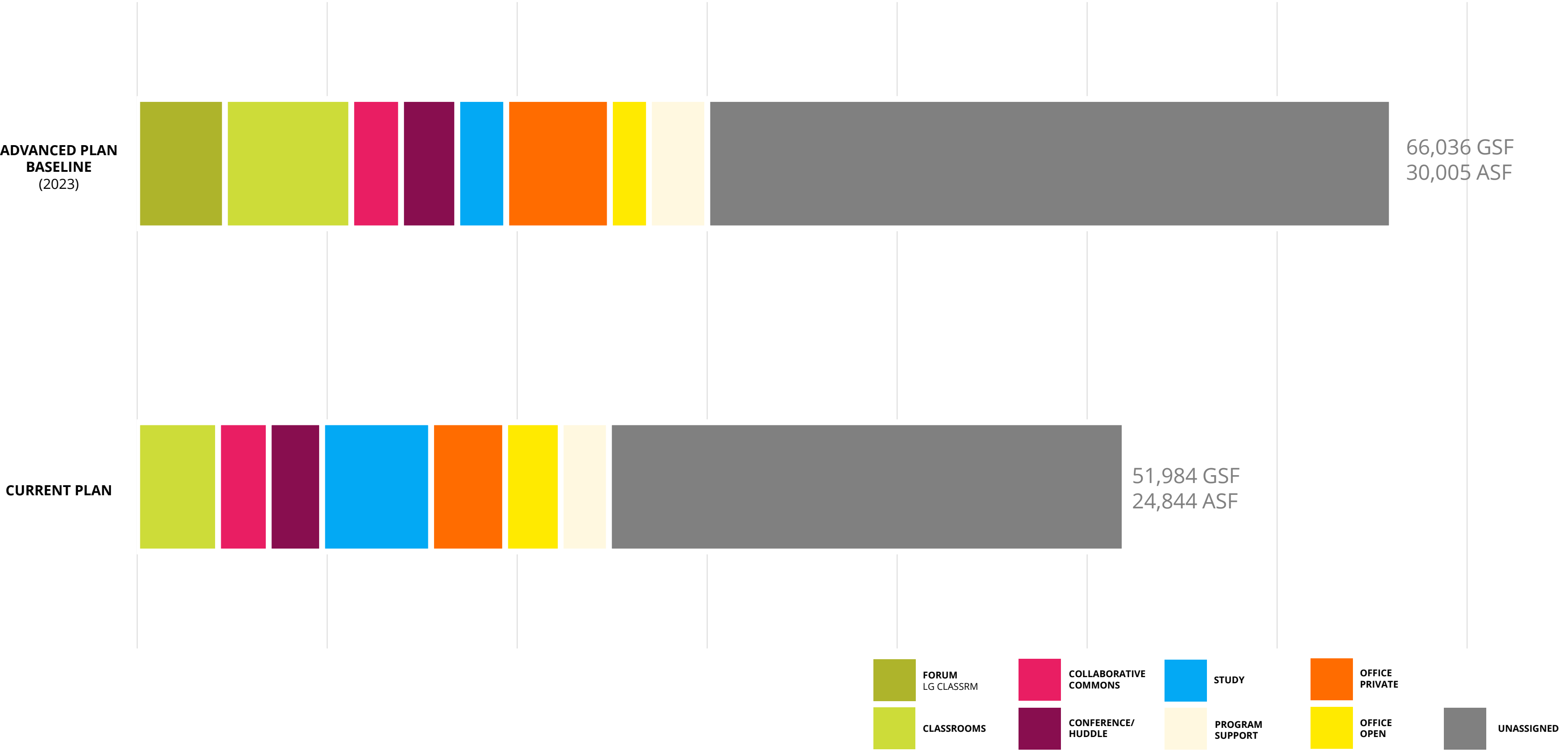
- Physically Embody the Identity of the La Follette School
- Engage the Community at Multiple Scales
- Balance Public Access with LFS Needs
- Create Spaces Where People Will Want to Stay
- Respect the Past while Designing for the Future



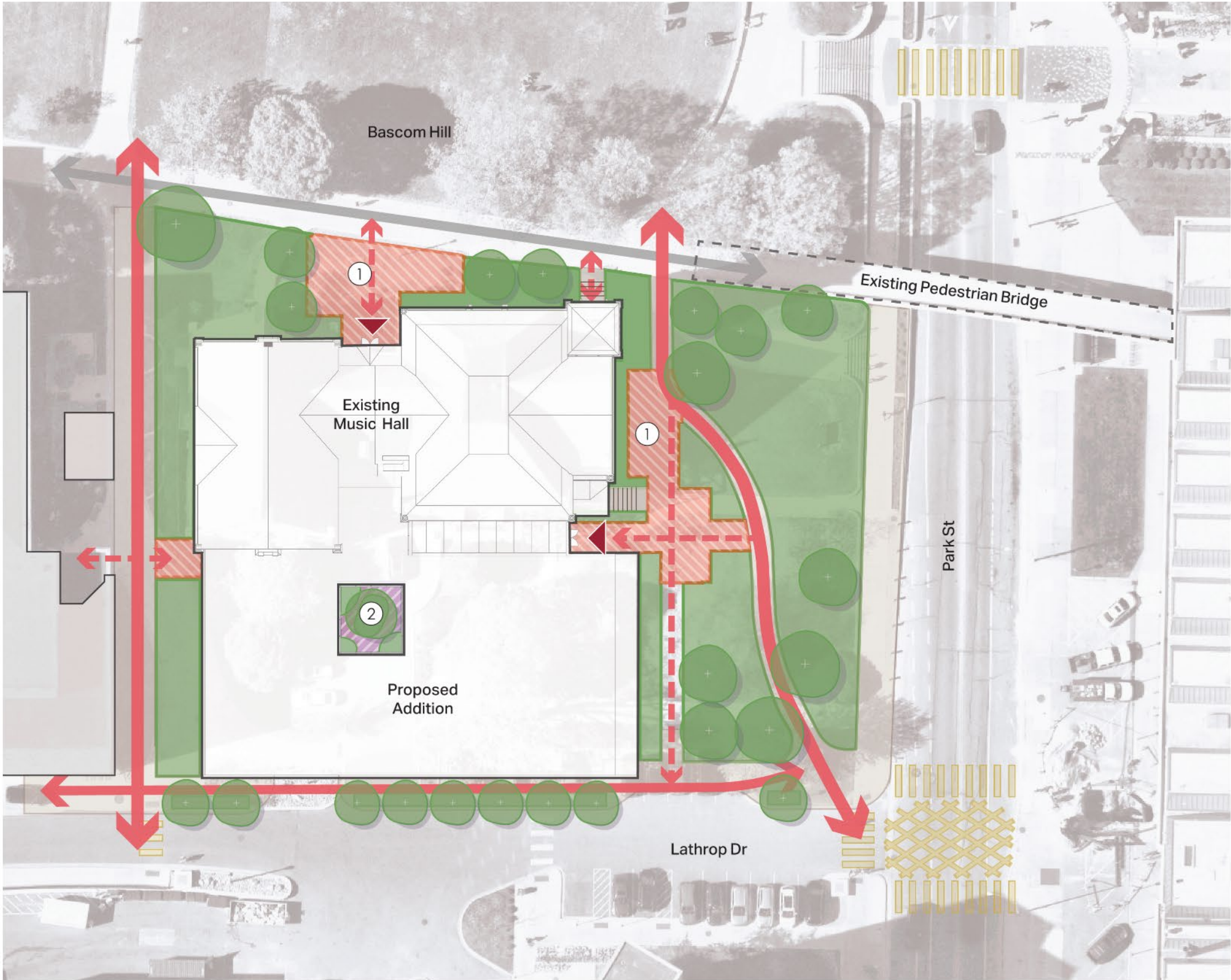
Design Drivers



Program Validation



Site Plan Diagram



Plan Legend

- Primary Circulation
- Secondary Circulation
- Primary entry
- Terrace
- Courtyard
- Planting area
- Proposed tree

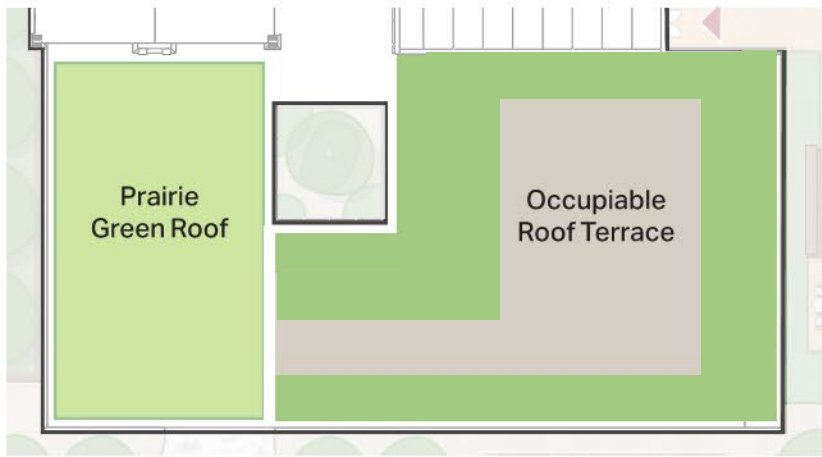
Big Idea

Expansive, outward-looking gathering spaces that connect to campus context.

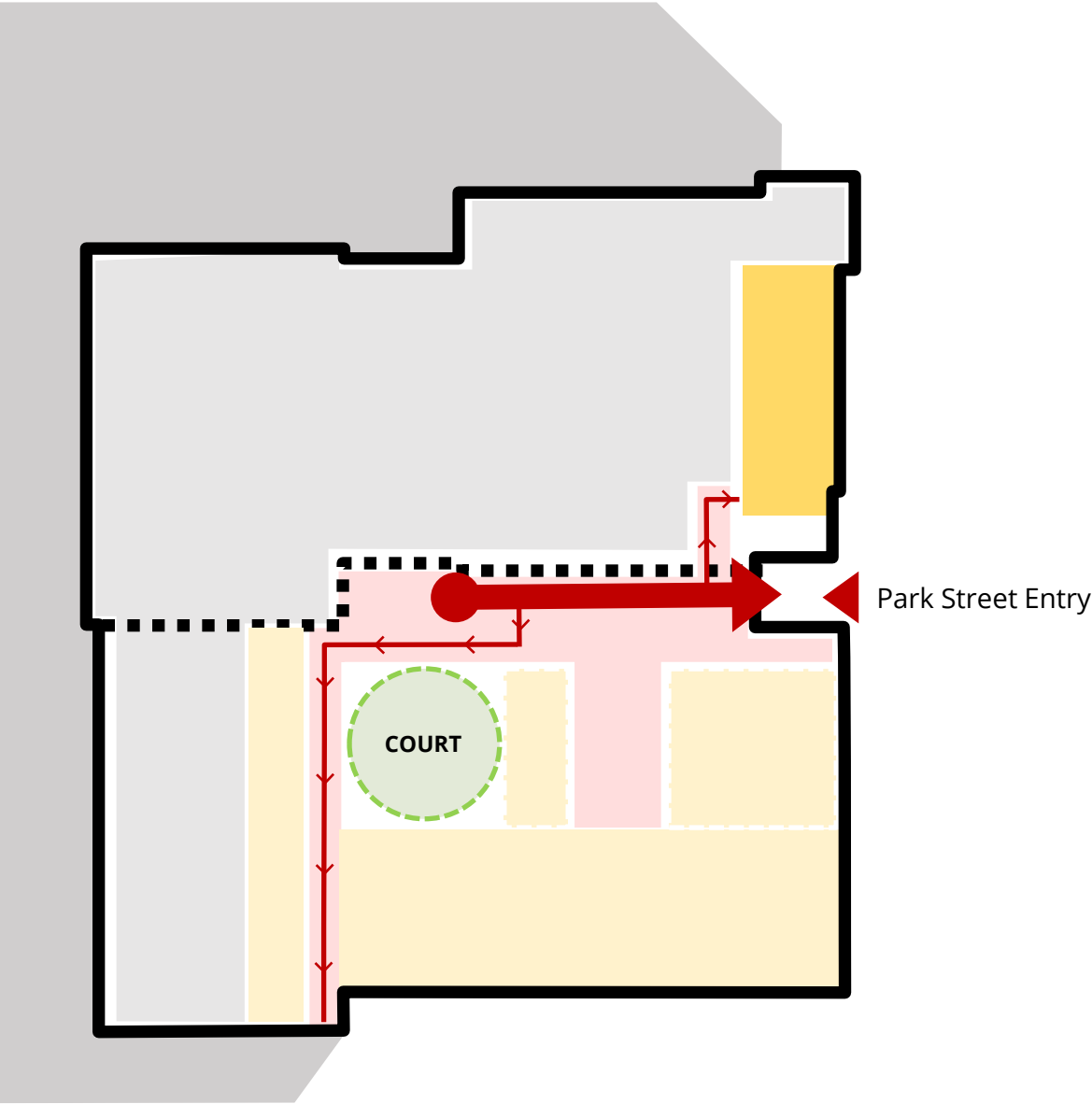
Takeaways

- 1 The site prioritizes generous, **flexible open spaces** that align with the civic scale of Bascom Hill and North Park Street, supporting campus gatherings, events, and everyday student life.
- 2 A **central courtyard** "gem" offers contrast: a more intimate, crafted space that acts as a visual anchor, supports wayfinding, and provides a quieter place of rest and reflection.

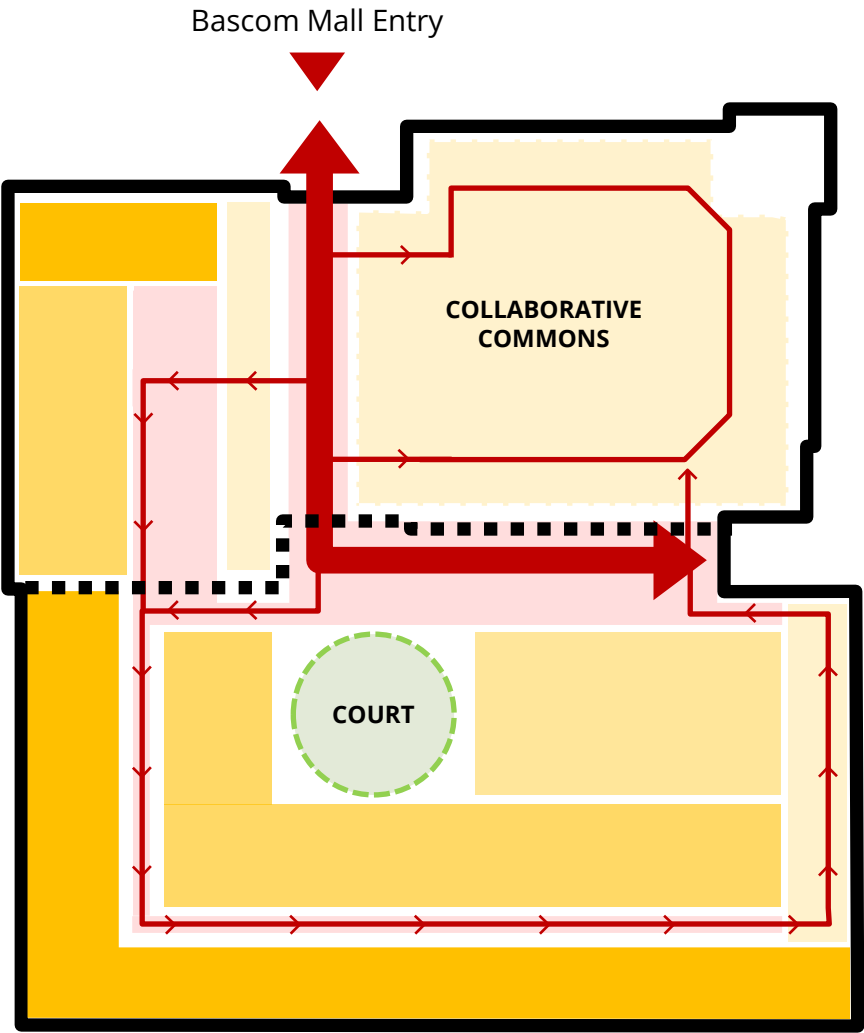
Roof Landscape



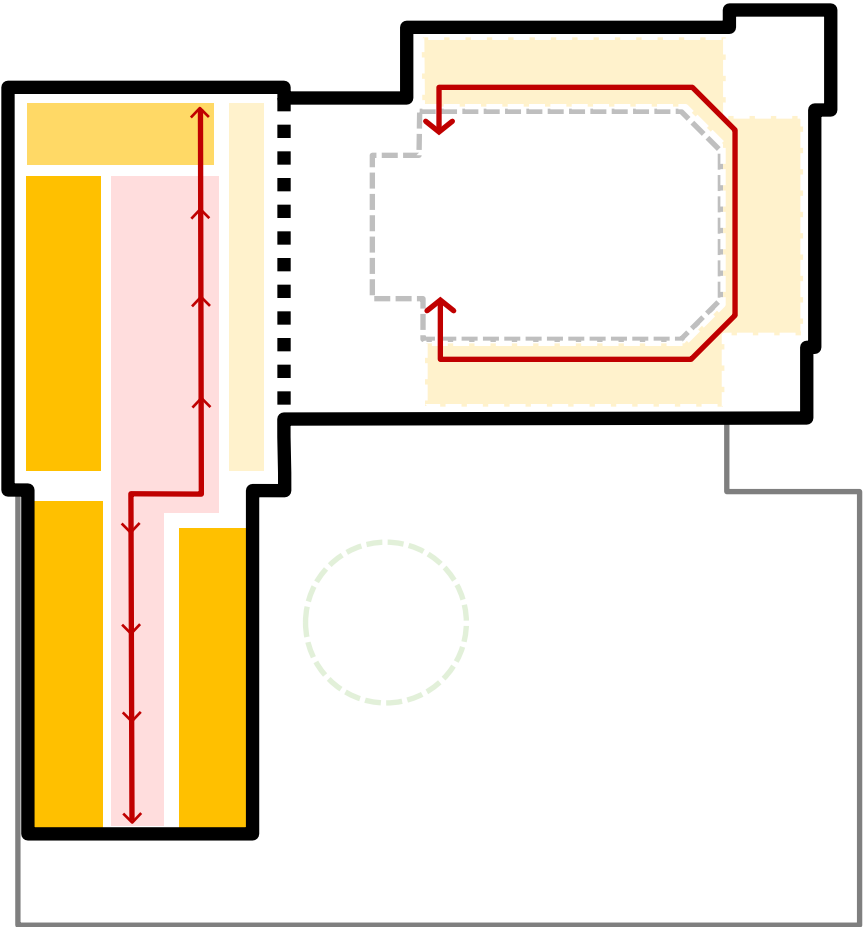
Concept Refinement Circulation & Program Zones



Level 0



Level 1



Level 2

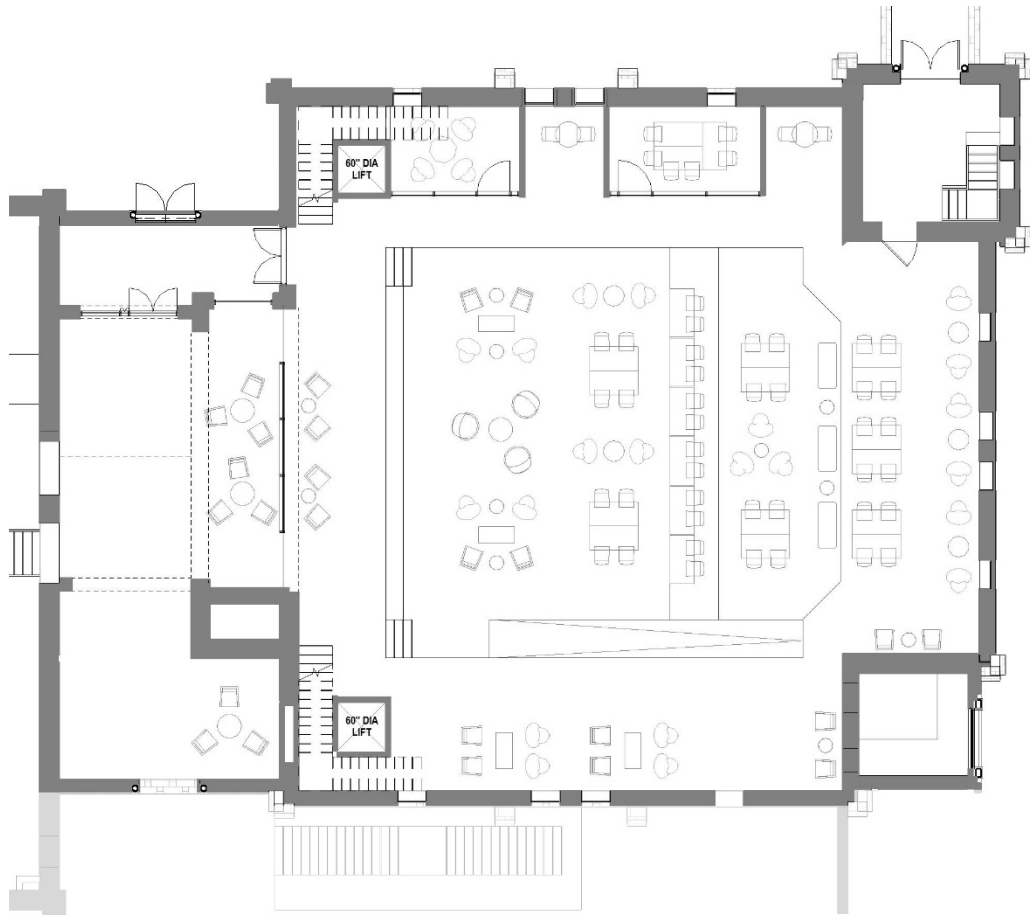
PRIVATE

PUBLIC

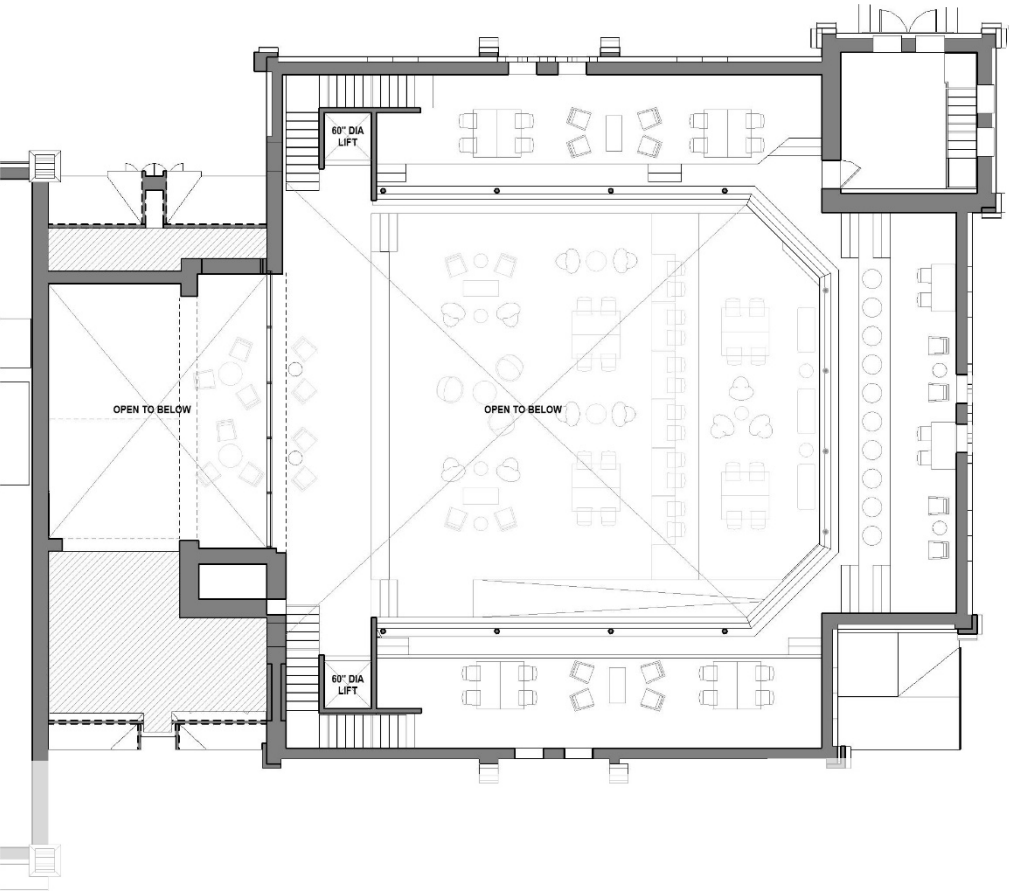


Commons in Historic Assembly Hall

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



Interior Approach



VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM EXISTING SOUTH EXTERIOR VESTIBULE
TO TOP-LIT OPEN STAIR AND COURT IN NEW ADDITION

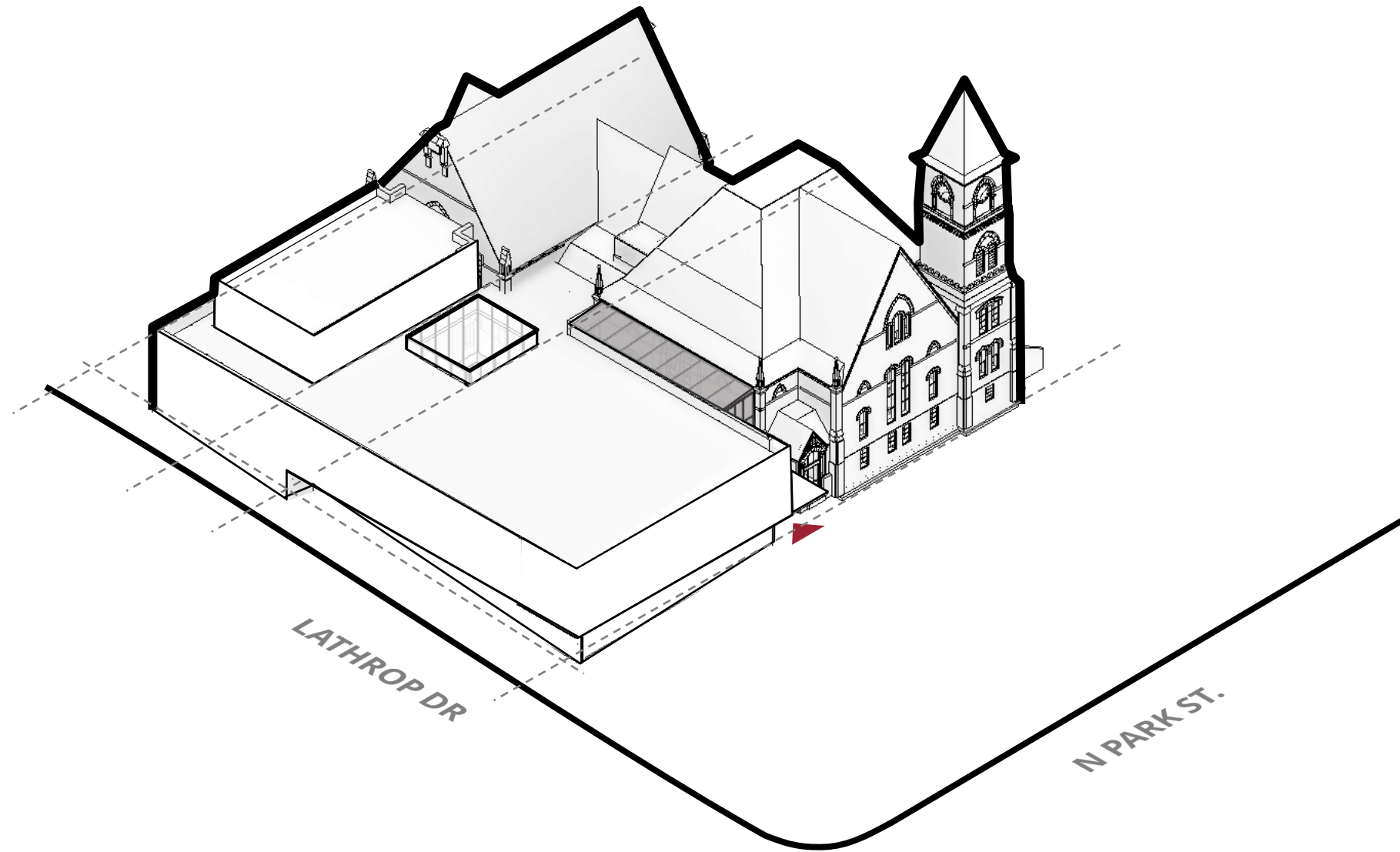


VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM NEW ADDITION NEAR COURT
LOOKING TOWARD HISTORIC FAÇADE AND NEW TOP-LIT OPEN STAIR



VIEW LOOKING WEST FROM NEW ADDITION
LOOKING TOWARD TOP-LIT OPEN STAIR ALONG HISTORIC FAÇADE
+ OPEN & ENCLOSED STUDY AND CLASSROOM

Massing Approach



- East face of addition at L0 aligns with east face of Music Hall
- Addition at L1 extends east and addition at L0 pushes inward, to create overhang at grade
- L2 addition pulls in from existing Library roof line, extending program bar and allowing for roof access
- Remaining roof is held below the Music Hall eave line
- Exterior courtyard is on axis with existing Connector, bringing light & views into heart of the building – a feature that helps orient and organize.

Schedule

The project is currently in the early Schematic Design phase. It includes two construction phases: Phase 1 will include the restoration and renovation of Music Hall. Phase 2 will include the addition.

Design Schedule	
March 2025	Project Start
November 2025	Schematic Design Complete
TBD	Board of Regents Approval
Fall 2026	Design Phase Complete

Tentative Construction Schedule	
Target Winter 2026	Phase 1 Construction Start
Fall 2028	Phase 1 Construction Complete
TBD	Phase 2 Construction Start
TBD	Phase 2 Construction Complete

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