



Agenda Item #:	8
Project Title:	1601 N Sherman Avenue - Public Building, MMSD Sherman Middle School and Malcom Shabazz High School. (District 12)
Legistar File ID #:	88482
Members Present:	Shane Bernau, Chair; Rafeeq Asad, Jessica Klehr, Harry Graham, Anina Mblinyi, David McLean, Davy Mayer, and Nicholas Hellrood
Prepared By:	Kevin Firchow, AICP, Acting UDC Secretary

Summary

At its meeting of June 11, 2025, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for a Public Building located at 1601 N Sherman Avenue. Registered and speaking in support were Steve Books, Kevin Yeska, and Susan Bowersox. Registered in support but not wishing to speak was Scott Chehak.

Summary of Commission Discussion and Questions:

The Commission inquired about moving the building north to move the entry to Sherman, acknowledging the existing easement. The applicant replied they would love to, but the costs associated with moving the easement (neighborhood sewer) are too great.

The Commission questioned the driveway between neighbors on Boyd. The applicant noted that the driveway entry is located on school property, and while some neighbors voiced concerns, they also understood the safety of keeping students off of Sherman Avenue.

The Commission noted Shabazz is an alternative high school and inquired about alternative outdoor space for the students. The applicant noted outdoor education space has come up on both the schools. That is the importance of the shed, which stores the majority of their supplies.

The Commission commented on the Logan Street exit being possibly awkward with the pedestrian crossing. The Sherman entrance could benefit from a feature as strong as what the high school has. The masonry color and bay and detailing is confusing. This is a huge scope of work, and we applaud what you're doing, and keep the blue siding on Shabazz.

The Commission noted consideration for the bike and pedestrian site access where students don't have to cross driveways. The team is also encouraged to save as many Oak trees as possible.

The Commission commented that the middle school entry plaza makes sense as a paved area, but could have something interesting happening in the ground plane and paving material, like a combination of jointing, sandblast textures or shapes, or permeable pavers, if the budget allowed.

The Commission noted areas around the building with large blank walls, and recommend ornamental trees and larger scale plantings. It was further commented that the high school entry sequence feels narrow and forced, and suggested the applicant take a serious look at what an alternative to that might be.

The Commission commented that the materials appear to stop for no reason, and needs more articulation, but praised the blue color. The building is anchoring itself pretty well, nice job with the volumes on both buildings, appreciate the concern with the budget.

Action

Since this was an **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**, no formal action was taken by the Commission.