

CAPSTONE REPORT








URBAN DESIGN

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Caption description. Photo courtesy of xxxxxxxx.

CONTENTS

-  INTRODUCTION
-  OUR TEAM
-  SITE ANALYSES
-  EXISTING DRAWINGS
-  COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
-  URBAN FORM & CIVIL ENGINEERING ANALYSES
-  URBAN DESIGN PROPOSALS & COMPETITION

A Vision for a More Engaging and Sustainable Campus

URBAN DESIGN CAPSTONE

Reimagining UW Tacoma

The University of Washington Tacoma campus has the potential to become a thriving hub for students and the surrounding communities by enhancing public spaces, transportation dynamics, and environmental sustainability. This proposal envisions a campus that fosters academic and social engagement, strengthens connections with diverse communities, and integrates green spaces to improve quality of life. Through thoughtful design and consideration of historical and cultural significance, UW Tacoma can create a more inclusive and dynamic environment that supports learning, social interaction, and sustainability.

Expanding Public Spaces for Community Engagement

Enhancing public spaces across campus would create more inviting areas for students and the broader community to gather, collaborate, and participate in academic and social activities. Open courtyards, flexible seating areas, and multi-use spaces would encourage interaction and community-building while fostering a culture of knowledge-sharing.

Improving Transportation and Pedestrian Accessibility

A redesigned movement and transportation system would prioritize pedestrians, expanding walkable areas and adding pedestrian-friendly pavements. Reducing vehicle congestion while encouraging walking, biking, and public transit use would create a more accessible and environmentally conscious campus experience.



3D View for University of Washington Tacoma

Historical Site Analysis of UW Tacoma Campus

The UW Tacoma campus is deeply rooted in the city's industrial and cultural history. Its transformation from a neglected warehouse district into a thriving academic hub reflects Tacoma's resilience and commitment to revitalization. Here's a breakdown of the historical aspects that shape

The campus today

In the early 1990s, UW Tacoma was established in downtown Tacoma, despite initial concerns about the area's condition. The location was chosen strategically to integrate the university into the urban fabric, fostering economic and cultural growth.

Yasir Al Sammarrai - History

Preserved, Erased, Missing History Around (UWT) Campus

Prairie Line

Its a clue to how you should look at these views from almost a **century ago**, a gaze cast on a landscape entirely shaped by passing shadow of the railroad.

Tacoma Buddhist Church

For more than one hundred years the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, located since 1931 at 1717 S Fawcett Avenue in downtown Tacoma, has carried important ties to the city's historic Japantown both as a physical building and as an institution. Known until 1983 as the Tacoma Buddhist Church, it has long functioned as a crucial center of religious community, social life, cultural heritage, and history for Japanese Americans in Pierce County and the South Puget Sound region.

PRESERVED

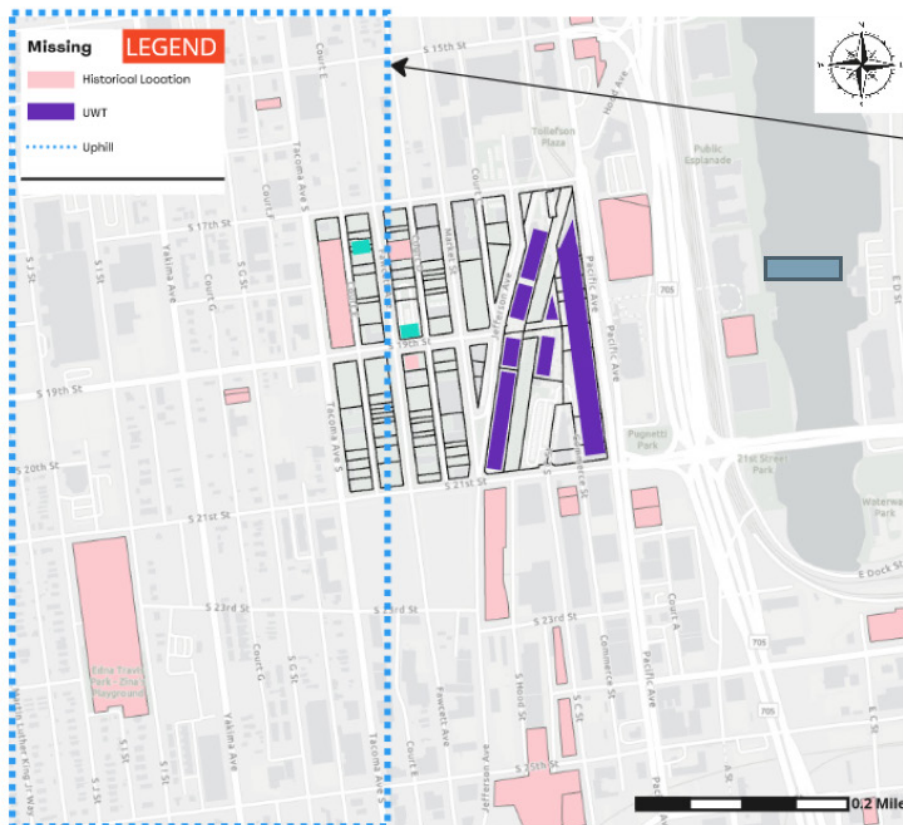
*Funeral, Tacoma Buddhist Church, 1949
Courtesy Tacoma Public Library, Chaper Bowen Collection (40160)*

This remarkable collection is from the Jim Fredrickson Collection at the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive: <http://www.pnwrrailroadarchive.org/default.aspx>

Cultural and Community Significance

The campus sits in an area that once housed a vibrant Japanese community, including a Japanese Language School that unfortunately no longer exists. Additionally, the district was historically a hub for commerce and industry, with buildings used for storage and trade dating back to the late 19th century.

Preserved, Erased, Missing History Around (UWT) Campus



Their stories often remain untold

1914, showing 25 African American men, members of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 3211, sitting and standing in 2 rows on the sidewalk and street edge in front of a building with the sign, I.O.O.F., in Tacoma, WA

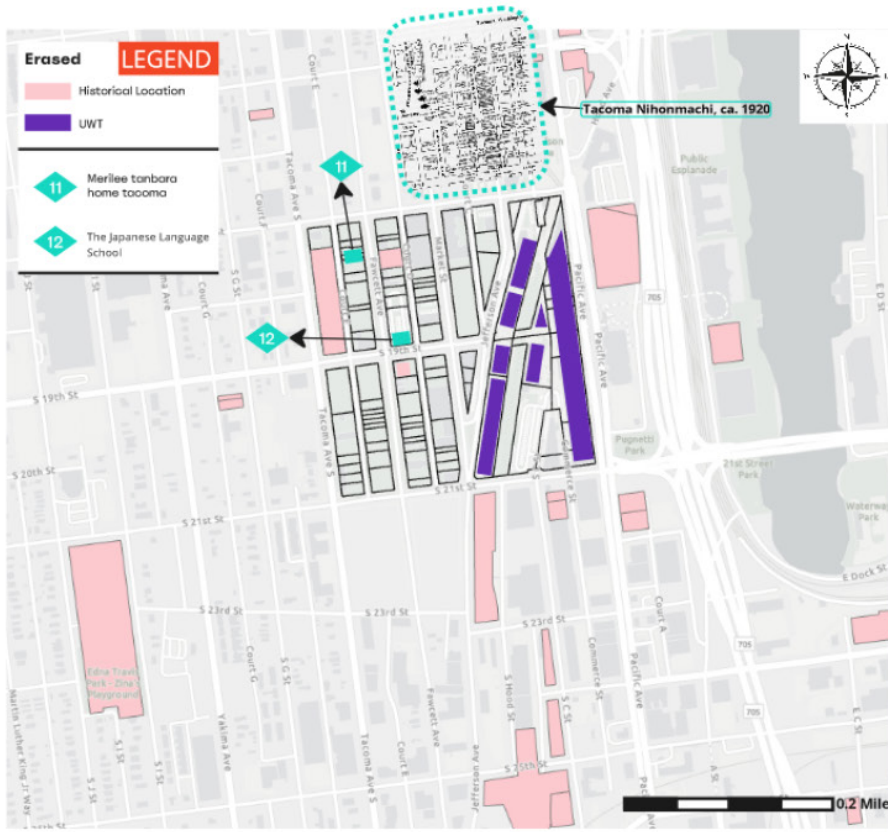
MISSING

This research not only honors the legacy of what we have but also promotes the needs for diversity and inclusion within the field, ensuring that future generations recognize and appreciate the rich history embedded in our cities

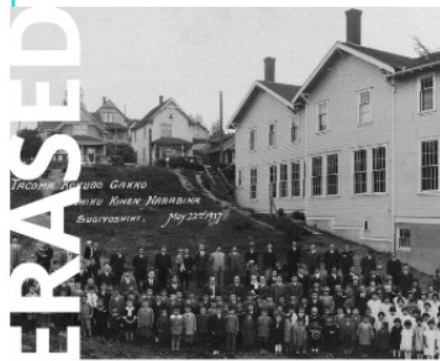


Black Tacomans worked to end discrimination long before the civil rights movement. Tacoma's NAACP was founded in 1913. To learn more about Black History in Tacoma check out these articles:

Preserved, Erased, Missing History Around (UWT) Campus



The Japanese Language Shool



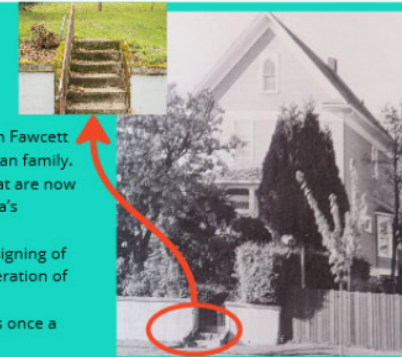
The Japanese Language School, also known as Nihongo Gakko, was a significant community center and cultural and educational institution for the Japanese-American community in Tacoma, Washington. Founded in 1911 by Mr. Masato Yamasaki and Mrs. Kuniko Yamasaki, the school initially operated from a rented house and later moved to a dedicated building at 1715 S Tacoma Avenue from 1911 to 1942. It provided Japanese language and cultural education to Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) after their regular public school hours. The school also offered English classes for Japanese speakers as well, fostering a bilingual and bi cultural environment that also instilled moral and cultural values of their Japanese heritage while creating a strong commitment to assimilation.

Tacoma Japanese Language School (Heath & Geva, 1931) A later building located at 1715 Tacoma Ave S, May 22, 1927
Photo by M. D. Boland, Courtesy UW Special Collections (PPC118)

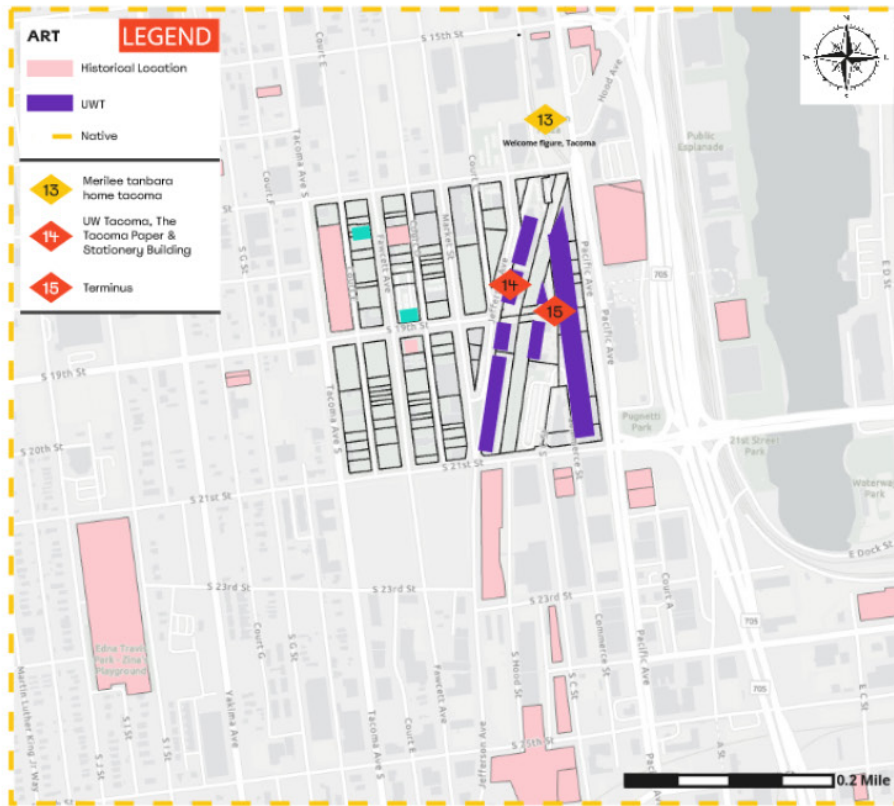
Merilee tanbara home

These steps are all that remains of a house on Fawcett Ave that once belonged to a Japanese-American family. This and many other homes and buildings that are now gone were part of what was known as Tacoma's Japantown.

February 19th is the 80th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 which led to the incarceration of anyone of Japanese ancestry living in the US. This in turn led to the decimation of what was once a thriving community in Tacoma.



Preserved, Erased, Missing History Around (UWT) Campus



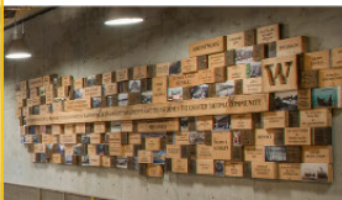
Shaun Peterson's "Welcome Figure"



According to Puyallup historians, Native American travelers knew the tough part of their journey lay behind them when they were greeted by a welcome figure like this on the shores of Puget Sound. Carved by Qwalilus (Shaun Peterson), in a style unique to the Puyallup People, *spoyabab*'s Welcome Figure is a modern take on a local traditional art form.

Shaun Peterson's "Welcome Figure" Restoration Project - Tacoma Art Museum

UW Tacoma, The Tacoma Paper & Stationery Building



Terminus

Brian Goldbloom's stone sculpture draws inspiration from Tacoma's place as the Western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Made up of 10 hinged pieces of rough white granite that reference travelers' suitcases, the sculpture sits in a courtyard close to the location of the original passenger terminal, Villard Station.

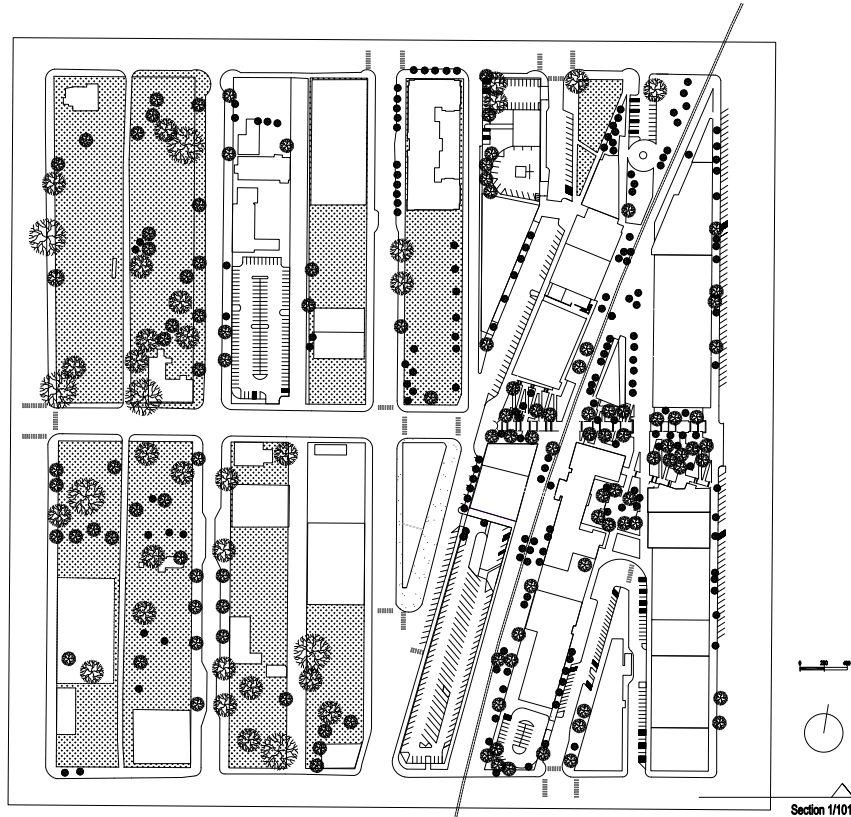
Terminus is located at the heart of the University of Washington Tacoma campus. The artwork consists of several balanced abstract suitcase forms among one realistic suitcase carved from granite. The sculpture represents Tacoma's place as the western end of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

This artwork was acquired for the State Art Collection in partnership with University of Washington.



Medium: Granite, stainless steel, and fluorescent lights The Washington State

SITE ANALYSES



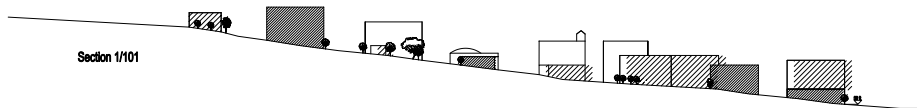
The proposed development at the University of Washington Tacoma campus aims to transform the area into a vibrant public space that fosters student engagement and strengthens ties with the local community.

By integrating green spaces, the design not only enhances environmental sustainability but also serves as a natural filtration system for stormwater, contributing to a healthier ecosystem.

The addition of waterfalls creates a tranquil setting, promoting relaxation and mindfulness while reinforcing the importance of water conservation.

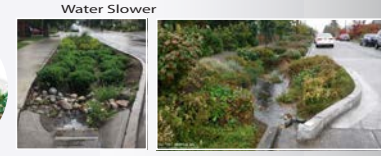
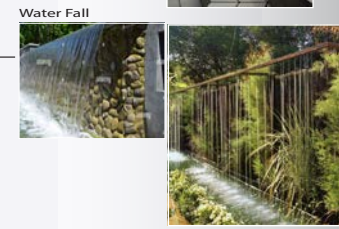
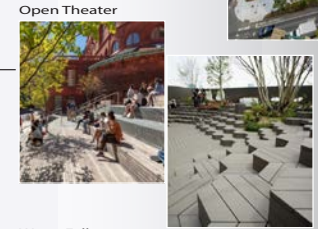
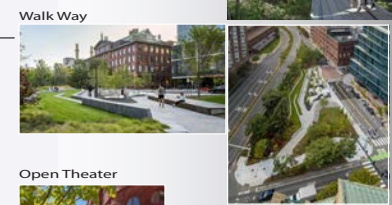
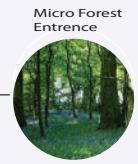
A historical museum will further enrich the space, deepening the community's awareness of local heritage and fostering educational opportunities. To amplify this vision, new buildings dedicated to collaborative learning, cultural exhibitions, and student activities will be strategically positioned, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

The project aspires to elevate the campus as a community destination, where education, nature, and historical appreciation merge to cultivate a dynamic and enriching environment for all.



UDF

- MAJOR ROAD
- MAIN ROAD
- MINOR ROAD
- NODE
- TREE
- EXISTING ACTIVE EDGE
- HISTORICAL
- MAJOR GREEN SPACE PROPOSED
- GREEN SPACE PROPOSED
- EXISTING GREEN SPACE
- LW EXISTING
- EXISTING BUILDING
- PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY
- PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY PROPOSED
- BLUE SPACE PROPOSED
- STUDENT
- HOUSING ZONE
- ACADEMIC ZONE PROPOSED
- COMMUNITY ZONE
- COMMUNITY ASSETS
- LW PROPOSED
- LAND MARK
- COMMERCIAL ASSETS
- MF DEVT



Transformation and Revitalization

Before UW Tacoma's establishment, the area was largely abandoned, with deteriorating warehouses and empty buildings. Today, the campus stands as a model for urban renewal, demonstrating how historical preservation can coexist with modern educational infrastructure.

Key Findings from the Historical Site Analysis of UW Tacoma

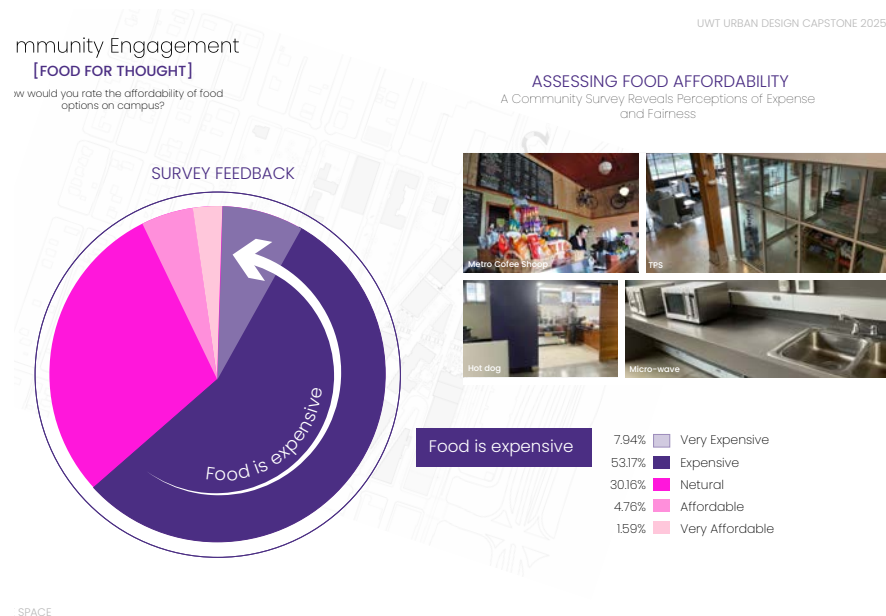
- Deep Industrial Roots
- The campus area was originally part of Tacoma's warehouse and manufacturing district, contributing to the city's economic growth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Preservation Through Adaptive Reuse
- Many campus buildings are repurposed historic structures, maintaining their original brick facades while integrating modern functionality.

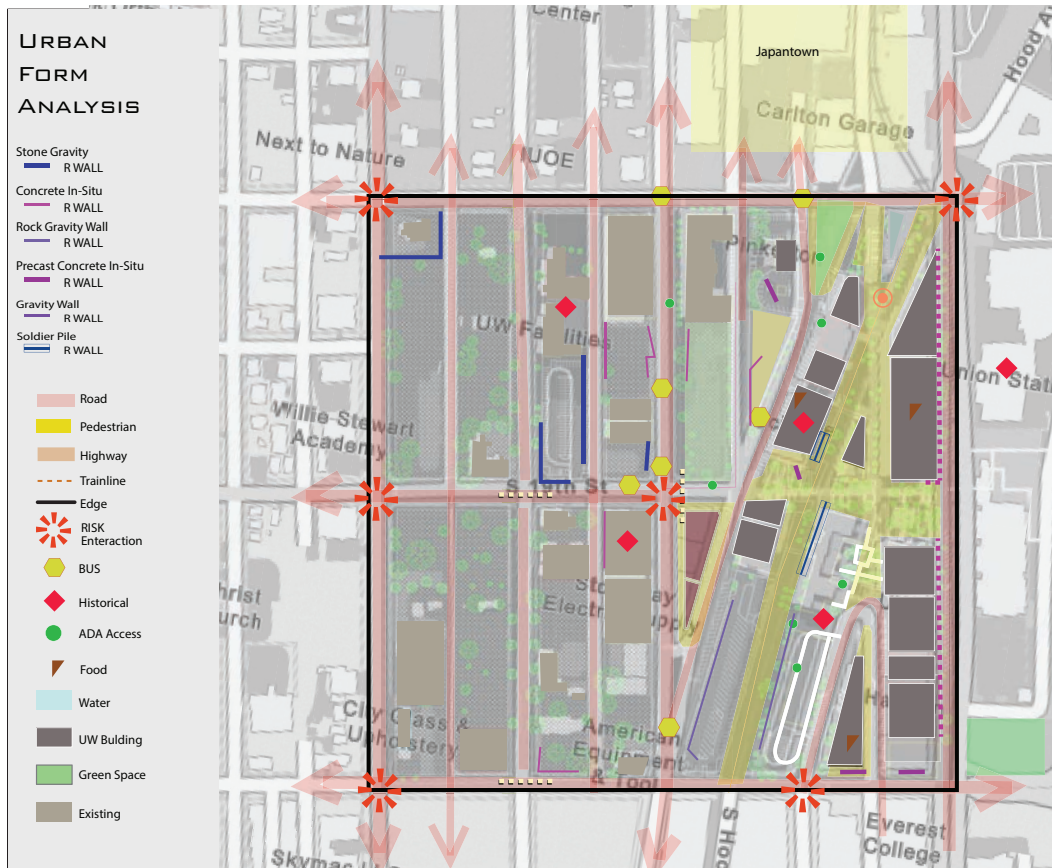
This balance of old and new enhances the area's architectural character.

- Cultural Significance of Local Communities
- The site once hosted a thriving Japanese community, which included businesses, residences, and a Japanese Language School. Recognizing and honoring this cultural history remains an opportunity for campus development.
- The presence of Black, Native, and other historically marginalized communities in Tacoma highlights the need for inclusive engagement and representation in campus initiatives.
- Urban Transformation & Revitalization
- UW Tacoma's establishment played a major role in revitalizing the neglected district, breathing new life into an area that had been largely abandoned. The campus now serves as a model for urban renewal.

- Need for Enhanced Public Spaces and Green Initiatives
- While the campus has successfully integrated historical elements, there's potential to further develop inviting communal spaces and green areas that support student engagement and environmental sustainability.

These findings reinforce the importance of creating a more inclusive, accessible, and environmentally conscious campus while preserving Tacoma's rich history





The retaining walls play a crucial role in shaping the landscape, providing structural support, and enhancing the overall design.

As part of the site analysis project, urban designers and civil engineers collaborated to gain a deeper understanding of the terrain, soil conditions, and water management needs. This interdisciplinary effort ensured that the retaining walls were strategically integrated into the design, serving both functional and aesthetic purposes.

The collaboration allowed for a comprehensive approach, considering factors such as erosion control, accessibility, and visual appeal.

By utilizing these walls, designers were able to create tiered green spaces that not only stabilized the site but also offered inviting areas for students and the community to gather. Additionally, the project emphasized sustainable construction techniques, incorporating locally sourced materials to minimize environmental impact.

Through this partnership, the campus has been transformed into a dynamic and resilient space that harmonizes infrastructure with nature, reinforcing its role as a hub for education, engagement, and sustainability.

URBAN FORM ANALYSIS: RETAINING WALLS

- Stone Gravity
- Concrete In-Situ
- Rock Gravity
- Precast Concrete In-Situ
- Gravity
- Soldier Pile
- Wood



Activ
Go to S

Submission Overview – EPA Campus RainWorks Challenge

Green infrastructure plays a pivotal role in shaping resilient, sustainable campuses that not only manage stormwater runoff effectively but also provide lasting environmental, social, and economic benefits. The EPA Campus RainWorks Challenge empowers teams to identify key campus challenges, set ambitious yet attainable goals, and design solutions that integrate green infrastructure strategies.

Submissions should align with existing campus master plans and real-world considerations such as population growth, pedestrian safety, and regulatory compliance. To ensure designs reflect genuine campus needs, teams are required to engage with facilities staff and local green infrastructure practitioners, fostering collaboration and stakeholder involvement.

Participants are encouraged to explore a range of topics, including climate resilience, alternative energy integration, sustainable mobility, and campus connectivity. Whether designing multi-use landscapes, enhancing stormwater management, or creating educational projects that demonstrate green infrastructure's benefits, teams have the opportunity to propose innovative solutions that are both practical and visionary.

By contributing to the EPA Campus RainWorks Challenge, teams can inspire actionable change, helping campuses nationwide adopt strategies that support sustainability, ecological health, and community well-being.



Runoff contaminated with oil and other debris is washed down a storm drain, where it will feed into local waterbodies.



A "green street" uses practices such as porous pavement and bioretention to capture, infiltrate, and evapotranspire stormwater, preventing contaminated runoff from reaching local waterbodies.

- Sustainability & Climate Resilience – Address how the project mitigates climate hazards and integrates eco-friendly solutions for long-term environmental stability.
- Stormwater Management – Demonstrate how green infrastructure improves runoff control while enhancing campus ecosystems.
- Campus Planning Alignment – Ensure designs complement existing master plans, supporting pedestrian safety, open space usage, and future development.
- Community Engagement – Show how collaboration with facilities staff, local experts, and the broader campus community strengthens design effectiveness.
- Multifunctionality – Explore how the proposed solutions serve multiple purposes, such as combining landscaping, energy efficiency, and improved mobility.
- Educational Impact – Promote awareness by incorporating elements that engage students and faculty in sustainability practices. By emphasizing these areas, your introduction will clearly define the objectives of your design and its potential for meaningful campus transformation.

EPA Campus Rain Works Challenge

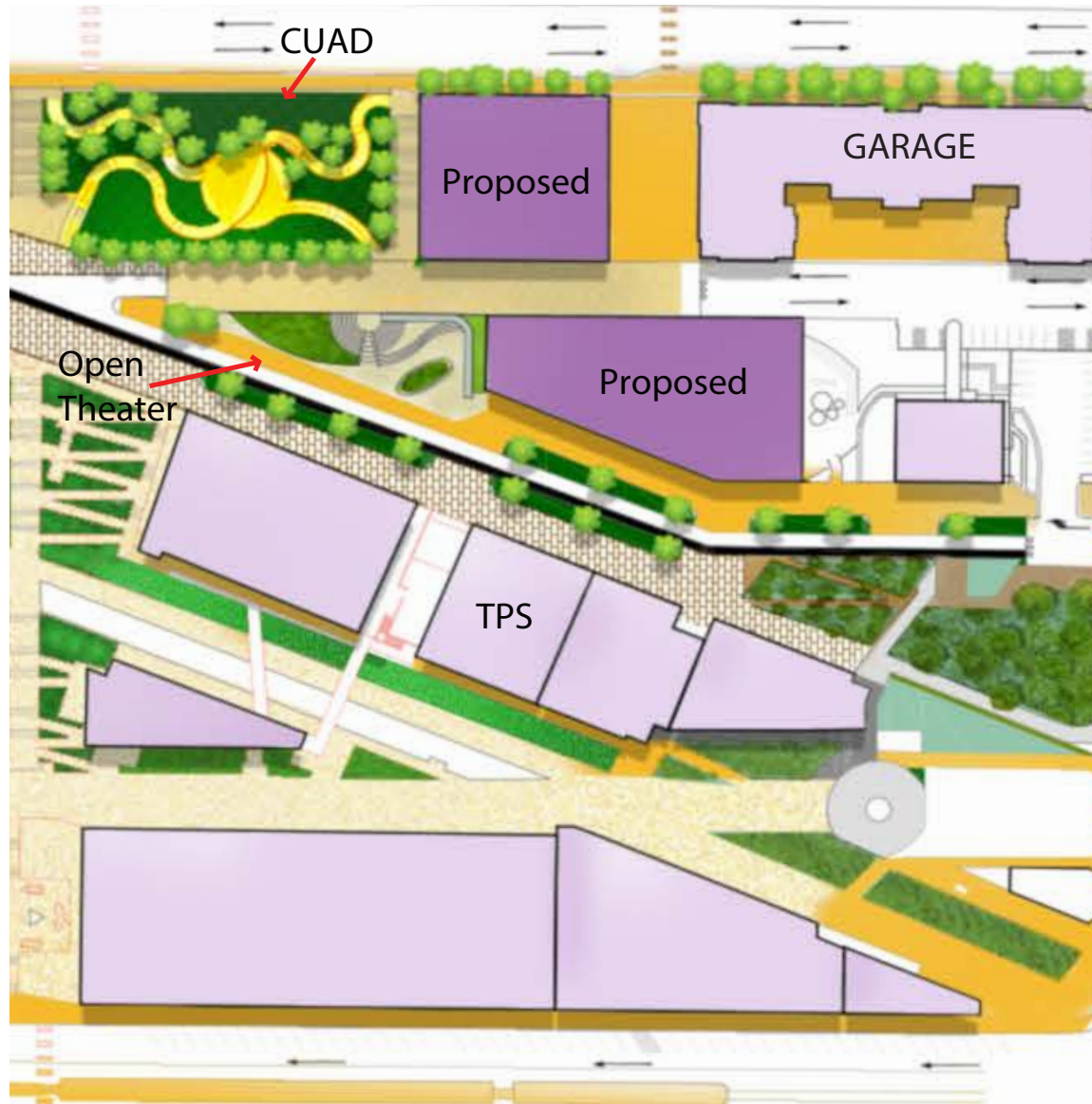
Transforming UW Tacoma into a Sustainable, Community-Driven Haven

This project born from the dynamic collaboration between urban design students and civil engineering students.

By combining creative vision with technical expertise, this initiative integrates Green Storm water Infrastructure (GSI) with vibrant public spaces, providing an innovative solution that not only creates inviting gathering areas but also efficiently manages storm water by soaking up and filtering out contaminated water.

At the heart of our design lies CUAD (Community and Utility Active Design), a game-changer set to transform ordinary campus areas into multifunctional community hubs that double as environmental heroes. Not only will CUAD redefine how we experience public space, it stands as a beacon of sustainable engineering and thoughtful design.

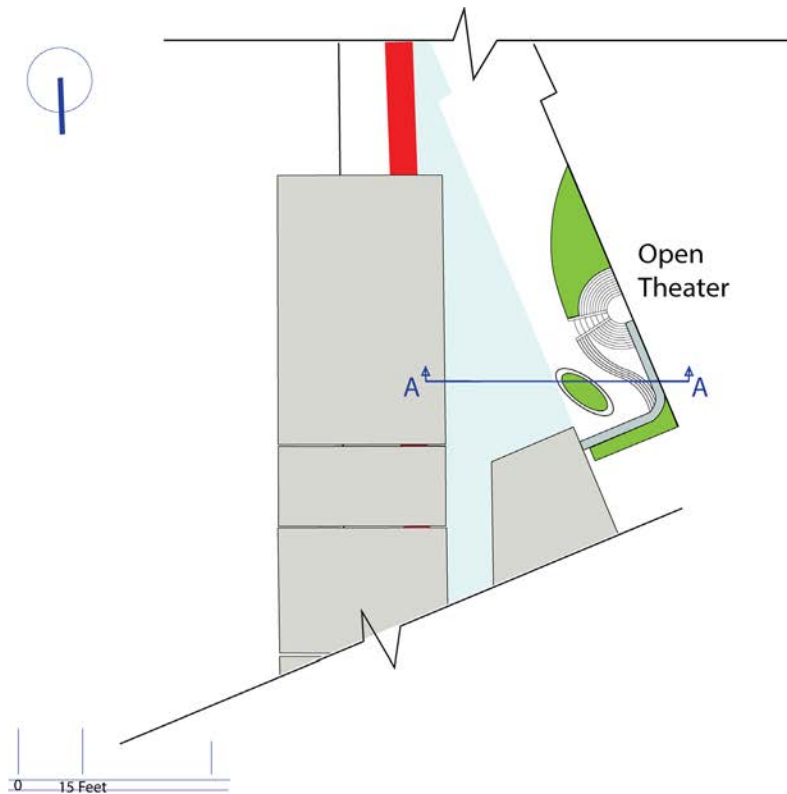




Our project is built around three groundbreaking concepts

- CUAD – The Environmental Catalyst Source Area Development – Open Space Theater
- The Micro Forest – A Blend of Nature and History
- The Jefferson Street development

STREETS SECTIONS



Source Area Development – Open Space Theater

the project aligns with sustainable engineering principles, incorporating eco-conscious materials, energy efficient lighting, and green landscaping elements. These features contribute to a harmonious balance between urban development and environmental stewardship, reinforcing CUAD's commitment to public spaces that serve both people and the planet.

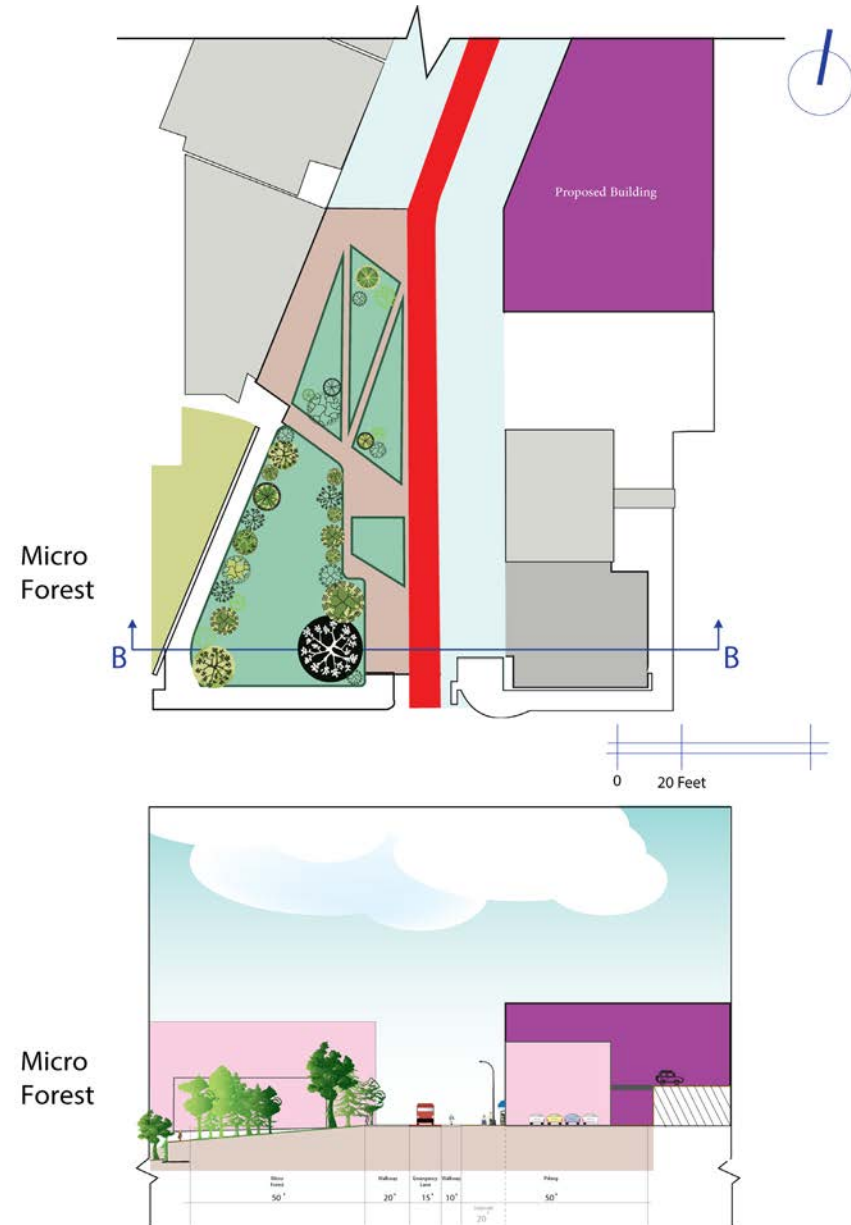
Ultimately, the Source Area Development Open Space Theater is more than just a physical location

it is a movement toward redefining how public spaces are used. By prioritizing community engagement, sustainability, and multifunctionality, it sets a precedent for the future of campus design, ensuring that shared spaces are not only accessible but impactful and inspiring

STREETS SECTIONS

The Micro Forest – A Blend of Nature and History

The park will consist of two main ecosystems that the plant selection will be built around. One is lowland pine forest. This is your standard Douglas fir, Western Red Cedar, Sitka spruce, etc. type of forest. While people usually think mainly of Douglas fir when thinking about PNW forests, historically very few of our forests would have been Douglas fir dominant. After colonization they were selected as the most effective tree for lumber and all the forests that were cut down were replanted mainly with Douglas fir to maximize profit. Hopefully with a diverse range of species we can highlight the importance of diversity in forests and show visitors what Washington forests would have looked like throughout almost all of the regions history.



3D Rendering

