

United LEARNING CENTER

A Community Educational Collaborative Project



United Way of Lewis County



The United Learning Center (ULC) will play an essential and unique role in Lewis County, facilitating the comprehensive education of our community's youth through the founding entities' combined skills, resources, and connections.

In collaboration with the City of Centralia, United Way of Lewis County, the Bezos Academy, Discover! Children's Museum, and the Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County, the United Learning Center will provide a seamless learning experience at one location for children ages three to eighteen years of age.



Project Partners



Tuition-Free Preschool ➤ State-of-the-Art Children's Museum ➤ After School Mentorship Program & Summer Engagement Opportunities

The Bigger Picture

Quality early learning experiences have social and economic benefits for children, parents, employers, and society as a whole, now and in the future. When children are engaged in positive, quality early learning opportunities in their earliest years, it leads to greater success upon entering school and beyond.

Each ULC partner will bring a unique, state-of-the-art collaborative program approach to the table that will improve lives for our local families.

OPENING FALL 2023

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Project Narrative

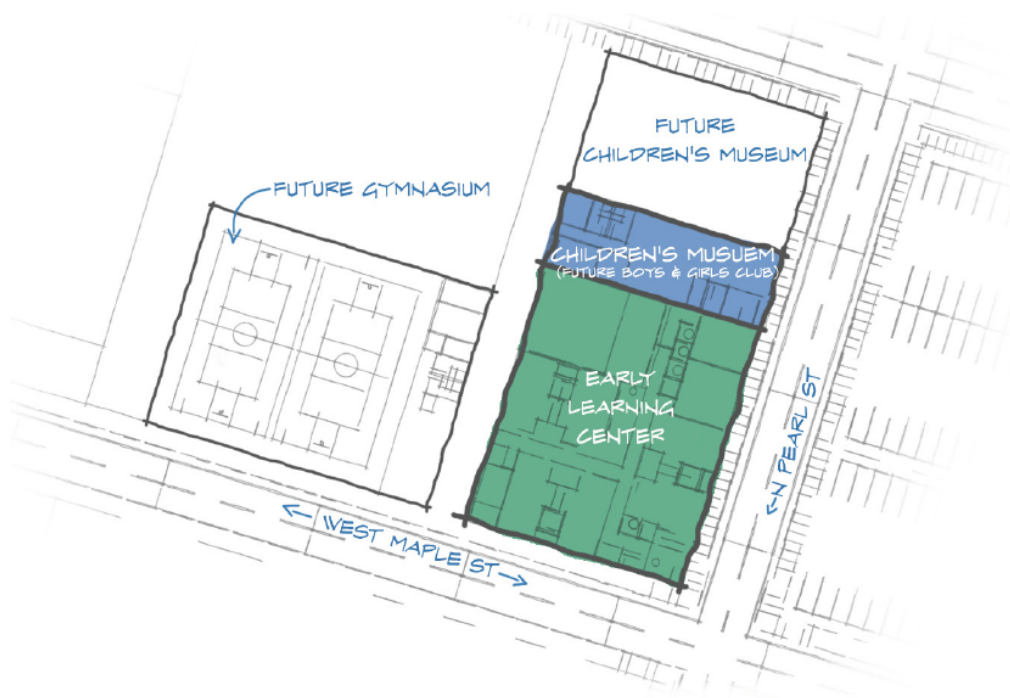
Giving families an array of educational resources is essential in setting up children for successful futures. The combination of an early learning center, the Discover! Children's Museum, and a boys and girls club allows for community members to not only invest in their children, but grow the community in which they live.

With the project located in Downtown Centralia, the new United Learning Center will quickly become an easily accessible community resource, while also being an exemplification of Lewis County's continued growth. Covered walkways and a brick façade integrate seamlessly into the historic downtown, while its LEED Silver certification will set a new bar for both environmental and community stewardship.

The Early Learning Center will be operated via the Bezos Academy, making it more accessible for under-served community members. Four classrooms at 800 square feet each will provide a well-lit, well equipped, healthy, and safe learning environment that will give children practical skills that they can use in their home, via a Montessori approach to education. The ELC will also include a 3000 square foot partially covered playground, an 850 square foot multipurpose room, and a 700 square foot kitchen, to ensure that each child has their every need met.

The Discover! Children's museum, situated next door to the ELC, will provide 4500 square feet of open exhibit space to engage children in hands-on educational activities, as well as an enclosed 200 square foot music room, and a rentable 350 square foot multipurpose room. With plans to establish a larger museum on the same site, the flexible layout of the space will be the perfect canvas to house the boys and girl's club once all phases have been completed.

Through close collaboration with community stakeholders, our design team has developed a concept that matches Lewis County's present day needs, while providing a roadmap to the community's future goals.



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Floor Plan - Program



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Interior Design Inspirations



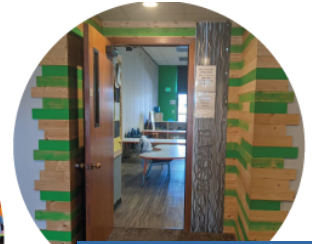
Flooring: "In Tandem"
Tile Planks



Hallway Ceiling:
Acoustic Ceiling tiles



Museum Interior:
Open Flexible Floor Plan



Recessed Classroom Alcove:
Colored Entryway



High Ceilings, Open
Structure, Acoustic Panels



Classroom Finishes:
Natural and Neutral Wood dominant



Structure:
Open Web Wood Joists

At Bezos Academy, the child always comes first.

All children deserve the great start that an excellent preschool provides. Bezos Academy aims to nurture the potential in every child to become a creative leader, original thinker, and lifelong learner by increasing access to early childhood education in underserved communities.

Bezos Academy preschools offer year-round, full-day programming, five days a week, for children ages 3-5 years old from low-income families. Bezos Academy will provide students with all necessary educational supplies and services to set each student up for success, including Montessori materials, books, arts and crafts, field trips, and meals.

Montessori-Inspired Preschool

Core Montessori elements are the foundation of the Bezos Academy Curriculum. The educators are trained in the Montessori method, and each classroom has a full set of Montessori materials. The Montessori approach allows every child to develop naturally — to learn and grow at their own pace. The Curriculum will also borrow from other pedagogies to learn, invent, and improve our ability to support every child's development.

In the classrooms, children follow their interests and engage in hands-on activities using scientifically prepared materials. This enhances a child's intellectual achievement, social cohesion, and emotional regulation.

Given the freedom and support to question, probe deeply, and make connections, Montessori students grow up to be confident, enthusiastic, and self-directed learners and citizens, accountable to both themselves and their community. They think critically, work collaboratively, and act boldly and with integrity.

Key Curriculum Areas



Child Centered

Culturally Responsive

Standards-Based

Montessori Inspired



Sample Bezos Academy Classroom



Des Moines, WA classroom



Des Moines, WA classroom

UNITED LEARNING CENTER NATURE PLAYGROUND

CENTRALIA, WA



RUBBER SAFETY SURFACE



BUILDING OVERHANG

TRICYCLE PARKING

TRICYCLE TRACK

LANDSCAPE BOULDERS

WATER PUMP
PLAY FEATURE



POTTING BENCH

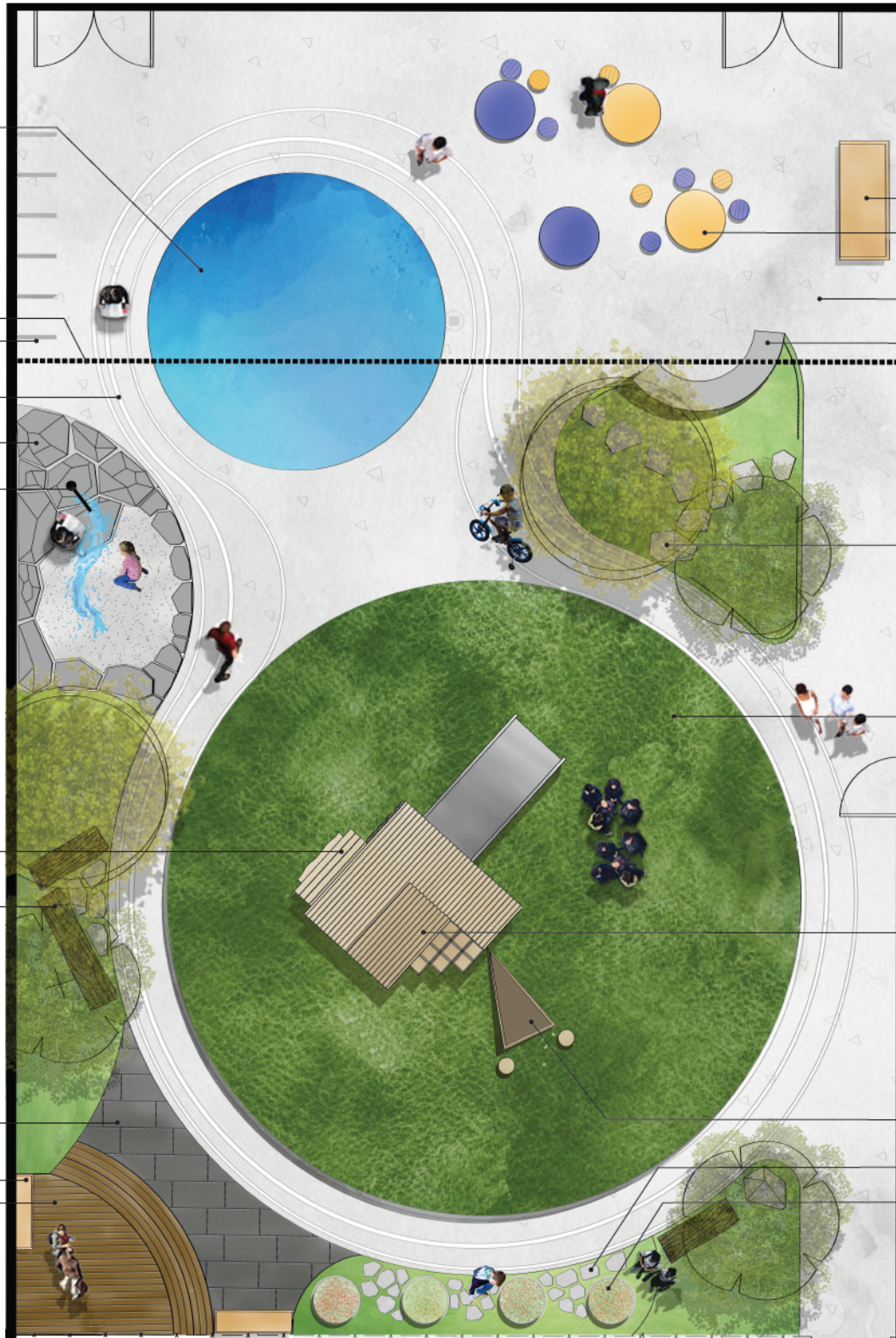
LOG AT GRADE



DECORATIVE PAVING

STORAGE CABINET

PERFORMANCE STAGE



STORAGE

TABLES AND CHAIRS

CONCRETE PAVING

CONCRETE SEATWALL



STEPPING STONE
PATHWAY



SYNTHETIC TURF



NATURAL WOOD
PLAY STRUCTURE



HAMMOCK SWING

STEPPING STONES

RAISED GARDEN BED



GATE TO ALLEY



A Launchpad for Scholastic Achievement

Discover! Children's Museum will serve and nurture the learning needs of our community's children and families by incorporating both a museum with interactive educational exhibits and an inclusive community early learning program. This distinguished combination and a multi-dimensional, quality learning environment promises to make a big difference in our children's readiness to learn.

Vision

Discover! Children's Museum will provide memorable and impressionable experiences that ignite curiosity and learning. Through educational expertise and collaboration, DCM will promote constructive problem solving and artistic expression in individuals of all ages. As a spark for imagination and learning, DCM will create "kindergarten ready" students, improving scholastic achievement and inspiring secondary education.

EXPLORE | PLAY | LEARN

Active exploring. Fun playing. Focused learning.

EDUCATOR DESIGNED

Prompts provided for parents and caregivers.
Intentional questions that direct learning.
Exhibits developed to engage children.

OUTREACH

Traveling exhibits via Museum trailer.
Taking the Museum to more remote areas.
Reaching out is what Museums do.

PROVEN

To improve Kindergarten readiness.
A source that compliments classroom learning.
Track records show that hands-on learning works.



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4,500 square feet of open exhibit space to engage children in hands-on educational activities, as well as an enclosed 200 square foot music room, and a rentable 350 square foot multipurpose room.



Discover! Pilot Project Exhibits

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF LEWIS COUNTY

Whatever It Takes to Build Great Futures

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

The Centralia Boys & Girls Club will provide a fun, safe and constructive environment for over 100 kids and teens during out-of-school hours. Community-based and led by professional staff, your Centralia Club will ensure that all kids have access to our high quality, outcome driven experiences and opportunities.

A Safe Place to Grow and Learn

In every community, boys and girls are left to find their own recreation and companionship in the streets. An increasing number of children are at home with no adult care or supervision. Young people need to know that someone cares about them. Boys & Girls Clubs are an after and out-of-school program that offers that and more.

Club programs and services will promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.



Caring Mentors

Boys & Girls Club will offer trained staff who guide, coach, and motivate kids to be successful.

Life-Enhancing Programs

Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County is dedicated to delivering engaging programs focused on academics, health, and leadership, and ensure that our community's youth have access to high-quality programs and services that will enhance their lives and shape their futures.

Their programs specifically focus on keeping kids engaged and active throughout the year.



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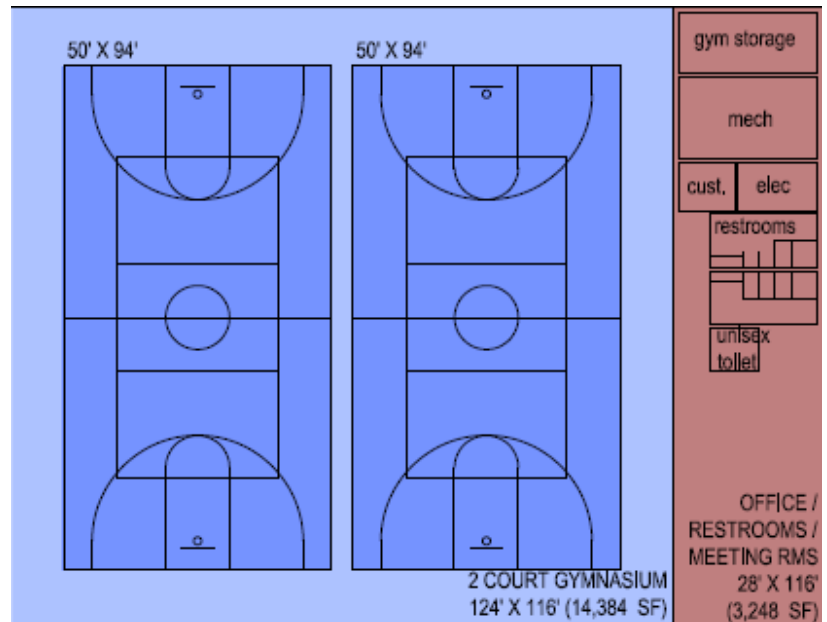


Gymnasium | Recreation Center

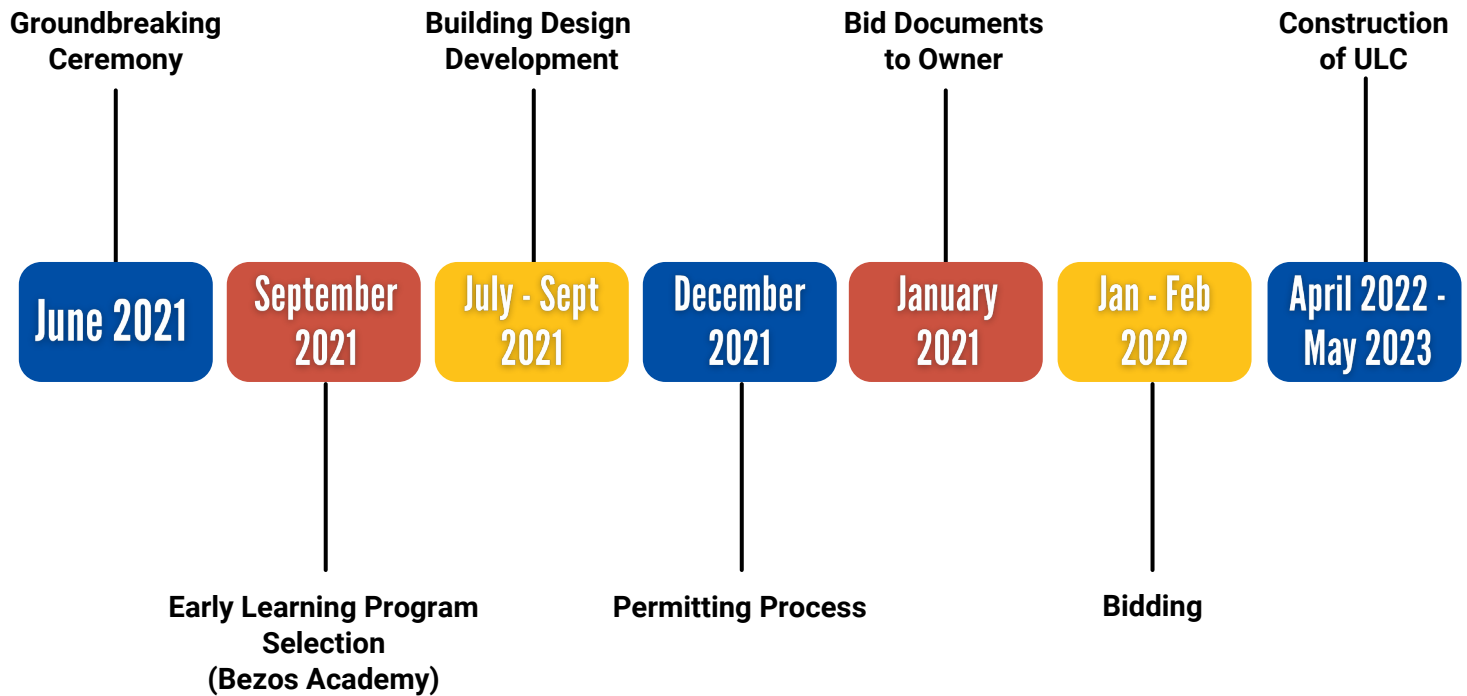


The City of Centralia's Gymnasium and Recreation Center will be the location of the Boys & Girls Club. The contributions of land and REET funding (Real Estate Excise Tax) from the City of Centralia will provide the United Learning Center a multi-use gymnasium and recreation center for the community.

- **Two-story gymnasium**
- **Approximate size - 17,000 sq. ft.**
- **Two multi-surface basketball courts**
- **Office and meeting room space**
- **Rentable space for community use**



United Learning Center Project Timeline



United Learning Center Fundraising Commitments (to-date)

Department of Commerce Early Learning Capital Budget Allocation	\$3,000,000
City of Centralia REET Funds	\$1,900,000
Discover! Children's Museum Department of Commerce Grant	\$1,000,000
TranAlta Coal Transition Board Grant Award	\$1,000,000
TOTAL COMMITMENTS (to-date)	\$6,900,000
Funding Gap	\$2,300,000

We need your help.

The United Learning Center would not be possible without the generous support of varying entities across the federal, state, and local levels.

Our Capital Campaign fundraising goal is \$2.3 million. Your support of the United Learning Center project would ensure that children and families would have access to high-quality learning experiences and valuable resources for generations to come.

Thank you for considering a gift towards lifelong learning in Lewis County.

