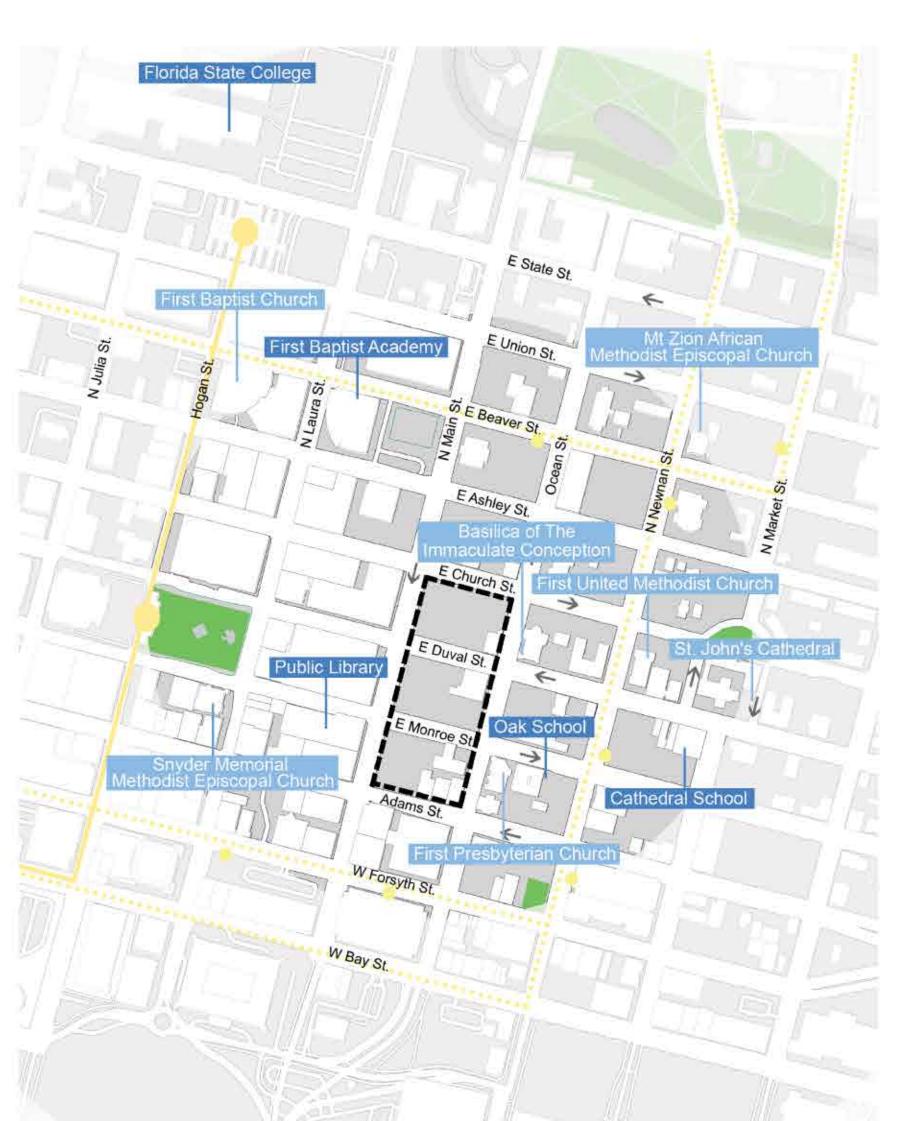


Downtown Academy

Revitalization Through Education

Cathedral District | Jacksonville



Downtown Academy is a proposed K-12 charter school in Jacksonville's Cathedral District. Cathedral District Jax (CDJ) has drafted a Master Plan to revitalize the neighborhood currently blighted with surface parking and overwhelmed by a social services concentration. The Master Plan seeks to transform the area by creating mixed-used retail/residential corridors, connecting to Jacksonville's Emerald Trail project, creating more public spaces such as parks and plazas, and integrating a K-12 charter school within the neighborhood. Enthusiastic responses to a commuter workers survey show that downtown commuters could retain the initial population for a charter school. Additional student population could grow from the residential developments planned for the Cathedral District.

The site chosen for the proposed academy is three blocks on the border of the Cathedral District and the Central Civic Core. The blocks sit between Main Street and Ocean Street and begin on the south side of East Ashley Street and end on East Monroe Street's north side. It is an ideal location for both Cathedral District residents and downtown commuters.

Nearby downtown amenities include public transportation such as bus stops and the skyway rail line (future U2C). Most charter schools do not provide student transportation; therefore, public transit could prove vital for an inclusive population. There are also several early learning centers that could help populate the school and Florida State College, which could serve as a dual enrollment opportunity for students at the charter school. The best amenity, located directly across the charter school, is the public library.

Blocks organize the grade levels of the school. The high school grades are at the block to the south, the elementary school in the central block, and the middle school at the north block. The grade levels' organization allows for the lower grades to have more public safety, and the older students have more public interactions to participate as a part of the community.

External circulation of charter schools involves the use of main entries placed towards the public edge on Main St. and student only access on the neighborhood edge of Ocean St. Internal circulation consists of a north to south corridor that extends throughout the blocks with sky bridges.

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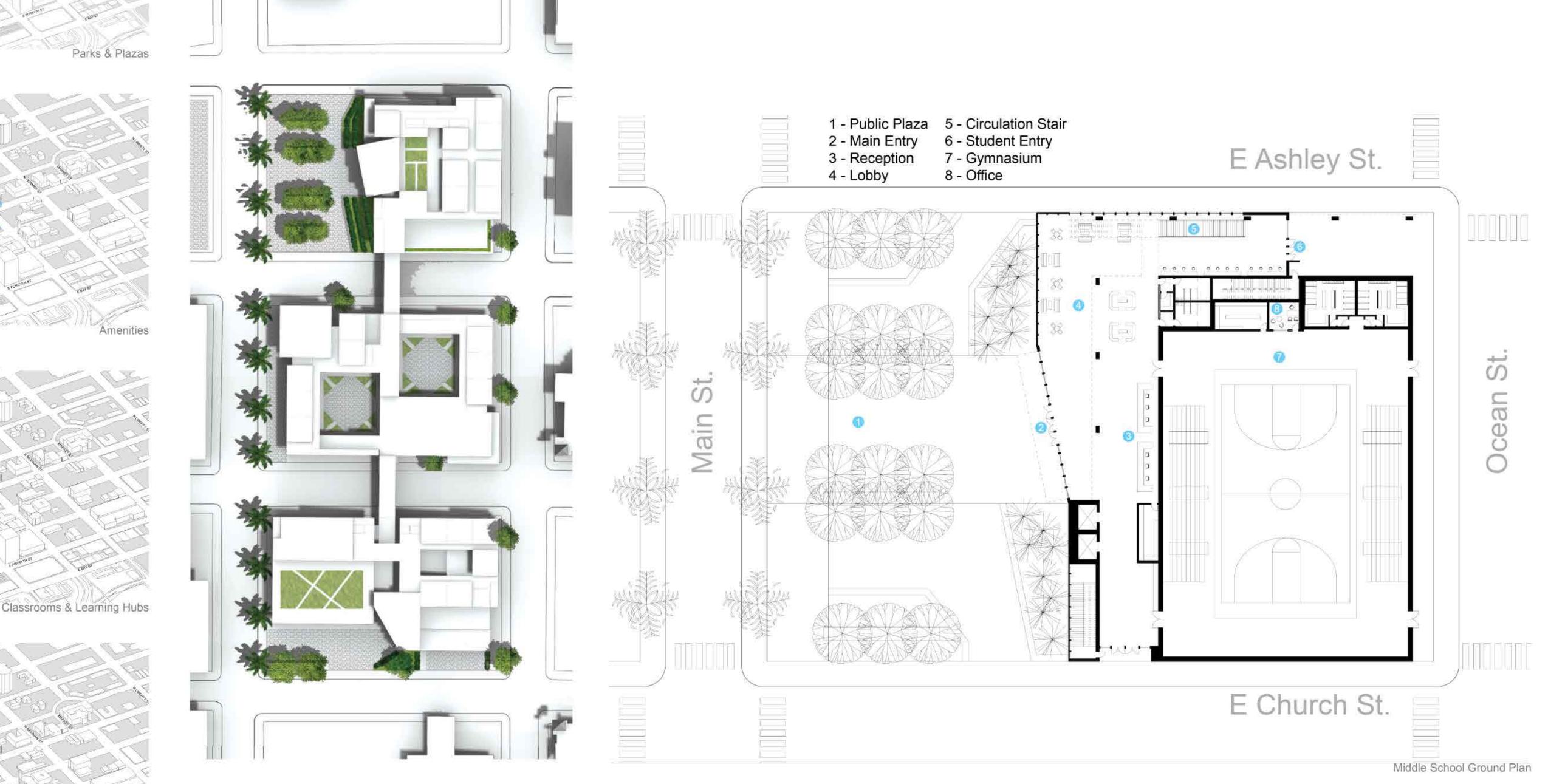
The charter school's goal is to aid in revitalizing the urban community; therefore, several school amenities are to be made public amenities to benefit the surrounding community. These amenities include the gymnasium, the auditorium, and the public plazas.

Trends in education follow that technology lab and shared learning spaces will be essential in curriculums. Urban schools such as Downtown Academy cannot expand outwards like most suburban schools and therefore require some level of flexibility. Due to these factors, the charter school features "learning hubs," which are flexibles spaces used for computer labs, science labs, library spaces, indoor recreation, or other program-specific courses. These labs are also a feature of the school to put urban education on display for the city.

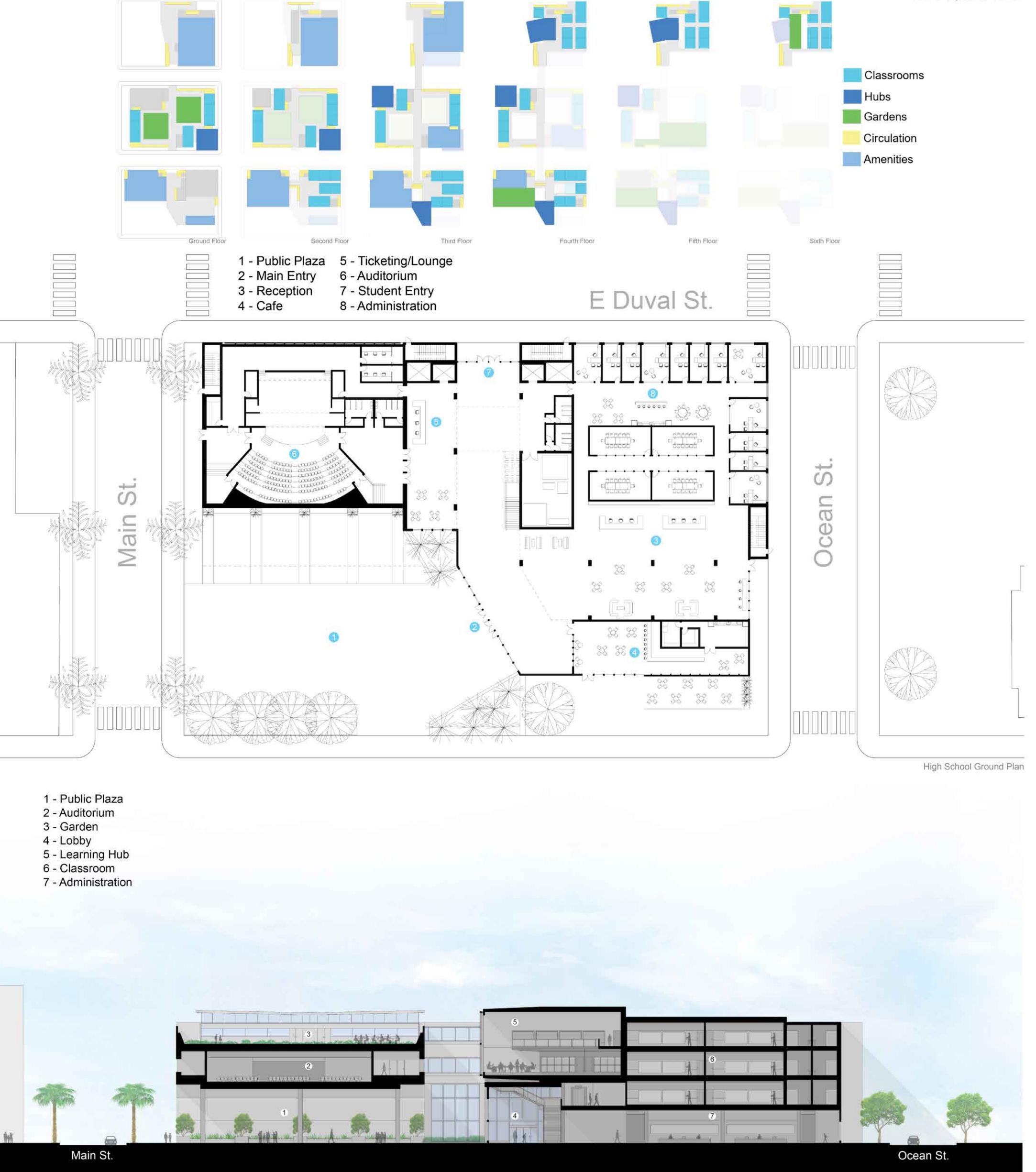
Downtown Academy aims to assist in the Cathedral District's revitalization by inviting the public realm with plazas and amenities while also providing flexible learning spaces that can allow the charter school to flourish and attract residents into the developing neighborhood.



View From Main St to Middle & Elementary School



1 - Lobby
2 - Administration
3 - Learning Hub
4 - Garden
5 - Gymnasium
6 - Cafeteria
7 - Classroom



Main St. Eleva