



REIMAGINING EDUCATION

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ATTIC LEARNING COMMUNITY

Nurturing in children a sense of self, a passion for learning, community, and childhood.

OUR MISSION



"This world is but a canvas to our imagination."

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Imagine for a moment a place where children are deeply known by a supportive community of adults and peers; a place where the warm embrace of acceptance allows them to be their true selves, comfortable to explore freely, and confident to challenge themselves to try new things; a place where the developmental curriculum is designed to meet and expand their unique needs, interests, and abilities through authentic and meaningful experiences.

Imagine this place as a community where children take ownership of their educational journey and where their innate spark of motivation to learn is kindled and fanned into a strong flame.

Welcome to the Attic Learning Community!



OUR NEED FOR A NEW HOME

The Attic Learning Community is a strong, vibrant community serving children 3 to 18 years of age. Since 1999, children have had the opportunity to experience this extraordinary education. For the past eleven years, we have been located at our current site near Little Bear Creek in the Seattle suburb of Woodinville, Washington.

The Attic has exceeded all expectations, and we are now poised at a critical point in our journey. We have doubled in size over the last decade and have outgrown our campus. We are unable to expand our current building size due to our proximity to Little Bear Creek and its wetland restrictions. This prevents us from continuing to be the thriving learning community that we envision. In order to provide a world-class education to eager learners, we need a new campus that will meet our needs for years to come.



"The Attic is a light. Every time we host visitors, I am reminded of that. At the Attic, we stay focused on our long-term goals for our kids, the ways that we hope they will turn out as adults, their character and wholeness, their individual passions and their potential. We are reimagining what is possible in education and focusing on what we most highly value for children and for the future. When I walk our new site, I imagine our campus filled with children and teachers, and inspiring educators from all over the world."

PAT ORRELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Imagine a campus that connects children to learning and empowers them to be their authentic selves. It offers space, natural light, room to breathe, room to think, room for solitude, room to be together. It is alive with the sounds of children engaged in learning and innovation. This campus serves as a gathering place where others can learn what is possible in education. It builds community both within and without.

The new campus will feature:

- spacious classrooms with room to welcome visitors
- seminar rooms for small discussion-based classes
- a library for reading, research, and study
- a commons area for meals, meetings, and classroom projects
- space to display class projects and student art
- a large field for children to run and play
- an amphitheater for outdoor plays and presentations
- a greenhouse where children can learn about gardening and botany
- a covered sports court for all-weather activities

We invite you to reimagine education with us. Now is the time for our community to step forward and support the Attic's future for generations to come. Please join us in making this dream a reality.



WHAT IS THE ATTIC LEARNING COMMUNITY?

When five families came together around a kitchen table in 1999 to reimagine education, they had no idea where their journey would take them. Their brainstorming inspired a community where children grow and learn in a safe environment with time to play, time to work, and time to discover their true selves and passions...

Fifteen years later, the Attic Learning Community sits in a converted house nestled in the trees of Woodinville and serves children and teens from the greater Seattle area. The Attic education is unique because it caters to the developmental needs of each child, allowing children to develop at their own rate. The multi-age structure allows for children to be in academic groups based on their development, rather than their age or traditional "grade level." The development of intrinsic motivation is supported by the Attic's purposeful exclusion of grades, rewards, and punishments from its teaching practices.

A constructivist approach to curriculum allows children to puzzle things out for themselves whenever possible, supporting the development of logic and critical thinking. These practices encourage a strong sense of self and a passion for learning. A visitor to the Attic might find young children developing logical thinking by working with a variety of math sets and doing what makes sense to them, middle schoolers exploring biology by making plans to acquire and breed rabbits, and high school students debating world religions after visiting diverse houses of worship.

This visionary learning community invites children and young adults, parents and teachers, interns and visitors, to explore, observe, and experience the power of self-directed, intrinsically motivated learning.

The Attic IS reimaging education!





A MODEL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our educational model works! The Attic Learning Community opens its doors to educators by hosting workshops and actively welcoming visitors to see for themselves the magic that happens in a school that embraces children's individuality, curiosity, and passion for learning.

Imagine a school:

- where children have freedom, time, and space to explore, discover, and grow at their own pace.
- where there are no rewards or punishments: no grades, standardized tests, "fast track" or "slow track", study halls, or detentions.
- where students discover the supremely motivating power of having freedom to be themselves and pursue authentic learning.
- where more and more visiting educators discover a transformed culture of learning in which students thrive because they are fully engaged in meaningful learning and community.
- where visitors can observe, ask questions, discuss, argue, and consider new approaches to some of the questions troubling current systems of education.

The Attic is a vibrant and successful learning community practicing research-based approaches to education, that seeks not only to educate children, but to inspire, renew, and encourage everyone who enters its doors to reimagine what's possible in education.

"How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment; we can start now, start slowly changing the world!"

ANNE FRANK



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

While the Attic Learning Community benefits from its association with the Woodinville area, it also serves as a valuable resource. Community service and outreach are incorporated naturally into the Attic through hosting parent and teacher workshops, a volunteer fair, and the Pacific Northwest Homeschool College Fair.

Child-driven community service projects include serving meals to the homeless at Tent City, visiting a local senior residential home, raising money for Heifer International and the Humane Society, food drives to benefit Hopelink, and more recently, our day of service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to benefit an Earthcorps Restoration Project.

Our new campus will ensure future opportunities for the Attic to broaden its impact on the local community and beyond.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

MAHATMA GANDHI



BEYOND THE ATTIC

Our graduates have achieved remarkable success in their educational journeys after leaving the Attic Learning Community.

Graduates of the Attic are confident, passionate, lifelong learners who have thrived at top-ranking universities across the country, started their own businesses, and challenged those around them to reimagine education.

All of our graduates have been accepted to the colleges and universities of their choice and in the last three years have been offered over \$1.6 million in merit-based scholarships.



"The Attic education isn't just about academics, it's about learning about yourself and what you enjoy doing most. The Attic community does a great job of fostering each individual's academic and personal education."

ATTIC GRADUATE

"The Attic taught me that everyone's path is different. If it is something that you love and enjoy, you have the power to get yourself there."

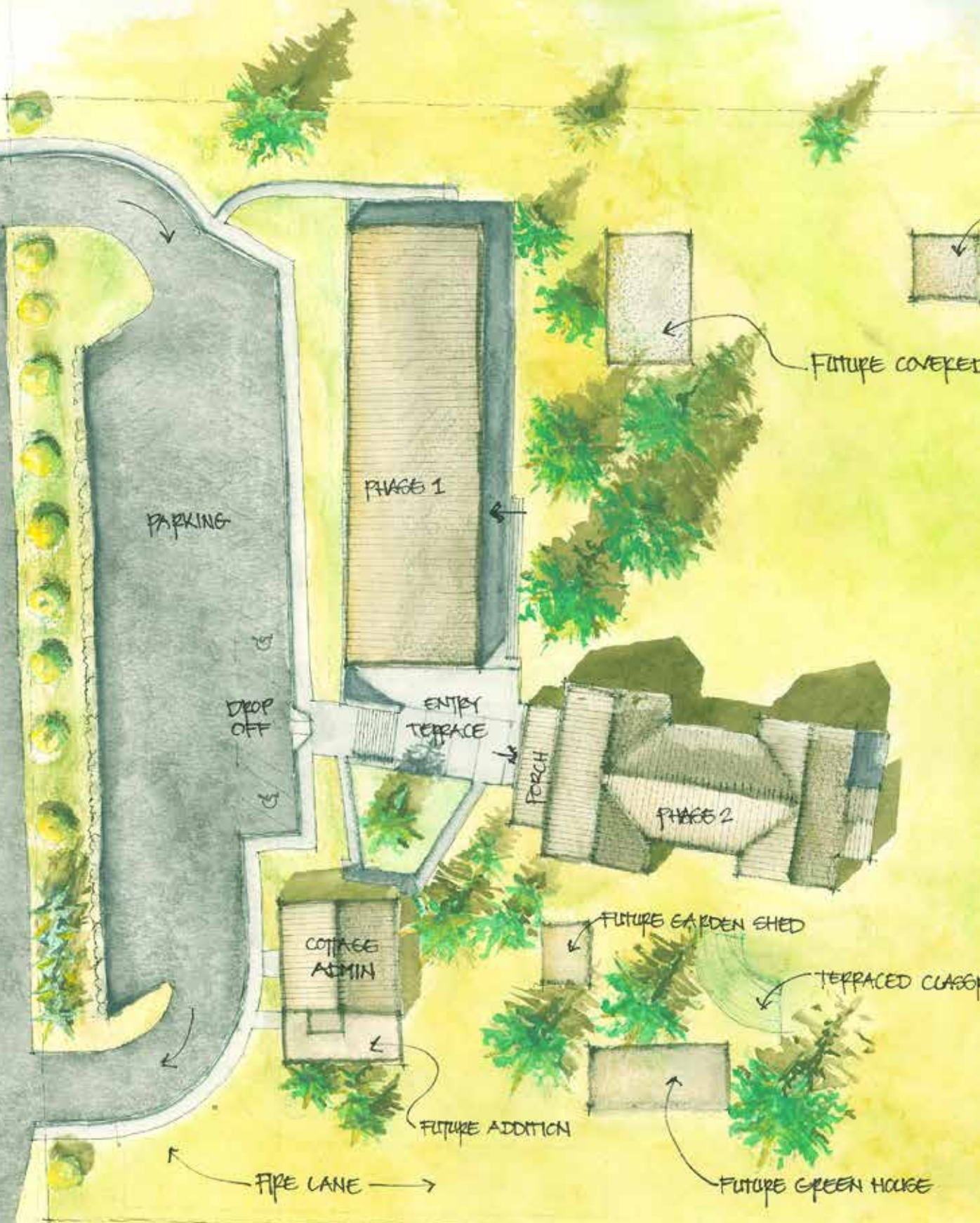
ATTIC GRADUATE



"One of the main concepts that sold me on the Attic was the set of qualities it cultivates in kids - children are taught the process of how to learn, rather than teaching outcomes. Students end up being curious, self-motivated, and capable of solving new problems creatively. This is the same list of qualities I hire for in the technology field and I'm painfully aware of how rare they are. The Attic is teaching things I had previously thought were innate. I am blown away by the learning environment the Attic creates."

ATTIC PARENT

51ST AVENUE

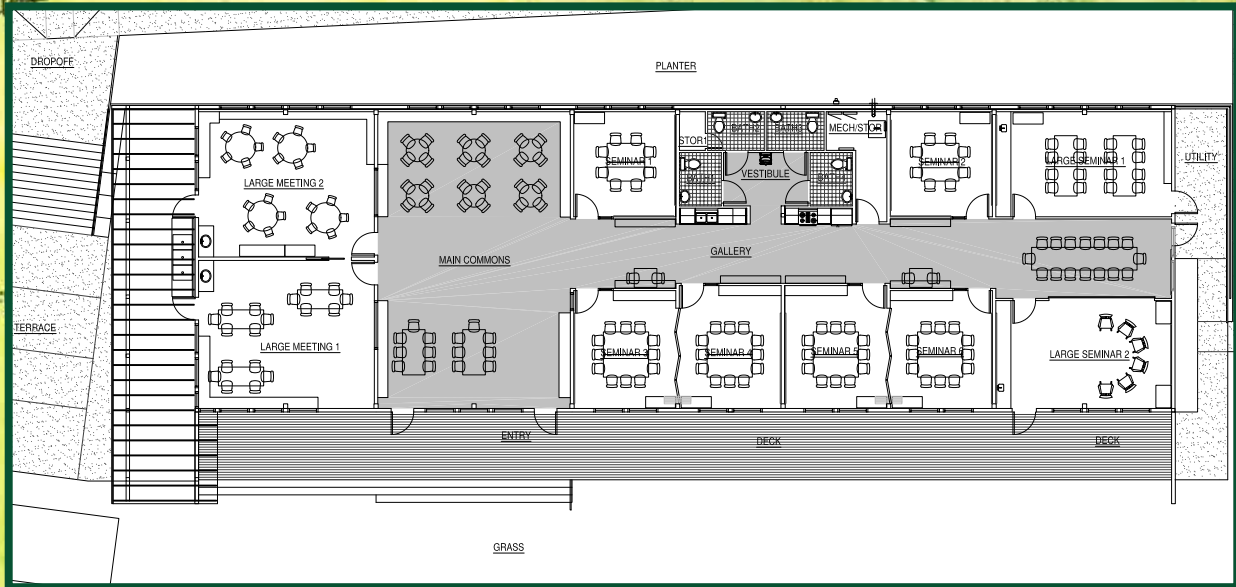


SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN

ACHIEVING OUR DREAM

A larger campus will allow the Attic Learning Community to own its future. We have the land, the passion, and the need. Now is the time to take the next step by building a space that will allow us room to meet the needs of children and serve as a model learning community for years to come.

We warmly invite you to join us on this journey!



SCHEMATIC FLOOR PLAN BUILDING ONE



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN BUILDING TWO

A Message From Our Architect:

As the architect, my mission is as simple as it is profound: to shape a space filled with natural light and fresh air that allows imaginations to soar and nurtures and supports learning during every moment of every day.

Encompassing design ideas from across the community, the new building is gracefully rooted in the landscape, embracing the sun and celebrating the passing of seasons.

Welcoming and encouraging, the spaces flow with the rhythm of the day providing a safe place to be curious, to germinate ideas, to ask bold questions and to celebrate creative answers – all vital elements of an Attic education. Open, organized and fluid with an internal logic that supports learning, the new school will be immeasurably comforting on a deep level and will provide abundant nourishment to every child who passes through its doors.

BRAGDON SHIELDS, CAMPUS ARCHITECT AND ATTIC PARENT

How to Give

The Attic Learning Community accepts gifts via check, credit card, cash, and securities to the Reimagining Education Capital Campaign. Gifts can include multi-year pledges and may be eligible for tax deduction.

To make a donation, contact Alison Letfus, Director of Development, at aletfus@the-attic.org.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Donors who make a gift of \$1,000 or more have the opportunity to be listed on a recognition brick that will be used in the landscaping of the new campus. Donors can also choose to honor or remember a loved one. Named giving opportunities are available for lead gifts.

EMPLOYER MATCH

Some employers will match the gifts provided by their employees to educational and philanthropic organizations. Please inquire to find out if your employer provides such support.

"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present."

ALBERT CAMUS





By giving to the capital campaign, you are not just contributing lumber or nails, concrete or drywall. It isn't about the windows or doors. It's about something bigger, something priceless. You are contributing to an education. You are contributing to all the children, parents, and educators that will walk through the doors of the Attic in the years to come. You are building a space that is reimagining education for the future. Your legacy of giving will be represented in a joyful and innovative space in which our children have the opportunity to become passionate learners and go on to change the world.

That is what you are giving.



IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES...

"Education is the kindling of a
flame, not the filling of a vessel."

SOCRATES



The Attic Learning Community

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