

Philadelphia Art Center PAC

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Define the Problem

The problem is to design an arts center at the intersection of Callowhill Street and North 18th Street in Philadelphia, PA.



Define the Problem

The arts center must:

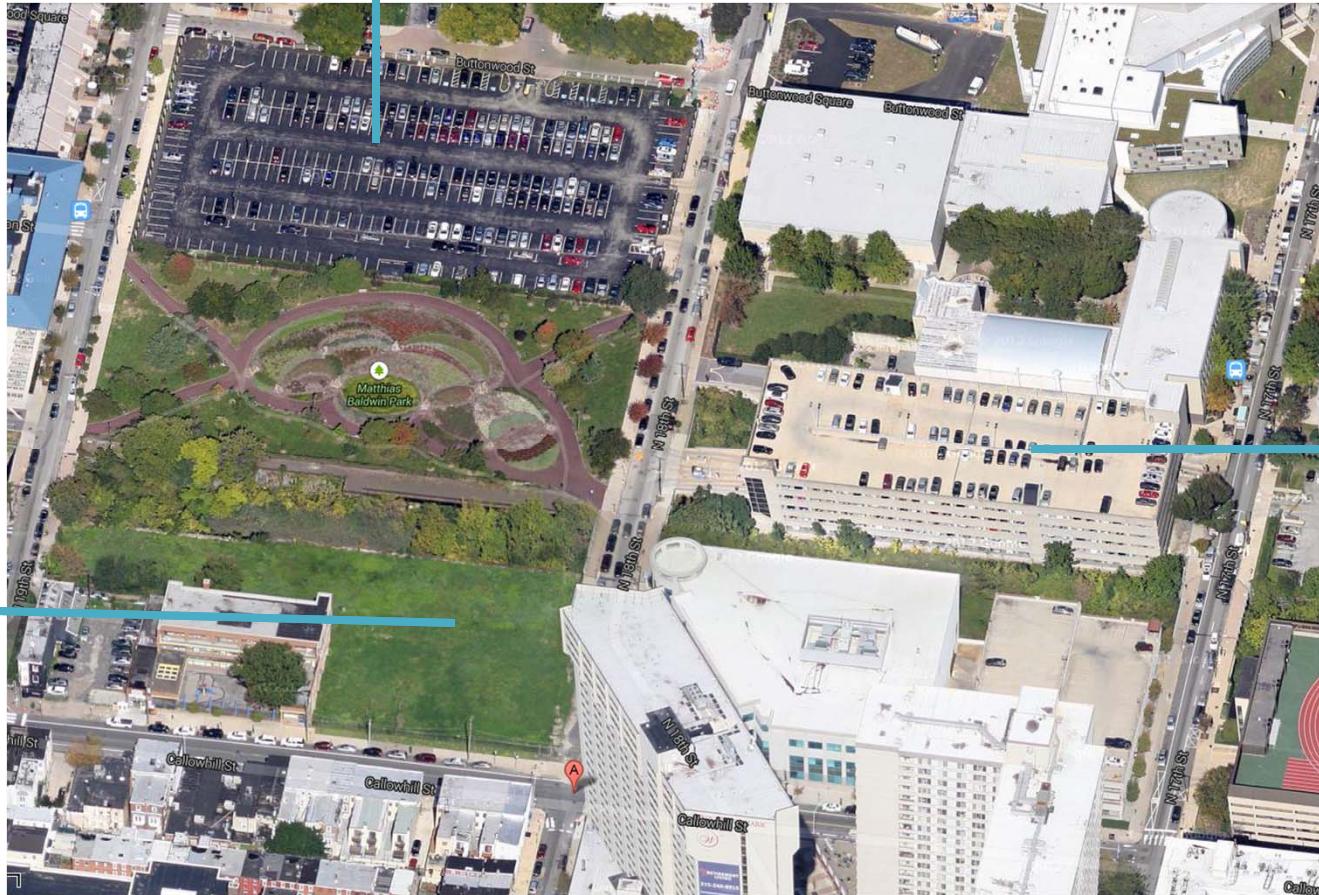
- Remain within property lines, but there is no additional setback
- The building must be between approximately 25,000 – 30,000 sq. ft.
- Must be both functional and aesthetically pleasing
- Should be constructed with a sustainable design
- Include an outdoor space for seasonal live music performances and/or arts & crafts festivals
- Have ample space indoors for each activity that will take place
- Include four handicapped parking spaces on the property
- Have an administration office with a reception counter, as well as public restrooms
- Provide storage, a mechanical room, and a janitor's closet in the building

Collect Information

- There is a parking garage, a parking lot, a community college, a law office, two apartment buildings, a children's hospital, three restaurants, a small art gallery, and a park within a few minutes of walking distance of the site.

Map (bird's eye: north)

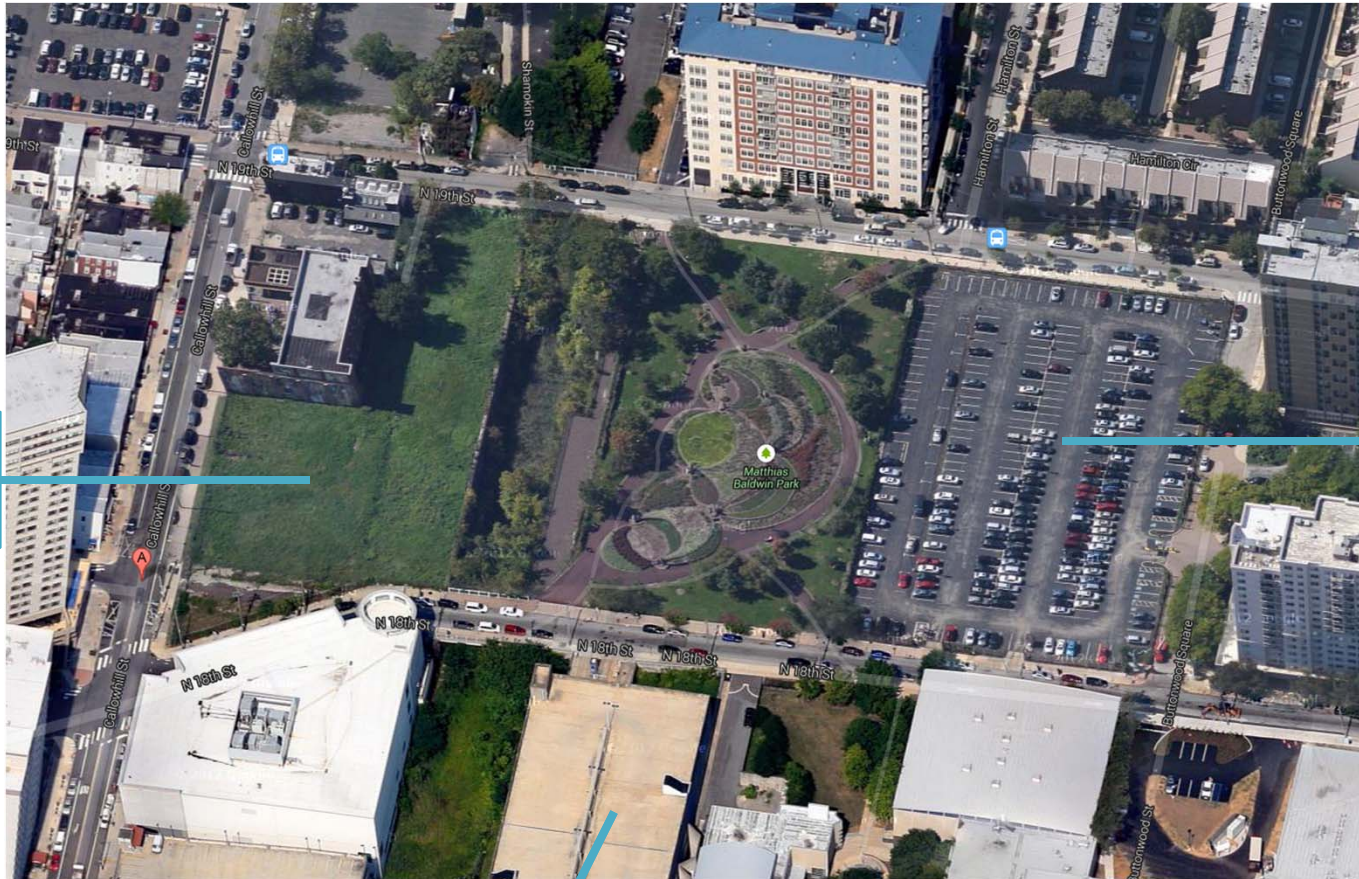
Parking Lot



Arts Center
Property

Parking
Garage

Map (bird's eye: east)



Arts Center
Property

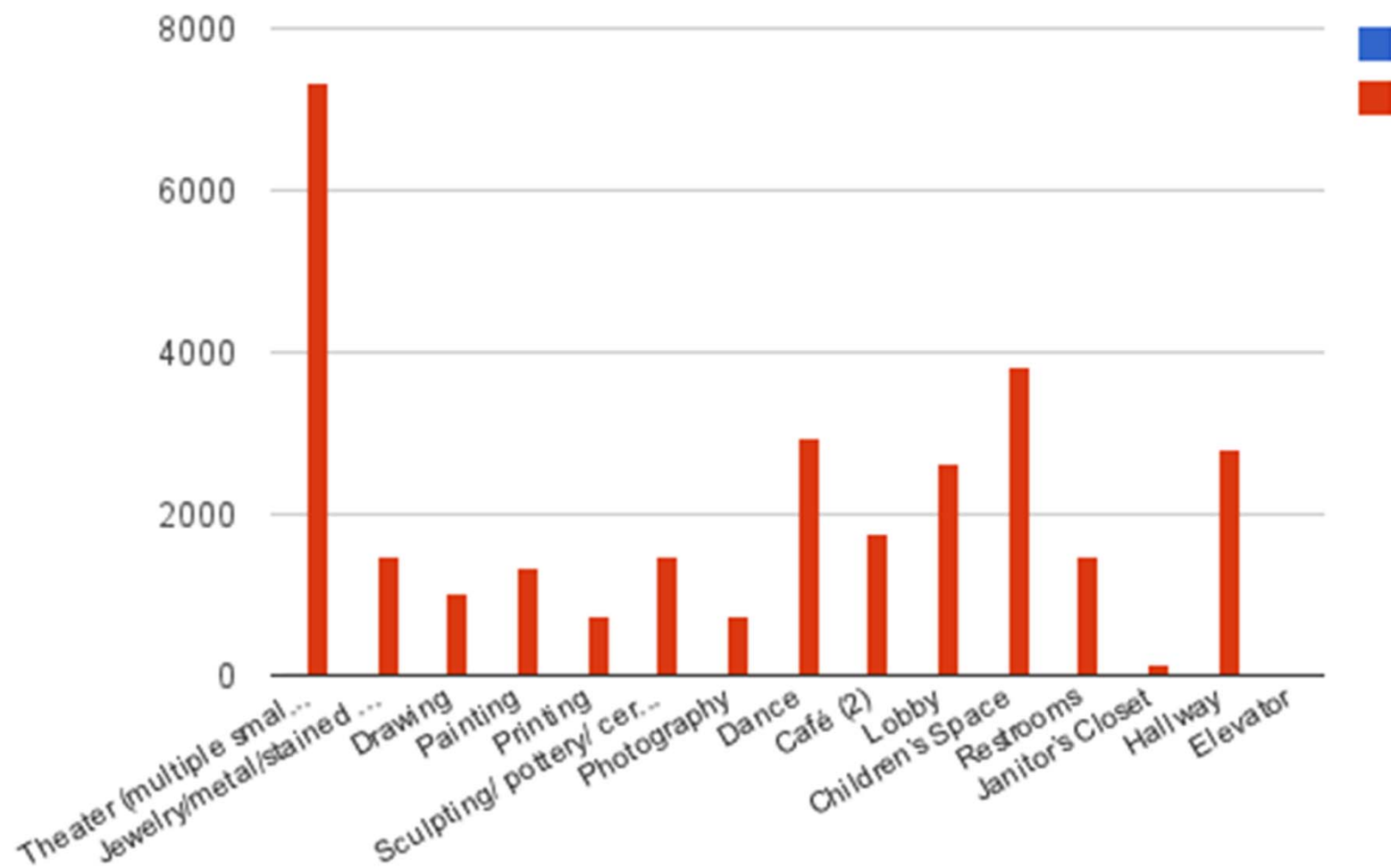
Parking Lot

Parking
Garage

Potential Activities

- Restaurant
- Theater
- Children's center
- Jewelry making / metal smithing/ stained glass
- Drawing
- Painting
- Printing
- Sculpting/ pottery/ ceramics
 - large for kilns and pottery wheels
- Photography
 - computers for photoshop
 - still life subjects
 - dark room
- Dance

Designated Areas within Arts Center



Brainstorming

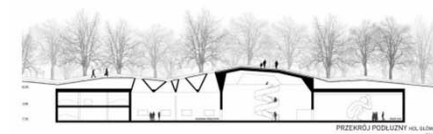
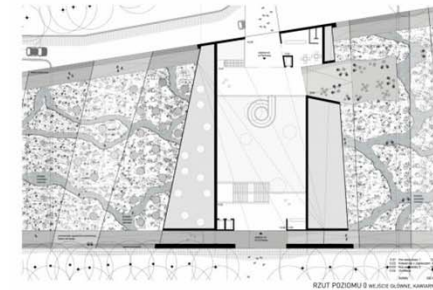
- Stain glass window
- Rooftop restaurant
- Cubes set into wall: display, light, & window
- Children's passageways b/t walls
- Conference room in admin office
- 2 restaurants:
 - One for people who want to cook something
- Amphitheater for stage performances
- Dividers to separate exhibitions in one larger space

Inspiration/Case Studies

Warsaw Museum

This museum provided our main inspiration for our theater and café. The entire building is subterranean, meaning that it is underground. Because the building itself is submerged, the roof is accessible as well. The design is unique, practical, and aesthetically pleasing. The rooftop and surrounding area have interactive gardens as well, which we also used as inspiration.

<http://www.archdaily.com/451536/mecanoo-wins-competition-to-design-subterranean-museum-in-warsaw/>



Inspiration/Case Studies

Business Club in the Allianz Arena

The ceiling of this restaurant was the primary focus in analyzing this project. We couldn't find what it was made of, but we decided that we could use recycled bottles in this design for our café. The wavy design of the counters and circular shape of the tables contribute to the sleek, rounded atmosphere of the room.

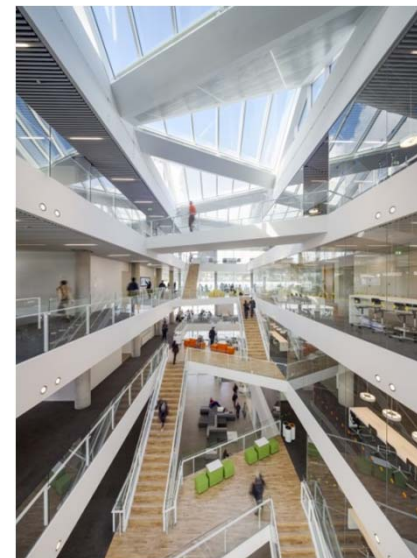
<http://www.archdaily.com/450768/business-club-cba-clemens-bachmann/>



VUC Syd

This building stood out for its lobby and stair case, specifically. The design was unique and very open, making the space seem larger than it already was. It also made the wings of the building very accessible without actually being a maze while still maintaining an impression similar to one, negating the confusion.

http://www.archdaily.com/450625/vuc-syd-aart-architects-zeni-architects/?ad_medium=widget&ad_name=featured_loop&ad_content=450625



Inspiration/Case Studies

Warsaw Museum

We also considered using a spiral staircase, inspired by this one. It is appealing to the eye and for some reason most people like spiral staircases better than regular ones. It also is not as intrusive as a straight staircase, as it takes up less space than the latter.

<http://www.archdaily.com/451536/mecanoo-wins-competition-to-design-subterranean-museum-in-warsaw/>



Critiques

- Sun path
- Handicap parking access
- Materials