EXISTING CONTEXT
Fort Lincoln Park is an approximately 29 acre Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) run public park located between Fort Lincoln Dr NE and Commodore Joshua Barney Dr NE in Washington DC. This submission is limited to the design of a new community center building and associated landscape improvements on approximately 4.7 acres within the northern portion of Fort Lincoln Park. Improvements to the overall park are submitted under separate cover. Please see the Fort Lincoln Park submission for additional background information relevant to the community center project. The proposed Fort Lincoln Community Center site is the former location of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, which was constructed in 1975 and demolished in the spring of 2020. To the south, the site abuts the edge of the modernist 1980 M. Paul Friedberg-designed park landscape. A forested, impassable slope leads down to Fort Lincoln Drive at the north. Visual and pedestrian connections to the surrounding residential neighborhoods exist via mildly sloping grades to the east and west. Vehicular access to the site is through an existing curb cut on Commodore Joshua Barney Dr.

DESIGN SUMMARY
This project includes construction of a new, 35,000 square foot Community, Recreation, and Early Childhood Education Center and associated landscape improvements. The program will include community and fitness-oriented spaces for all age-groups, including a demonstration kitchen, craft room, wellness center, exercise rooms, technology lounge, and an elevated running/walking track. The Early Childhood Education (E.C.E.) center will provide daycare services for approximately 60 infants and toddlers.

The foundation of the existing Friedberg landscape design is “Landscape as Stage,” with visitors traversing a complex arrangement of elevations and spaces while acting as both participants and observers. The design of the new building is informed by and integrated into the unique landscape architecture and topography of the Friedberg park through level-changes, overlooks, embedded structures, and discovered views. The building is connected to the modernist landscape via an angled, embedded bar in the hillside, which supports community and fitness program spaces. The existing park amphitheater expands onto the accessible roof. The corners of the hillside bar roof are lifted to create a landscaped overlook and new seating to address the amphitheater. Two additional wings extend out from the hillside bar to house the gymnasium and early childhood education spaces. These architectural extensions create programmed landscape spaces between and opportunities for inside-outside connections. Inspired by the stone-clad embankments of the original park, the bar elements are clad in masonry to emphasize their connection to the landscape. An angled roof form ties the elements together and highlights the central, double-sided, entry lobby. The floating roof is clad in a wood-like material to evoke the latticed pavilion structures in the Friedberg park.

As visitors will arrive from all sides, the building is designed with dual landscaped entrance plazas. Visitors arriving by car or from the park to the south will enter through a landscaped forecourt at the east. A separate entrance for the Early Childhood Education Center is located here, with convenient access to parking and drop-off and a secure playground for the E.C.E. is provided north of the building. Surrounding the Community Center, a new network of paths will provide safe, well-lit passage through the site. Safety across the site was a concern expressed during the in-depth community engagement phase early in the project. At the northern tree line, a new fitness trail will be installed with a fitness agility station nestled in the forest. Bioswale locations for stormwater management will be provided in several areas across the site.

PROJECT SCHEDULE & BUDGET
Construction complete, Fall 2022.
16.5M Project Budget