



Welcome to the Northampton Community
Resilience Hub

A brief history...

2016

Organizers + Local Stakeholders Advocate

2018

City funds Panhandling Study + Housing Studies

2020

City facilitates Planning Study for Hub / Partners with CAPV

2021

CAPV creates Hub Team to Coordinate with Partners

2023

City closes sale of 298 Main Street



The Hub has three parts:

1

Coordinated Access

2

Climate Resilience

3

Community + Equity



1

Coordinated Access

A space that makes it easier to get access to many services and resources in one place

The HUB will work to reduce the impacts of poverty and homelessness by making it easier to access many resources and services in one place.

- OUR LOCAL POPULATION:
 - 1% unsheltered
 - 15% below poverty line
 - 40% housing-cost burdened
- DAYTIME COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
 - meals, clothing, showers, laundry, wifi, bathrooms, charging, medical, etc.
- COALITION of local providers and nonprofits
 - long-term support including housing, healthcare, social security, legal aid, etc.



2

Climate Resilience

A central location for all residents to access resources and support during an emergency or crisis

The Hub will support all residents in times of crisis and emergency, and will increase our resilience as a whole community, now and in the near future.

- **RAPID RESPONSE SPACE:**
 - Resource distribution site during crisis
 - Central location for getting food, water, clothing, power, warmth, etc.
- **MEETING PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS:**
 - Hosting vaccine clinics, providing more emergency shelter capacity, etc.
- **FUTURE PREPAREDNESS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE:**
 - Building local infrastructure for meeting the needs we'll face in the coming years



3

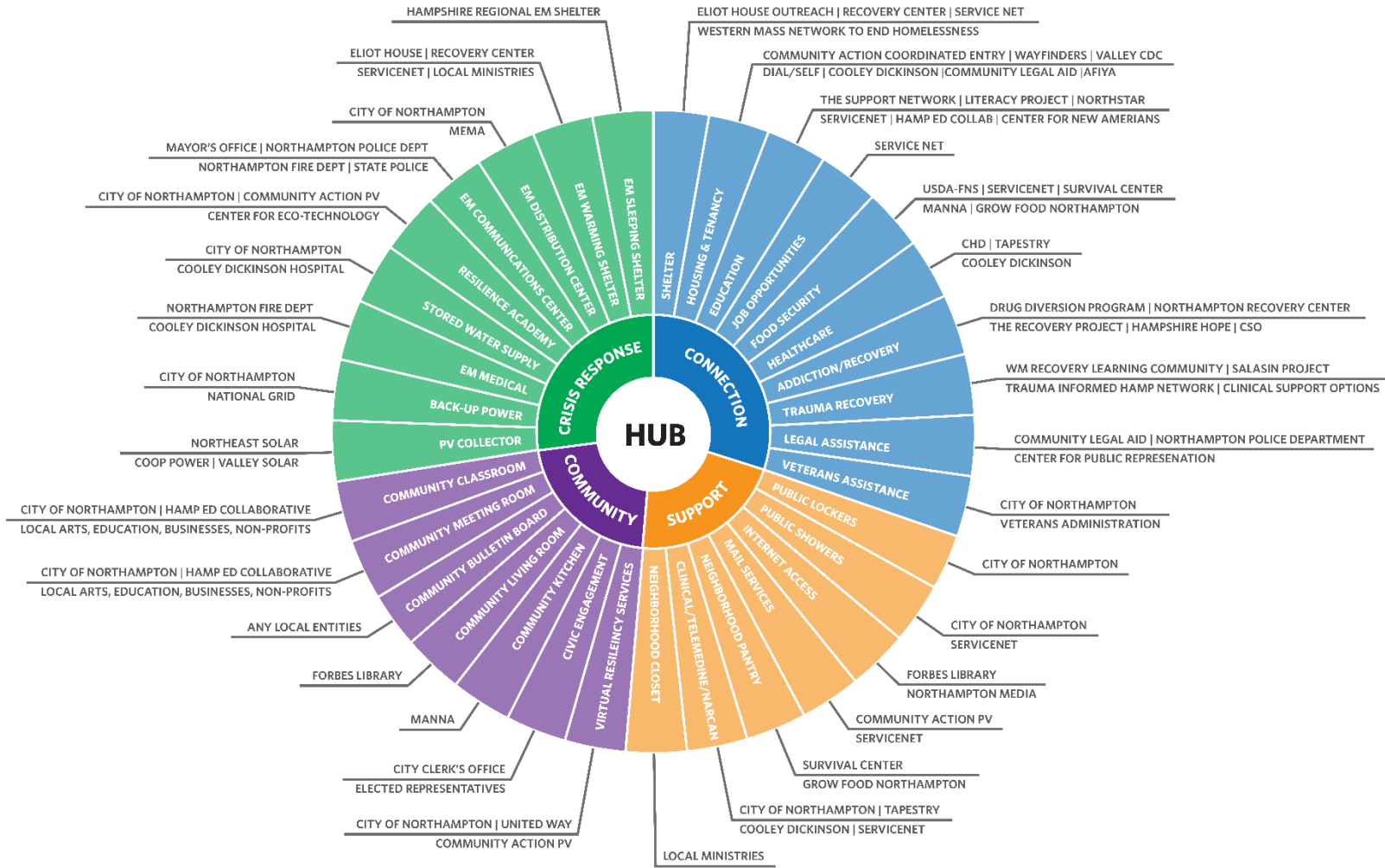
Community & Equity

A place for everyone to gather, connect, build relationships, and strengthen social equity

The Hub will be a new community center for everyone and a space where Northampton can support greater equity and connections.

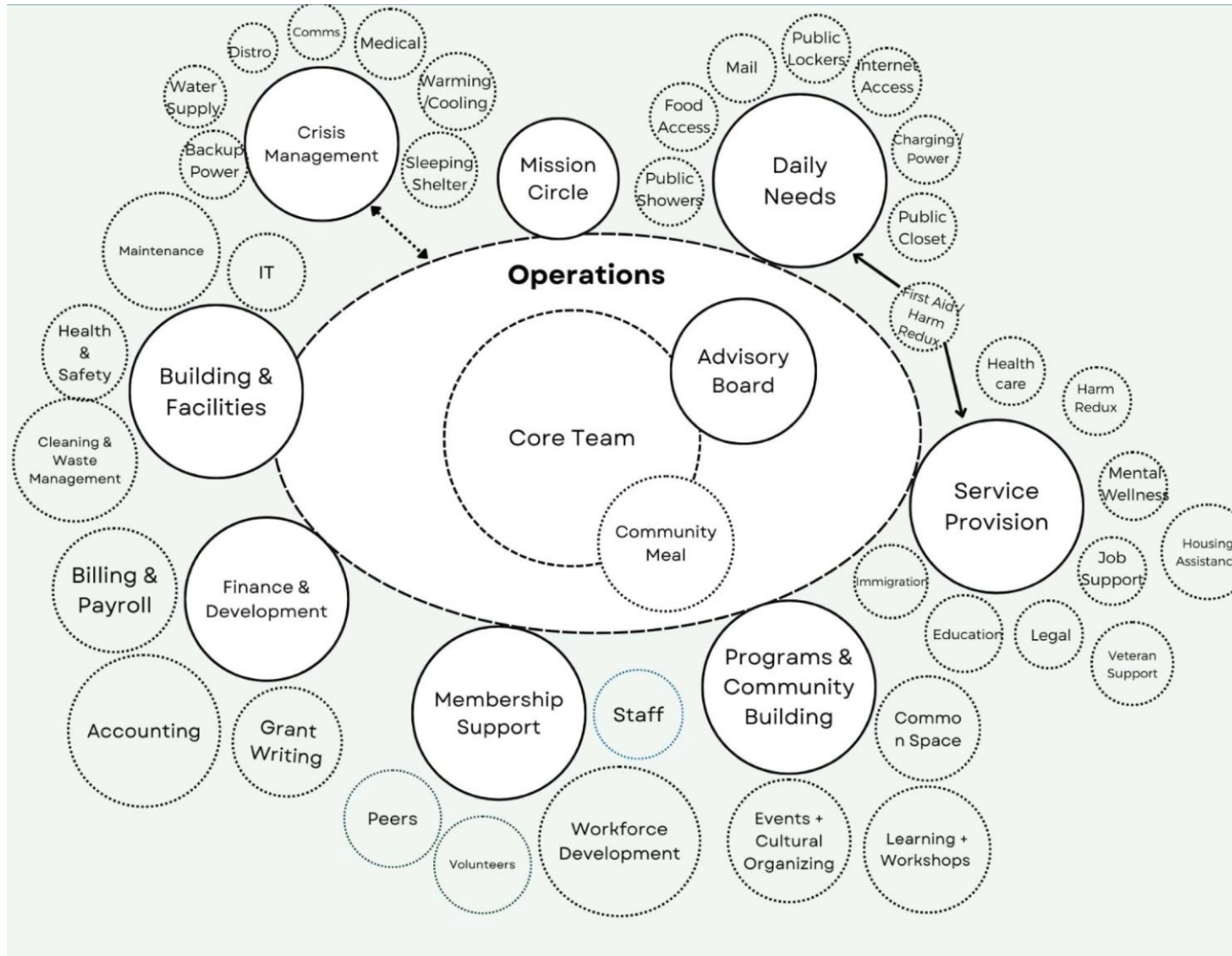
- DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER:
 - Programs, events, and gatherings
 - Connections and relationships
 - Meals and resources always available
- INCREASING EQUITY AND CONNECTION:
 - Division of Community Care Responders based out of the Hub
 - Making it easier to connect people in need with the services available locally
- BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER:
 - Civic infrastructure for making change
 - Major investment in our downtown





Coalition Approach





Coalition Approach



Jones Whitsett Architects

- BERKSHIRE DESIGN GROUP: Civil/Landscape
- LN CONSULTING: Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Fire Protection
- STRUCTURES NORTH CONSULTING: Structural Engineering
- KEITER BUILDERS: Cost Estimating



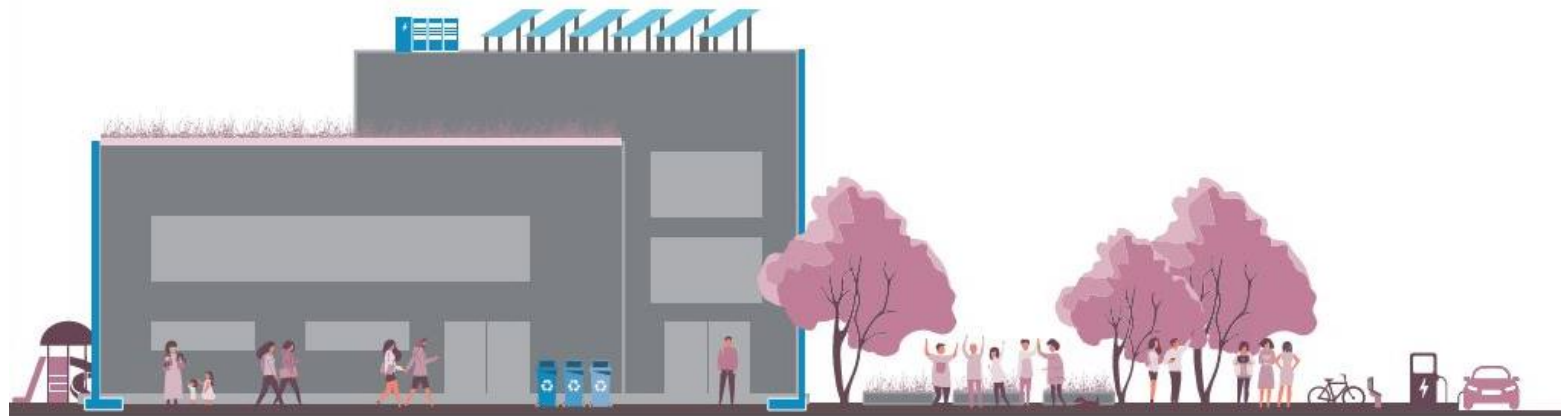
"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them"






Albert Einstein



RESILIENCE HUBS use a physical space, *a building, and its surrounding infrastructure*, as an opportunity to efficiently improve emergency management, reduce climate pollution and enhance community resilience.

<https://www.usdn.org/resilience-hubs.html>

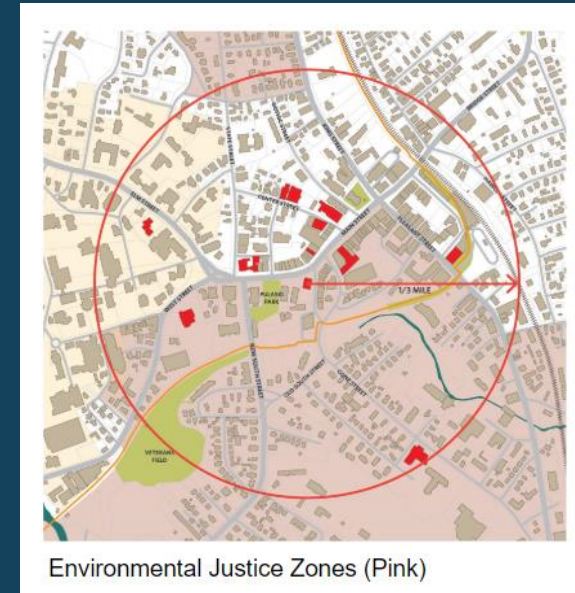


- **Resilient Programing and Services**
Offering additional services and programs that build relationships, promote community preparedness, and improve residents' health and well-being.
- **Resilient Structure**
Strengthening the resilience of the facility to ensure that it meets operational goals in all conditions.
- **Resilient Power**
Ensuring reliable backup power to the facility during a hazard while also improving the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of operations in all three operating modes.
- **Resilient Communications**
Ensuring the ability to communicate within and outside the service area during disruptions and throughout recovery.
- **Resilient Operations**
Ensuring personnel and processes are in place to operate the facility in all conditions.

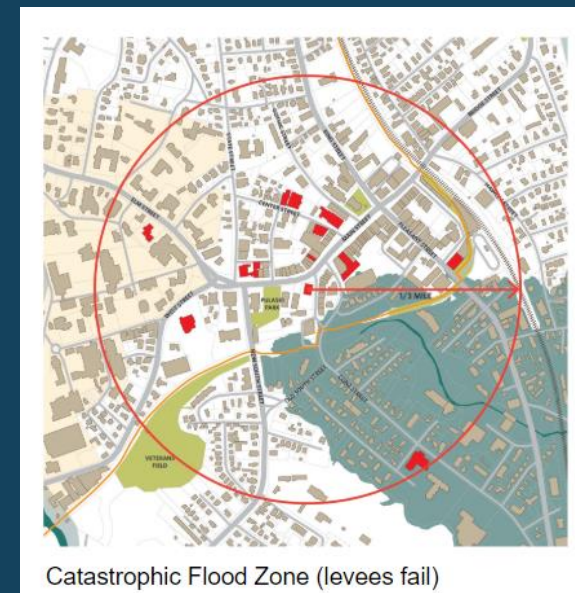
What is a Resilience Hub?



2020 Planning Study determined criteria for size, location and characteristics of potential Hub Building.



Environmental Justice Zones (Pink)



Catastrophic Flood Zone (levees fail)

Why 298 Main Street?

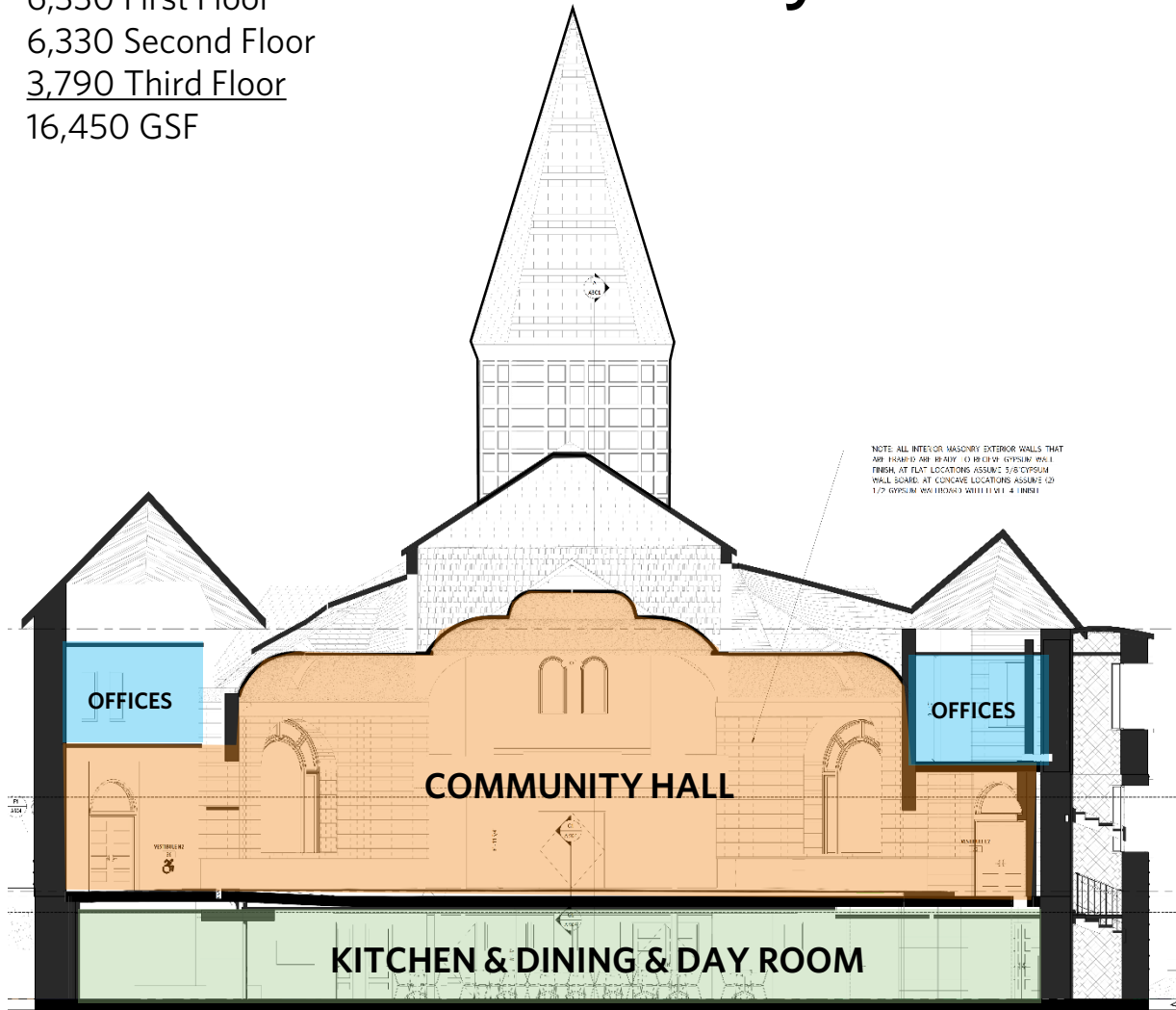
INITIAL SEARCH CRITERIA PLUSSES

- ✓ Within ½ mile of downtown
- ✓ Does not displace commercial use
- ✓ Low risk of flooding
- ✓ Low energy costs/operating costs
- ✓ Includes accessible exterior space
- ✓ Low maintenance costs
- ✓ Highly visible to the community
- ✓ Good daylighting
- ✓ ADA parking spaces
- ✓ No need for stormwater infrastructure
- ✓ Does not adversely effect neighbors
- ✓ Does nor require re-zoning
- ✓ Saves/re-uses a Historically Significant Building
- ✓ Meets additional City space needs
- ✓ Allows for a community kitchen space to support Manna
- ✓ Provides large, civic flex space
- ✓ Proximate to Forbes Library, allowing shared infrastructure
- ✓ Has been substantially improved



Why 298 Main Street?

6,330 First Floor
6,330 Second Floor
3,790 Third Floor
16,450 GSF



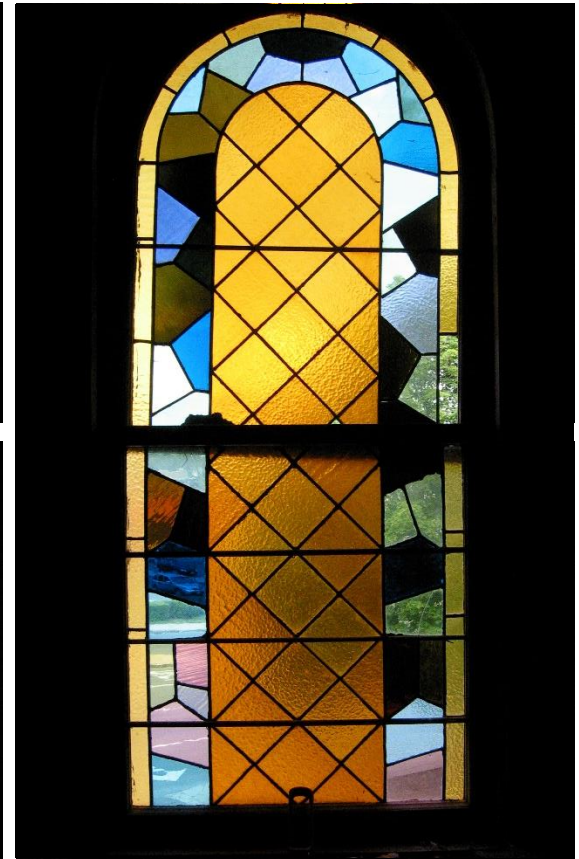
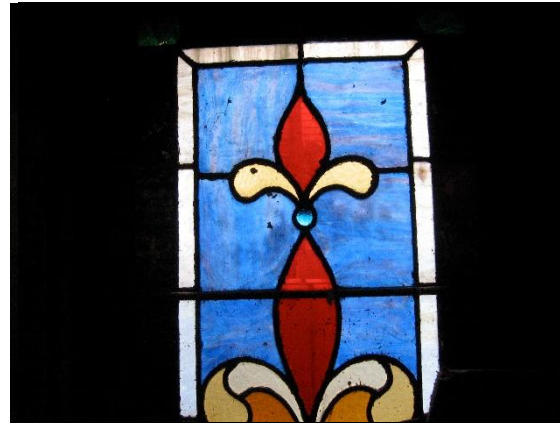
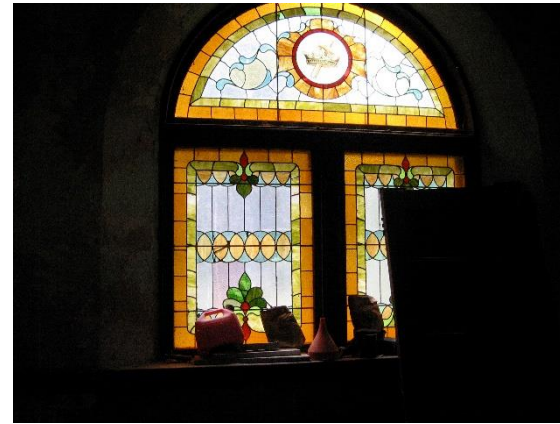
Section centered on Bell Tower Section

- Structurally upgraded to current code
- Elevator shaft installed/Accessible
- Significantly insulated
- Plumbing infrastructure added
- Mechanical infrastructure added
- Commercial kitchen roughed-in
- Walls framed for all major spaces
- Investments made to siding & roofing
- Vacant and difficult to repurpose for other tenants





Restored ceiling with installed stain glass.



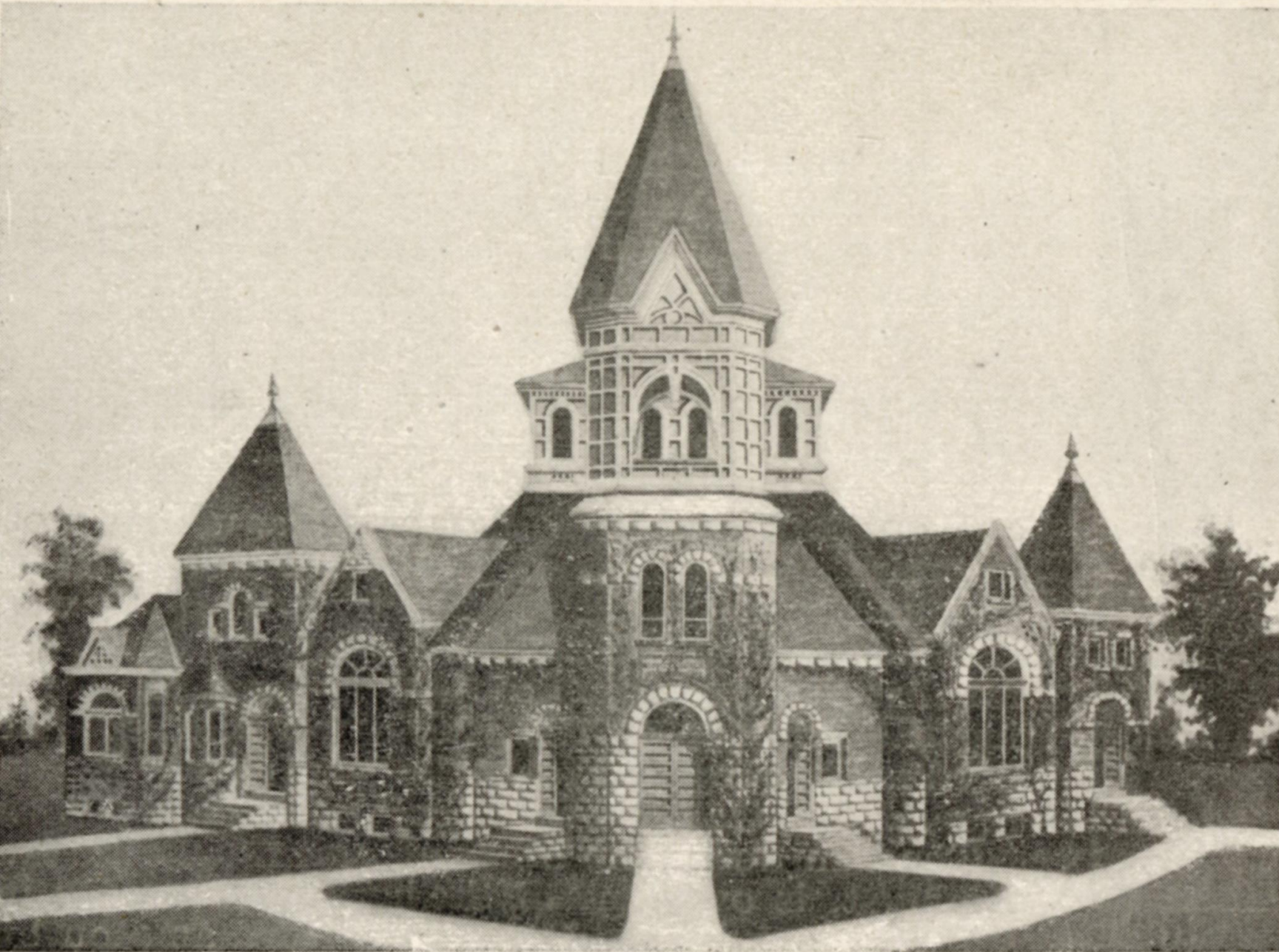
Timeline: Former First Baptist Church

- 1653 – Northampton Township Charter Issued
- 1790-1830 *Second Great Awakening*
- 1822 – Benjamin Willard starts preaching in Northampton
- 1826 – Organization of first congregation
- 1829 – First church building opens (pictured)
- 1830s – building used by Edwards church during
- 1834 – Temperance resolution
- 1843 – Congregational declaration opposing slavery
- 1863 – Fire at original church building
- 1902 – A new church is proposed
- 1904 – MH Hubbard church opens
- 1988 – First Baptist Church merges with First Church to become First Churches
- 1993 Building purchased by Eric Suher
- 2023 Building purchased by City of Northampton



Northampton ca. 1900





4/4/2024

THE PROPOSED NEW BAPTIST CHURCH

HOME NEWS.

ANOTHER OPEN LETTER TO BAPTISTS AND ALL OTHERS.

Editors Gazette:—I have read the open letter of Gerald Stanley Lee, and the succeeding letters in reply, and have been deeply pained to see that Mr. Evans, instead of confining himself to the answering of arguments, lowered himself to make an unwarranted personal attack on Mr. Lee. To anyone with a particle of art feeling, the high purpose of Mr. Lee is unmistakable. I am not personally acquainted with Gerald Stanley Lee, but he is a gentleman for whose character and bearing I have always felt the deepest respect and admiration. It seems to me that nothing but the most sincere public spirit would have induced a man like Mr. Lee to subject himself to the misinterpretation of the Baptist brethren.

It is quite evident that a glass dome and a stone front on a twenty-thousand-dollar brick building do appeal to the present aesthetic sensibilities of the Baptist people, and that, according to their present standards, such a display does



4/4/2024



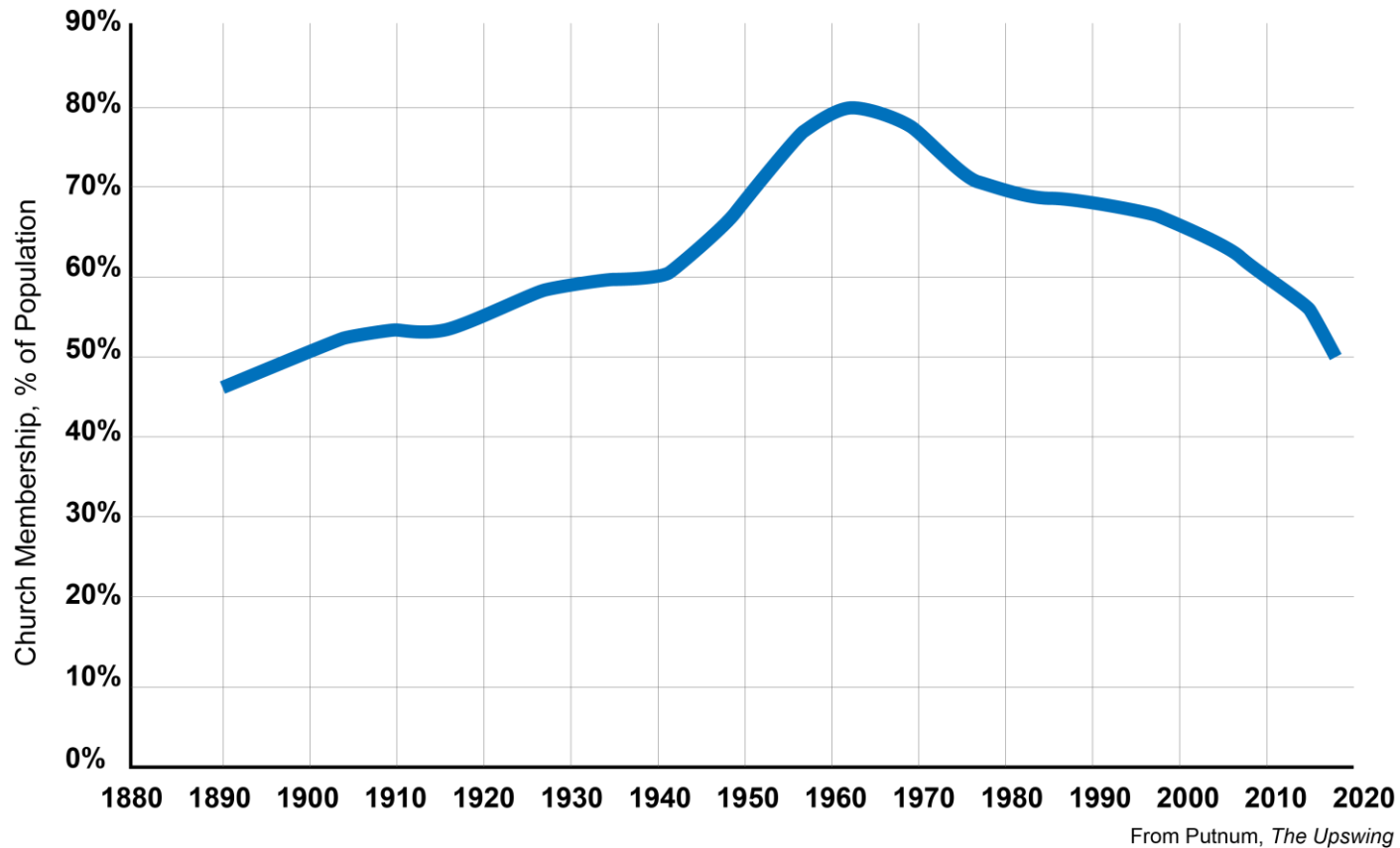
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Church in the Community



Demographic Shifts – Losses & Opportunities

National Church Membership



By 2030 there will be as many as 100,000 church buildings sold or repurposed.

What might our Hub look like on the inside?





Skipton Town Hall, Craven District, North Yorkshire, UK
Concert Hall, Museum Gallery, Tow Hall, and Tourist Center (Public)



Town Hall Seattle, Seattle, WA
Adaptive re-use of former Christian Science Church built in 1916. Conversion created multi-venue performance space and lecture hall (Non-profit) Building Work (Designer)





Church & State, Salt Lake City, UT
Re-use of former church into co-work space, community market space and event venue (For Profit)





Various Soup Kitchens- Intentionally Designed

Maximizing seating in efficient community dining space while instilling a sense of dignity, homeyness, community and trauma informed design.

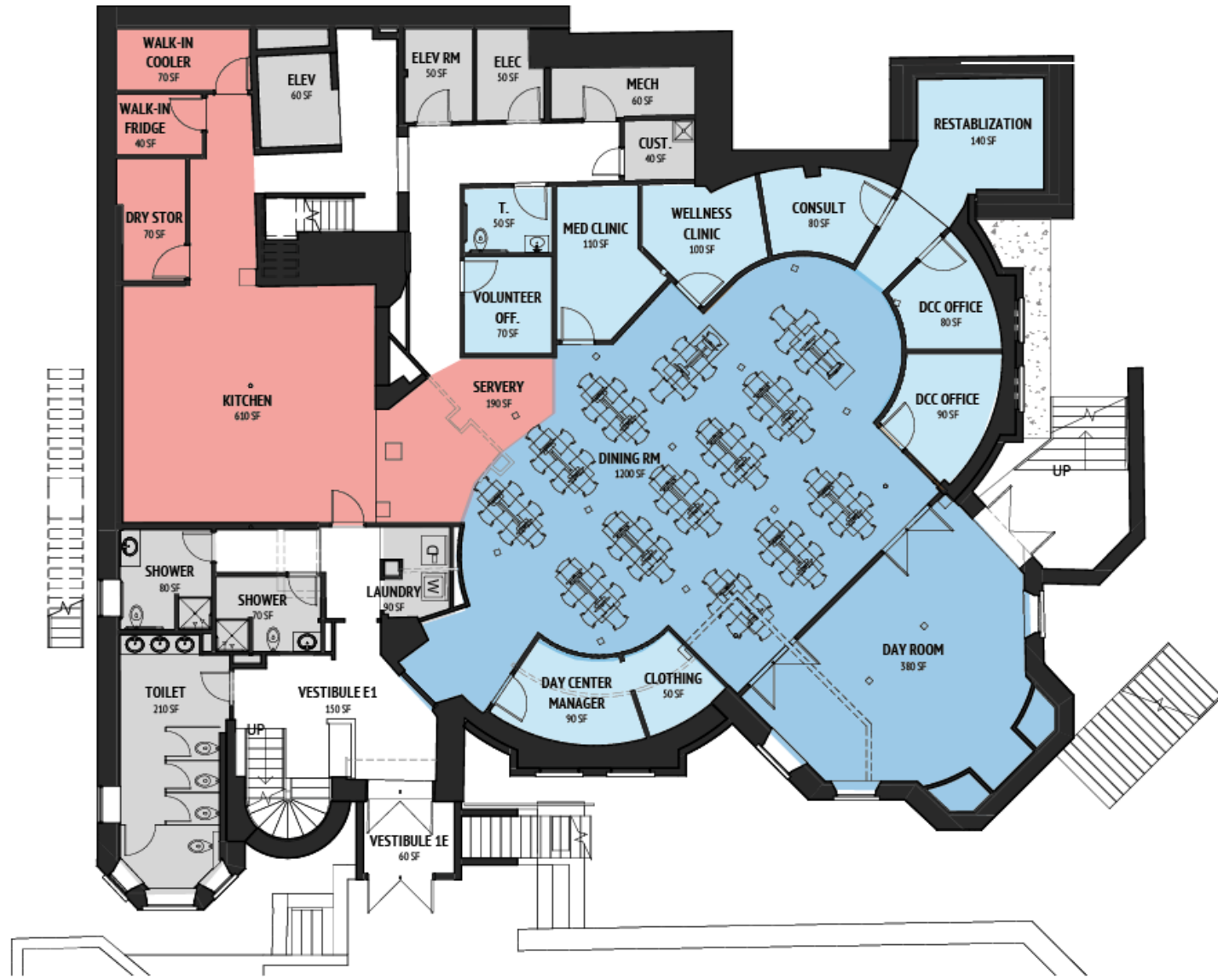
[Narrow rectangles are efficient and can be combined to create more communal meals. Good overhead lighting is critical but need not be institutional. Floor surface must be easily cleanable. Color can add warmth and identity. Seating options provide for individual choice and elevate the experience. Seating should be comfortable to a large range of body types, but also need to stack easily and be cleanable to save on staff time. Not clear from images: space needs exceptional ventilation and thermal comfort.]

A look inside 298 Main Street...

[360 Views of 298 Main Street](#)

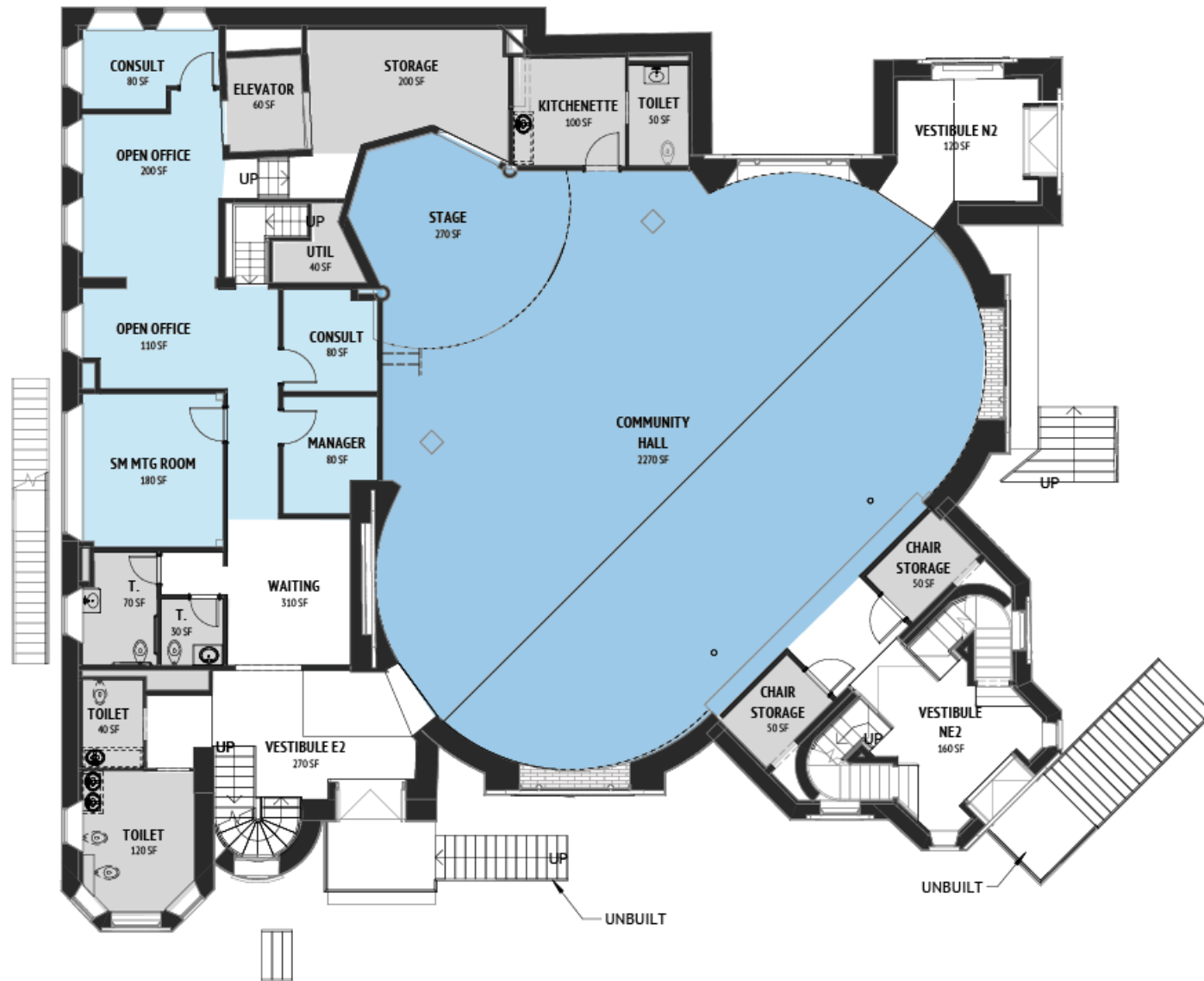


6,330 gsf
First Floor



- Community Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Day Center
- Consult Rooms
- Toilet Rooms
- Laundry



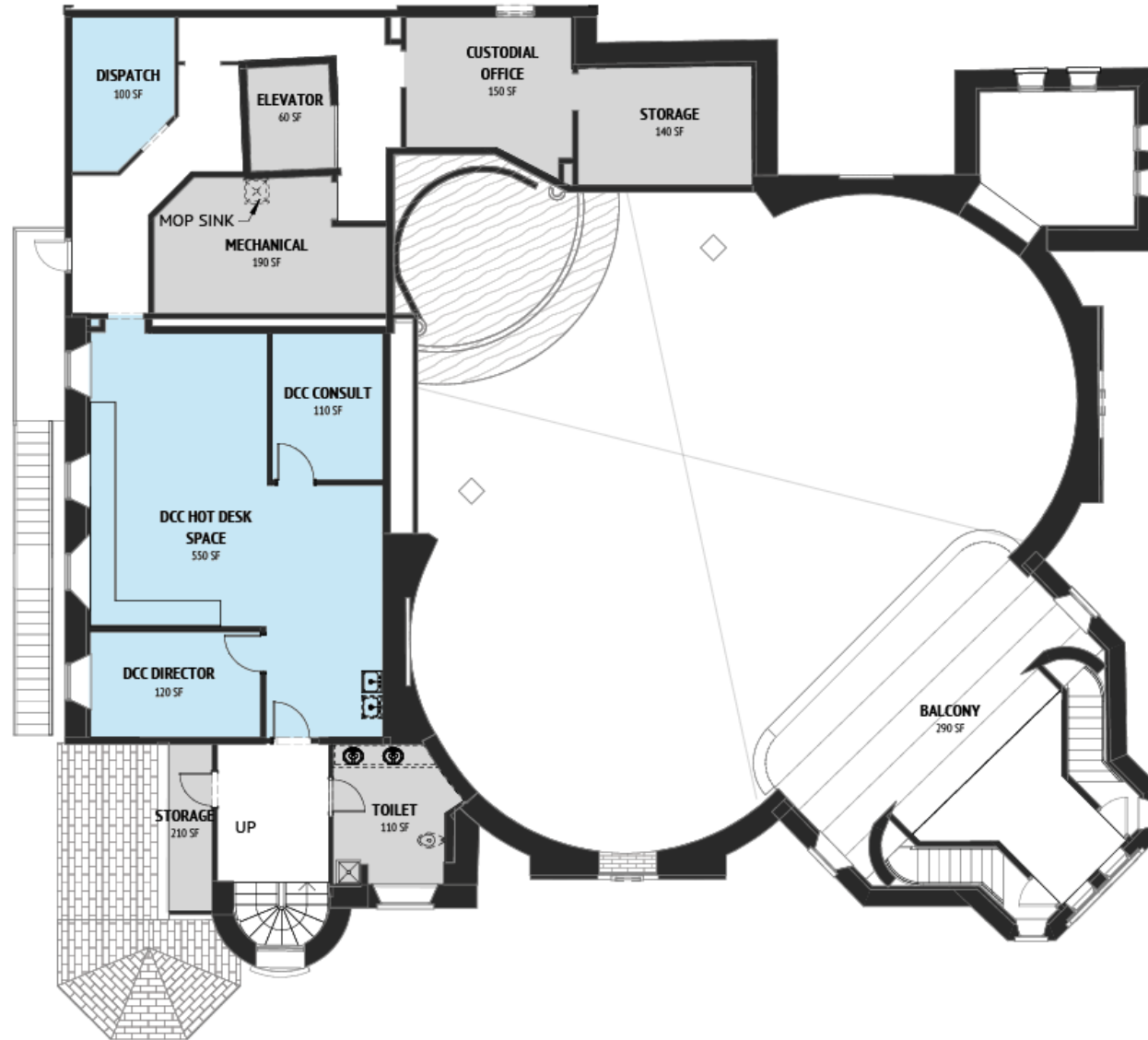


- Community Hall
- Flex spaces/offices
- More toilet rooms
- Connection to plaza

6,330 gsf

Second Floor



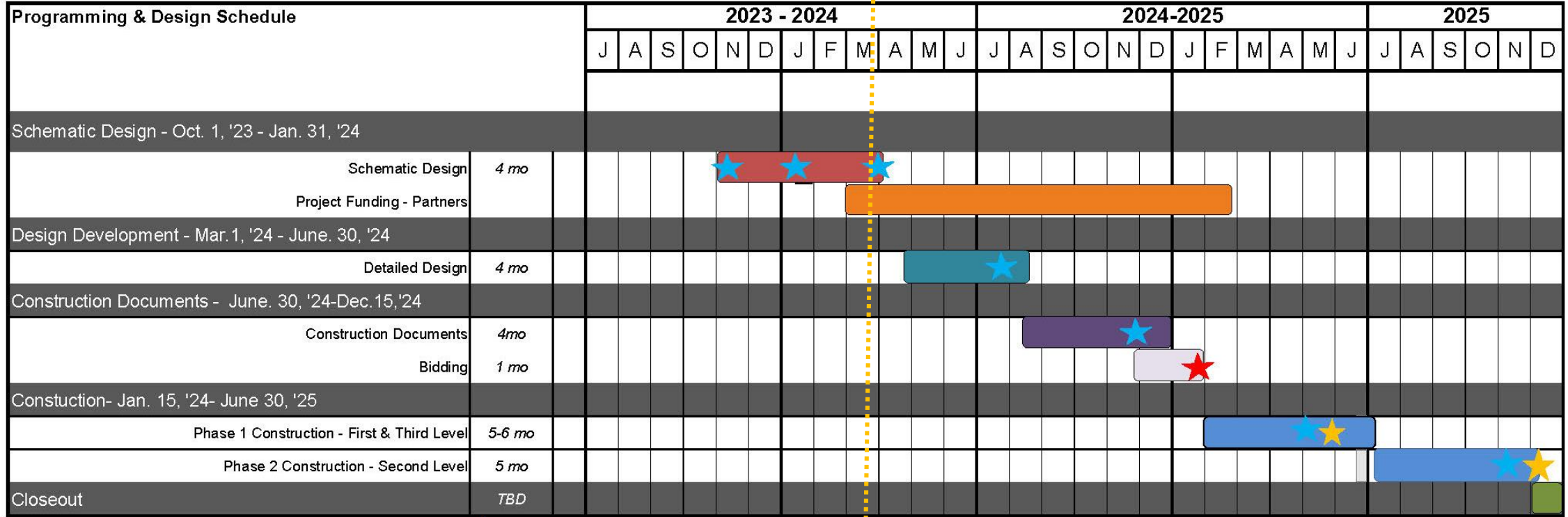


- Additional office space (DCC)
- Additional storage space
- Balcony overlooking Community Hall

3,790 gsf
Third Floor



Project Schedule



- Meetings with City/Stakeholders
- City Contracting with General Contractor
- Expected Certificate of Occupancy



Upcoming Discussions

May 1, 2024 , 6pm : "Resilience & Relationships: Strengthening Downtown Together"

Focusing on how the Hub will enhance downtown resilience, public health, and the interconnected role of the community in this endeavor.

June 5, 2024, 6pm : "Connections & Collaborations: Envisioning Comprehensive Care"

Discussing the integration of services and the role of partnerships in shaping a Hub that's more than the sum of its parts, focusing on holistic community support.



Questions + Answers



1. What are downtown Northampton's strengths?
2. What can Northampton do to become more climate resilient?
3. What activities and qualities would get you to patronize the Hub?



Thank you!



To follow the Hub design process, visit
www.northamptoncommunityresiliencehub.org



