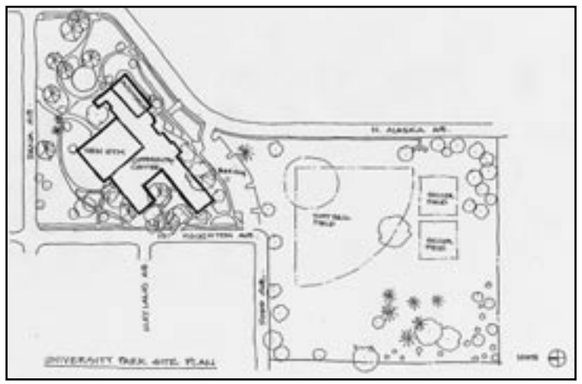


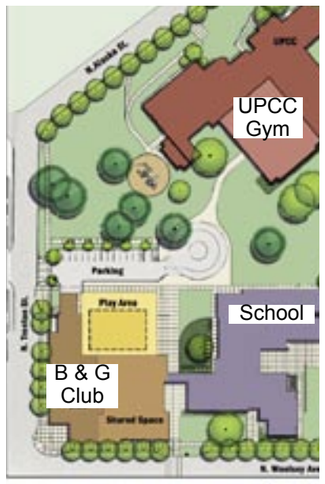
What are the plans for the park?

In early 2003, a series of community meetings occurred to establish the vision for McCoy Park, the new park associated with New Columbia, and to determine its relationship with nearby University Park. The consensus was that McCoy Park should provide uses more appropriate for a residential neighborhood and University Park should continue to provide the larger, recreational sports fields.

These meetings established specific, long-range goals for University Park:

- Continue to have a ballfield with night-lighting
- Provide a variety of fitness opportunities
- Provide a tie-in with community center programming
- Explore the idea of a group picnic area
- Provide active areas for teens, such as rock climbing, basketball, or skateboarding.

No upgrades or changes to the park itself are included in the current community center expansion project. The design minimizes tree impacts, requiring removal of four trees - fewer than previously anticipated.



Portland Parks & Recreation and Portland Public Schools share a goal to provide a safe, traffic-free connection between the new school and the community center. To accomplish this, they have requested that N. Dana Street be closed to through traffic.

Construction Schedule

The Community Center will be open during construction.

Construction Begins:
May 2006

Construction Complete:
Early Summer 2007

Photos of the new spaces and construction updates will be posted on the PP&R web site:

www.PortlandParks.org
(click on "Services" then select "Current Construction Projects")

Renovation Numbers

- This phase adds about 12,000 square feet of new construction and renovates an additional 20,000 square feet.
- Previous phases renovated about 10,000 square feet - and included extensive utility upgrades.
- A total of $2.5 million was invested in previous phases of the UPCC Renovation. This included a $500,000 UPARR Grant and City General Fund Dollars.
- This current phase invests an additional $5.9 million, including over $5 million from the 2002 Parks Levy, a second $525,000 UPARR Grant, and $225,000 from the City General Fund.

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

May 2006

University Park & Community Center

A newsletter update about renovation of the Community Center including updated floorplan!

The Final Phase Begins

In early May 2006, construction of UPCC's new Active Recreation Wing gets underway. Building on major renovations completed in 2003, this $5.9 million project will transform the remainder of the building and add another 12,000 square feet in the form of a two-court gymnasium. The result? A new, full-service community center with attractive, functional spaces where young and old alike can gather, learn, and play.

"The **2002 Parks Levy** made it possible for us to finish what we started at UPCC," says City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. "But perhaps even more important at this critical moment in North Portland's history, the levy has helped make the Community Campus a reality."

Making a good thing even better

As they say so often, the "whole is bigger than the sum of its parts." That is the intention behind creation of a Community Campus, where the new elementary school and Boys & Girls Club are co-located with the existing Community Center - resulting in endless opportunities for collaboration.

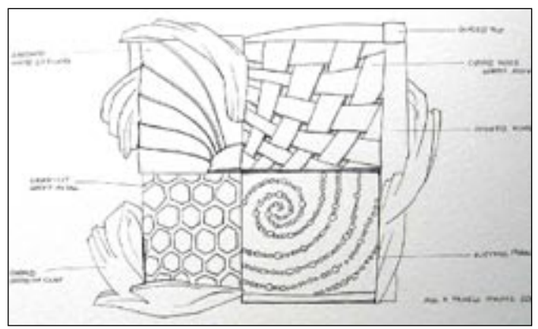
The campus facilities will share a park-like setting, including linking pathways lined with benches and places to picnic, play or just relax. But they will share interior spaces too. In particular, through a unique agreement providing for mutual sharing of spaces, the new gym will be available for use by both the school and the Boys & Girls Club.

Artwork Celebrates UPCC's Colorful Past

UPCC's new spaces will be enhanced with the artwork of Laura Bender and John Early. Selected from a field of 36 artists, they were awarded this $51,000 Percent-for-Art project with a proposal that includes three different low-relief sculptures. The artwork will be installed in the main entrance, central lobby and on the west end of the concourse.

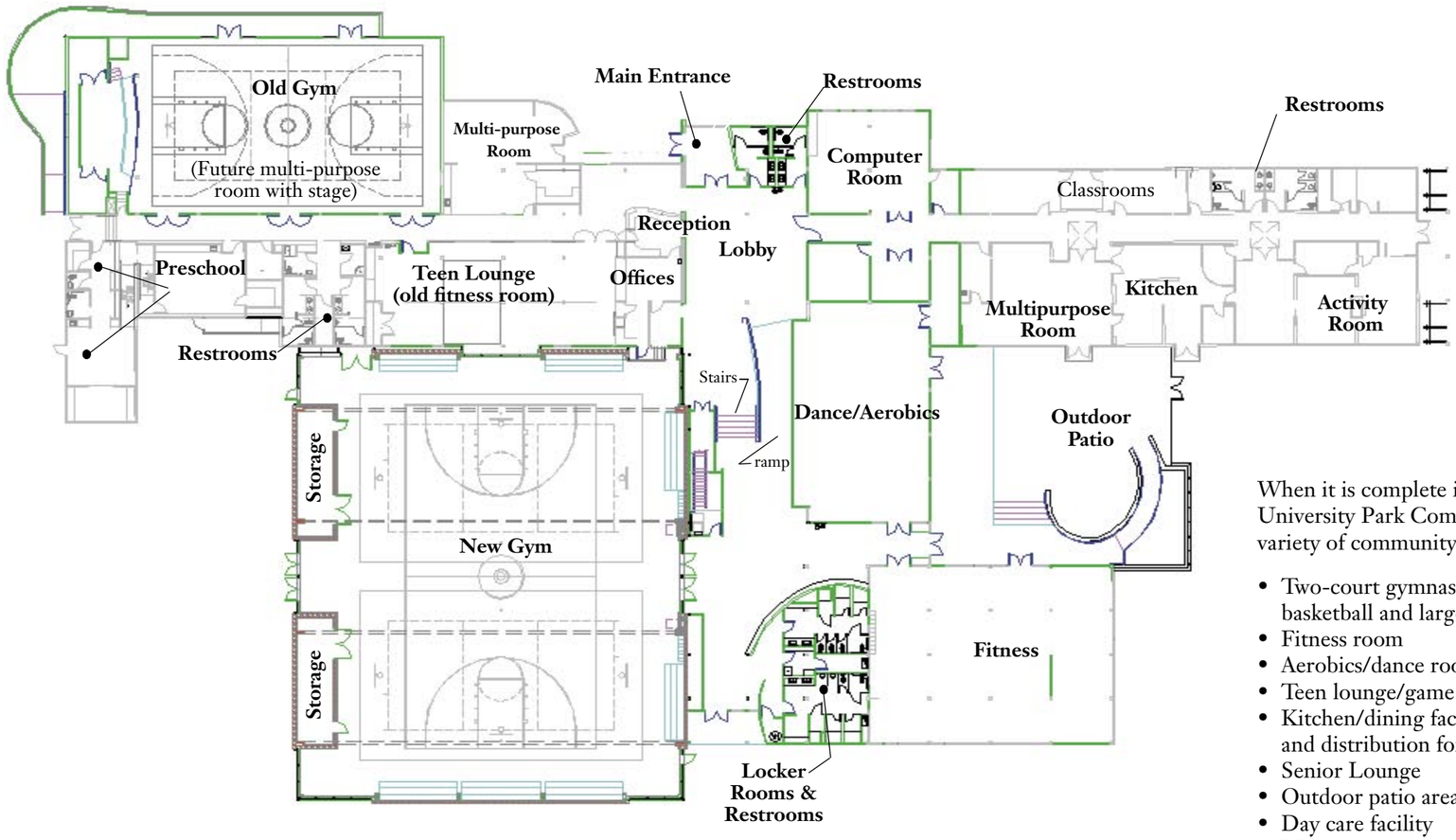
As they uncovered the remarkable story of University Park Community Center and its many transformations, John and Laura recognized that it has been a place of great energy, service and stability for generations of people. Their sculptures are intended to express the complex spirit of UPCC - its past, present and forward momentum.

The sculptures' decorative patterns are filled with symbolism, created using a range of methods and materials including carved wood, cut metal, acrylic paints, and even buttons!



Entryway sculpture concept

Introducing the new University Park Community Center!



When it is complete in the summer of 2007, visitors to University Park Community Center will enjoy a wide variety of community spaces including:

- Two-court gymnasium suitable for regulation basketball and large community events
- Fitness room
- Aerobics/dance room
- Teen lounge/game room
- Kitchen/dining facility for Loaves & Fishes and distribution for their Meals on Wheels program
- Senior Lounge
- Outdoor patio area
- Day care facility
- Medium-sized communitiy meeting room
- Computer classroom
- Several small seminar classrooms

A future upgrade will transform the current small gym into a community room/auditorium that will also double as a single court gymnasium. This space will be shared with the New Columbia neighborhood as its community hall.

The master plan also includes an aquatics facility but this will have to wait for future funding. However, an area next to the community center is being held in reserve for that purpose.

A spacious central lobby will tie together the new active recreational spaces (gym, fitness, dance rooms, and locker rooms) with the other wings of the building.

Because we are working with the existing building, we inherit a level change, which explains the ramp and stairs between the current building and the addition. This level change helps create a separate identity for the building's active recreational wing.

The building's interior design will be enhanced with sculptures designed by Laura Bender and John Early. The art project is being coordinated by the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

Improvements to University Park Community Center would not have been possible without two generous grants from the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program. The grant program is managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

How far we've come!

A little history
University Park Community Center began life during World War II as a community center and administration building for "University Homes" - a temporary housing complex for workers at nearby shipyards. In 1948, when a devastating flood destroyed the neighboring town of Vanport, the facility served as Vanport's temporary city hall. Ownership of the building passed to Portland Parks & Recreation in 1950.

Creating a vision
In fall 1999, Portland Parks & Recreation began a community planning effort to develop a more permanent vision for Universtiy Park Community Center. Workshop participants concluded unanimously that the facility's primary emphasis should be on active recreation - with spaces also available for performing arts, visual arts, and education. A new indoor aquatics facility was included in the master plan, but was not the top priority.

Realizing the dream
Funding to implement the master plan came over several years and from a variety of sources, including two federal grants, the 2002 Parks levy, and the City's general fund. Now, about half the project is complete. With completion of the work beginning this summer, the master plan that began as just a dream in 1999 will be realized.