Sierra.2.Center

Revitalizing the Landscape of a Community Asset

Mindy Joyce, Landscape Architecture Program, University of California, Davis 2008
Sierra.2.Center
Rehabilitating the Landscape of a Community Asset

A Senior Project
Presented to the Faculty of the
Landscape Architecture Program
University of California, Davis
In Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Bachelors of Science of Landscape Architecture

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By: Mindy Joyce
June 13, 2007
Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude...

....to my son Michael for your love and encouragement and my family for their love and support throughout my academic journey.

....to the faculty and staff of the Landscape Architecture program at the University of California, Davis for all that they have taught me in the past three years.

....to the senior project committee members for their guidance and motivation: Patsy Owens, Steve McNiel, Julie Adams-Gerth, and especially Gerrie Robinson, who was invaluable in the creation of this publication.

....to the LDA 181Q Historical Preservation class: Cristina Avramovic, Alicia Bramble, Carly Brennan, Jordan Cabarrubias, Kim Chacon, Helen Chun, Hart Farrell Hedberg, Daniel Hui, Forrest Luna, Rachel Jacobson, Mark Morris, Jessica Norling, Nathan Patterson, Stephen Ramirez, Mike Riha, Ryan Sandwick, Joshua Scherrette, Robbie Sims, Carly Smith, Cecilia Tse, Keith Wright, Gwen Xu, Eric Yamasaki and Venus Yuan. You are all great!

....to Christine Breining: thanks for all the inspiration, support and fun times. It is great to have a friend whose sense of humor is as quirky as mine. Thanks Arnold!

....to Daisy, my sidekick. She kept me on my toes.
# Table of Contents

- Acknowledgements i
- Table of Contents ii
- List of Images and Supporting Graphics iii
- Abstract iv
- Statement of Purpose v
- Objectives and Limitations vi
- Preface 1
- The Beginning 2 - 5
- Phase 1 - Project Introduction and Assignments 6 - 14
- Phase 2 - Conceptual Designs 15 - 18
- Phase 3 - Team Members Project Designs 19 - 27
- Phase 4 - Community Design Forum 28 - 33
- Phase 5 - Final Design 34 - 39
- Conclusion 40
- Bibliography 41
- Appendix A 42
- Appendix B 43
- Appendix C 44
## List of Images and Supporting Graphics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image/Graphic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center Front Main Entrance - author’s photo</td>
<td>Cover Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center Front Main Entrance - author’s photo</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra School Sign - photo copied from <em>Images of America, Sacramento’s Curtis Park, Dan Murphy</em></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra School Front Main Entrance 1976 - photo copied from <em>Images of America, Sacramento’s Curtis Park, Dan Murphy</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center Historical Integrity architectural context - author’s photos</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center Historical Integrity specific features - author’s photos</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Systems Thematic Maps - Team Member’s graphics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Systems Thematic Maps - Team Member’s graphics</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Systems Thematic Maps - Team Member’s graphics</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Systems Thematic Maps - Team Member’s graphics</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Systems Thematic Maps - Team Member’s graphics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Systems Thematic Maps - Team Member’s graphics</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s - author’s photos</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center base plans - author’s AutoCAD graphics</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Drawings - Ramirez and Scherrette</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s - author’s photos</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s - author’s photos</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Master Plans and site plan - Luna, Cabarrubias, Ayramovici, Yamasaki and Sims</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Rear Parking Lot Plans and site plan - Ramirez, Brennan, Patterson, Hui and Sandwich</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Front Entrance Plans and site plan - Morris, Xu, Brennan, Chun, Sims and Smith</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Northwest Corner Plans and site plan - Ramirez, Yuan, Riha, Bramble, Norling and Tse</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s North Parking Lot Plans and site plan - Luna, Norling, Cabarrubias, Brennan, Jacobson and Smith</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Planting Plans - Chacon, Patterson, Norling, Cabarrubias, Bramble and Hedberg</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s specific design element examples - Chacon, Brennan and Sims</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principle and Project Manager Design Forum Presentations - author’s photos</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s and Community Participants Design Forum Interaction - author’s photos</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site plan - author’s graphics</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Design Plans - Amenities Survey Results - Hedberg, Scherrette, Chun, Chacon, Luna and Ramirez</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center Northwest Corner Birds eye View - sketchup rendering - Stephen Ramirez</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Design Plans - Client’s preferred elements</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Landscape Planting Design - author’s AutoCAD graphics</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra.2.Center Perspectives - author’s sketchup renderings</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Member’s Portraits - author’s photos</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Meeting Questionnaire - author’s scanned notes</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Writeup in the Viewpoint, Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association Publication, May 2008 - author Susan MacCulloch</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract

The project’s aim is to produce a final landscape planting design that meets the needs of the client and includes the practical experience of being a project manager. The exploration of the project manager’s role will include organizing and guiding a design team, working closely with the client and the principle in charge, and combining the site analysis and the design concepts created. Through this journey, a completed landscape planting design revitilizing the Sierra.2.Center will evolve.
Statement of Purpose

In choosing Sierra.2.Center’s revitilization landscape design I had two goals in mind. The first goal was the knowledge that this would be a project design that would be implemented, not just a theory on paper or an assignment in class. I was excited to know that my future return to the Curtis Park community center would exhibit a landscape that I was instrumental in producing.

The second goal was my desire to learn how to become a project manager. I was able to assist in an historical preservation class that offered an opportunity to create a “firm” type situation that helped me achieve this goal under the guidance of the instructor, Steve McNiel.

The class was the firm, the students were acting junior associates (Team Members - See Appendix A). The instructor was the Principle of the firm and I was the acting Project Manager. The Sierra.2.Center associates will be known as the Client.

The project examined the process of analyzing and redesigning an historical landscape with the added element of learning and understanding the design process as the Project Manager.
Objectives

The objective of this project was to document the design process in the role of a Project Manager. The goal for this project was to create a useable design to revitalize the landscape surrounding Sierra 2. Center and to satisfy the needs of the client.

Limitations

There were two limitations on this project that played an important role in the final landscape design for the Sierra 2. Center.

* Budget: The Sierra 2. Center is a non-profit organization, it does have a limited budget for this revitilization project.

The Project Manager made recommendations for phasing the construction and finding contributors for implementing the landscape design.

* Maintenance: The Sierra 2. Center depends on minimal landscape maintenance from a contractor and volunteers for the remaining landscape maintenance.

Designing a low maintenance landscape and upgrading the irrigation system would enable them to breech this limitation.
Preface

Built in 1923, the Sierra School was a typical neighborhood elementary school designed by the local architect team Dean and Dean. The architecture of Sierra School was Spanish Eclectic, which was a popular style during that period.

The future of the Sierra School was jeopardized under The Field Act (earthquake safety standards) and the school was listed for demolition in the 1970’s. Fortunately, the Curtis Park neighborhood organized the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) in order to save the school. So began the Sierra.2.Center, a non-profit organization, and another era of historical significance for the Sierra School.

Though this historic building no longer houses an elementary school, it continues to be an important structure within Curtis Park, serving as a community center. In June 2005, the Sierra School was designated a Sacramento Historic Landmark.

The City of Sacramento is the proud owner of the old school, the theater (designed by Dean and Dean in 1927), and the adjacent Sierra Green Park.

The Sierra.2.Center rents the buildings from the City of Sacramento for $1.00 a year and houses a number of non-profit and for-profit tenants and services. Some of these services include: dance studios, yoga classes, Great Begininnings (a childe development center), Sacramento Braille Transcribers, Inc., the Society for the Blind, Weight Watchers, a photographer’s studio and several caterer’s.

The community center has a staff of 8, hosts a neighborhood dinner for 200 neighbors once a month and serves over 120,000 patrons a year.

The Sierra.2.Center is an example of a successful adaptive re-use project.
The Beginning

* Client’s Goals

* The Building’s Historical Integrity
The Beginning

The project started when the Sierra.2.Center’s Executive Director, Julie Adams-Gerth, contacted Steve McNiel and expressed the need for an improved landscape around the Curtis Park community center.

During the initial meeting between the Client, the Principle and the Project Manager, a site tour was conducted and the client expressed the goals for the community center’s landscape renovations.

Client’s Goals

Revitalization of the Front Entrance’s landscape

A new pathway by the Theater and the open space at the corner of Castro Way and 24th Street had potential for a patio within the improved landscape.

North Parking Lot needs shading/plants

Improve Signage

Improve plantings in Courtyard

Plantings in Rear Parking Lot
The Building’s Historical Integrity

The Project Manager assessed the historical integrity of the Sierra.2.Center as the first step in the project. This assessment was required on the exterior of the building in order to determine the accuracy of the historic style and features. The interior was not included in the project parameters.

For this assessment A Field Guide to American Houses, by Virginia and Lee McAlester, was used to determine the Sierra School architectural context.

The conclusion of the assessment was that the Sierra School’s style of architecture is Spanish Eclectic. It is a style that was popular in the 1920’s and was most common in California, Texas, and Arizona.

The Sierra.2.Center has maintained its historical integrity according to the identified features of Spanish Eclectic architecture. This is shown in the original building’s windows, stucco walls, arches, and iron railings around the balconies. The features include:

* Low-pitched roof with no-eave overhang

* Spanish tiled roof
* Stucco walls

* Casement windows

* Arches over breezeway/entryways

* Tiled vents

* Decorative tiles/lighting

(used mainly in the Theater)

Noted changes can be seen with the upgraded ADA requirements which were implemented in 2007.
Phase 1
Project Introduction and Assignments

* Team Members Involvement

* Site Inventory and Analysis

* Thematic Groups Results

* Project Manager’s Assessment
Phase 1
Initial Meeting with Project Team

The focus of the first meeting with the project team (Principal, Project Manager, and Team Members) was to familiarize them with the project. Team Members were given pertinent information which included site location and description of the Sierra 2 Center and their project assignments.

Team Member Assignments

The Team Members were divided into thematic groups and each group given specific site inventory and analysis tasks. The assigned groups were as follows:

- **Natural Systems**: Nathan Patterson, Dan Hui, Mark Morris, Hart Farrell Hedberg and Rachel Jacobson
- **Cultural Systems**: Gwen Xu, Cecilia Tse, Venus Xiaoyun Yuan and Cristina Avramovici
- **History Systems**: Carly Brennan, Carly Smith, Eric Yamasaki, Ryan Sandwick, Robbie Sims and Jessica Norling
- **Experiential Systems**: Joshua Scherrette, Helen Chun, Keith Wright and Jordan Cabarrubias
- **Green Systems**: Stephen Ramirez, Kim Chacon, Mike Riha and Forrest Luna
- **Maintenance Systems**: Alicia Bramble

Site Inventory and Analysis

The intent of the site inventory and analysis was to gain a better understanding of the context of the community center. This data assisted the Team Member in the design process with the knowledge of the site's opportunities and constraints.

The information gathered by the Team Members was transferred onto thematic maps produced for each site condition and was available for each member to utilize in the next phase. The tasks required on-site visits or off-site research through other available sources.

The Principle and Project Manager were available throughout the site analysis and inventory process to direct the Team Members and answer questions regarding the various systems being researched.

Due to time limitations the Project Manager performed the task of measuring the site and inputting the data into AutoCad to create a scaled base plan.
Team members were required to investigate soils, grading, vegetation, hydrology, sun/shade, and climate.

Following are the results of the Natural Systems site inventory and analysis.
Cultural Systems

Team Members were required to investigate the demographics, circulation, transportation, and community concerns in the Sierra 2 Center neighborhood.

Following are the results of the Cultural Systems site inventory and analysis.
Experiential Systems

Team Members were required to investigate noise, lighting, materials, and views.

Following are the results of the Experiential Systems site inventory and analysis.
History Systems

Team Members were required to investigate the historical information pertaining to the original Sierra School and Curtis Park. This information was to include architectural style, landscape style, and plantings.

Following are the results of the History Systems site inventory and analysis.
Green Systems

Team Members were required to investigate the alternative cooling and heating systems, and waste water management potential resources.

Following are the results of the Green Systems site inventory and analysis.
Maintenance Systems

Team Members were required to investigate the existing maintenance practices, problem areas (flooding, poor irrigation), and existing plant conditions.

Following are the results of the Maintenance Systems site inventory and analysis.
Project Manager’s Assessment

Phase 1 included designating Team Members to thematic groups and assigning site inventory and analysis tasks. The groups worked well together. Although each thematic group divided the tasks of their assigned systems, they would gather the needed information, then regroup and input the inventory and analysis into collaborated, published thematic maps.

It was noted that certain elements were missing in the results at the Phase 1 review session. This was a misstep on the Project Manager’s part for not assigning and/or reconginizing the task was not complete. To avoid this mishap in the future, perhaps a template could be developed for each thematic system. This check list template would ensure that the important data needed for a thorough site inventory and analysis would be collected and could be updated for specific site needs.

Assessment of group’s performance

* Natural Systems - Overall the Team Members did a great job on the data they collected. Maps were readable and had useful information. Information not obtained was climate.
* Cultural - The data collected by the Team Members was very thorough and informative in most aspects. The circulation analysis should have included pedestrian movement.
* Experiential - The Team Members did a great job on details and the information provided.
* Historical - Team Members provided very useful information, especially the data collected on Spanish Eclectic style and characteristics of Mediterranean architecture and landscape practices. The small map that analyzed the existing building and style elements was hard to read.
* Maintenance - The Team Member did a good job of addressing problem areas and did include some solutions. More detailed information explaining symbols/colors and maintenance practices would have been useful.
* Green Systems - The Team Members presentation was informative and well laid out; good graphics explaining details.
Phase 2
Conceptual Designs

* Project Maps
* Examples of Conceptual Work
* Project Manager’s Assessment
**Phase 2  Conceptual Designs**

Throughout the remaining design phases the Team Members worked in individual capacities. For Phase 2 they were assigned four focus sites to apply their conceptual ideas. These four sites included the Front Entrance (both door entries), the Rear Parking Lot, the Northwest Corner, and the North Parking Lot. Although the assignment was to focus on these four sites, the Principle encouraged the Team Members to reach beyond the suggested boundaries, thinking of the future of the Sierra.2.Center.

Following are the general base map and the four focus sites.

The Principle and Project Manager were available throughout the conceptual design phase to direct Team Members and answer questions.
Examples of Conceptual Drawings

As part of the design process the Team Members were asked to create conceptual drawings of the four focus sites using the maps and the data collected in Phase 1. The results were expected to be a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and constraints for the site. This step of diagramming informs the Team Members about the site prior to the beginning of designing their master plan.

The first two free hand drawings on the left are rough sketches of elements on the site. The middle sketch is an example of using symbols (arrows) to show circulation on the site. These two preliminary abstract sketches are the early steps in the process of designing the more detailed drawing on the right.

This is an excellent example of the designer graphically expressing site information. Symbols are used as representative graphics to explore functional relationships on the site.
Project Manager’s Assessment

In this phase the Team Members needed to create conceptual drawings using the maps and data collected and to respond to the opportunities and constraints. The Principle expected their drawings to offer suggestions and plans for transforming the facility as a whole into a more efficient and supportive resource. They also needed to ask questions about the site’s historic significance and how their proposal might impact the site’s significance. This was a critical step in the design process because it gave the Team Member the opportunity to become connected with the site and create a good conceptual design.

During the consultation conducted with each Team Member, the Principle, and the Project Manager, it was noticed by the Project Manager that quite a few Team Members did not create the basic bubble/conceptual diagramming.

Also, it was observed that there were several incidences where the Team Member would have to be reminded of important site constraints and opportunities. This could be in correlation to the lack of creating good bubble/conceptual diagrams. However, the Team Members all provided good conceptual designs.
Phase 3
Final Designs

* Master Plans

* Rear Parking Lot

* Front Entrances

* Northwest Corner

* North Parking Lot

* Planting Lists

* Project Manager’s Assessment
Phase 3
Team Members Master Plans

For this phase, the Principle expressed that the Team Members were required to develop final design graphics that would communicate their design suggestions clearly and in detail and be professional in appearance. In addition to a master plan, the graphics presented could take the form of sections, perspectives, and computer simulations, and include at least some eye level (5’6”) views.

At least one of the four focus sites would include a detailed planting design. Each finalized plan would be labeled and annotated, include a white background, and use the class title block with their name. This needed to be done to provide a measure of conformity for the project.

The Principle and Project Manager were available throughout the final designing process for consultation.

In the following sections a representation of various design styles submitted for this project are shown and each individual Team Member is represented.
Master Plans

1 - Rear Parking Lot
2 - Front Entrances
3 - Northwest Corner
4 - North Parking

Sierra 2 Center
Site Plan

Forrest Luna

Jordan Cabarrubias

Cristina Avramovici

Eric Yamasaki

Robbie Sims
Rear Parking Lot

Stephen Ramirez

Carly Brennan

Nathan Patterson

Sierra 2 Center Site Plan

1 - Rear Parking Lot

(Courtyard replaced relocated Parking Lot)

Daniel Hui

Ryan Sandwick
Front Entrances

Mark Morris

Carly Brennan

Wan Wan Helen Chun

Gwen Xu

Robbie Sims

Carly Smith
North Parking Lot

Forrest Luna

Jessica Norling

Jordan Cabarrubias

Carly Brennan

Rachel Jacobson

Carly Smith
Planting Lists

Plan List: Aisnestry Masterman Low Water Selection

1. London Plane Tree
2. Sweet Gum
3. Italian Cypress
4. Rosemary
5. Sago Palm

Nathan Patterson
Kim Chacon
Alicia Bramble
Hart Farrell Hedberg
Jessica Norling
Jordan Cabarrubias
Project Manager’s Assessment

In general the Team Member’s met the requirements of the project from the aspect that their final design graphics not only communicated their design suggestions clearly but were professional in appearance and provided a measure of conformity. Many designs also addressed the Client’s goals: creating courtyards in the Northwest Corner, introducing walkways with trees and plantings in the Rear Parking Lot, and adding trees for shade in the North Parking Lot.

The majority of the designs stayed in the context of the building’s historic integrity, not only by including Spanish Eclectic architectural elements but also by introducing Mediterranean plants in the revitalized landscape. Improved pedestrian circulation was addressed in many designs by adding a walkway and courtyard to the Front Entrance and renovating the hazardous walkway next to the Theater.

A few designs took the initiative to go beyond the suggested boundaries and introduced future implementations that could benefit the Center. This included the relocation and/or expansion of the Rear Parking Lot and replacing it with an enclosed courtyard or daycare center.

Several master plans referenced the sustainability aspect of the project by including swales in flood-prone areas or stormwater drainage systems in the Rear Parking Lot. The heat island effect of this lot was also taken into consideration with added plantings, water features, and increasing the shade ratio with shading features. Also included was the innovative design to add permeable paving to the North Parking Lot.

The Team Members’ master plans for the Sierra.2.Center revitilization were exceptional.
Phase 4
Community Design Forum

* Community Meeting

* Questionaire Results

* Amenities Survey Results

* Project Manager's Assessment
Community Meeting

The Client and the Project Manager met several times before the scheduled community meeting to collaborate the itinerary for the design forum. Arrangements for seating, a PA system, a projector and screen for the Principle and Project Manager’s presentations, and the display areas for the Team Members’ master plans were decided.

The community meeting was held on May 11, 2008 at Sierra 2 Center in the Curtis Park Room. Representatives from the community and the Executive Director and Board Members were in attendance.

The purpose of the community meeting was to display the Team Members’ master plans and to give the Center’s patrons and neighbors the opportunity to give their valuable input as to the amenities that they would prefer to see implemented into the final landscape planting design. A questionnaire (See Appendix B) was given to each community representative as they arrived, to be filled out during the presentation. Though the community would be able to express their desires for the Center’s landscape needs, the Client would make the final decision for the design.

After the introductions, the meeting began with the Principle giving a brief presentation explaining the historical preservation process, the project, and the Firm’s level of involvement. The Project Manager then followed with a powerpoint presentation displaying the project’s four focus sites and the participants were asked to list on the questionnaire their concerns and primary goals for each site. During the presentation, the community members were encouraged to ask questions or voice their opinions.

When the presentation concluded the participants were invited to walk throughout the design displays and converse with the Team Members. The participants placed markers by the amenities they favored on the design sheets (See page 32).
Community Interaction

Team Members presented their master plans to the community.
Community Meeting
Questionnaire Results

The objective of the questionnaire was to get feedback from the community regarding the four focus sites. The following responses could be used in the decision process for the final landscape planting design.

Site Use:
The participants were asked how often they used specific sites.

- Rear Parking Lot 90%
- Front Main door entrance 80%
- Second door 25%
- Northwest Corner 60%
- North Parking Lot 1%

Participants Opinions:
The participants were asked open-ended questions regarding each focus site. They were asked what they liked, didn’t like, would like to see added, removed or improved, and if they had any additional suggestions about the sites.

*Rear Parking Lot
  * more shade and plantings 90%
  * barren and hot 75%
  * liked the arches 31%

Front Entrances
  * need more plantings (flowers too), a pathway and seating between entrances 70%
  * seldom used 2nd front entrance - not obvious entry needs signage or connection to main door 70%
  * liked the architecture, inviting steps, shady and open 50%

Northwest Corner (Castro Way & 24th Street)
  * mainly use as a pass through and a new walkway with lighting, plantings, shade and seating (underutilized space) is needed to improve area 60%
  * removal of chainlink fencing 45%

North Parking Lot
  * needs shade 90%
  * dreary, drab and uncleaned 80%
  * repavement of parking lot 20%

Prioritizing Sites:
The participants were asked to prioritize the sites as to which order they would like to see the revitilization occur.

- 1 - Front Entrance
- 2 - Rear Parking Lot
- 3 - Northwest Corner
- 4 - North Parking Lot

Planting Day Participation:
Seventy-five percent of the attendees responded on the questionnaire that they would be able to participate in the community planting days that Sierra.2.Center would coordinate for the implementation of the landscape planting design.
Amenities Survey Results:
The following are the amenities that received more than four votes during the meeting. (There is no significance to the colors or shapes of the markers.)
Project Manager’s Assessment

This phase was the exciting part of the project. For the Team Members to display their master plans and to interact with the Curtis Park community was the crowning point of the design process.

The Team Members were very professional; not only did they dress appropriately, they also conducted themselves in a professional manner when interacting with the community participants. One example was Stephen Ramirez’s presentation. Knowing he was meeting the Client and would be “selling” his ideas for this project, Stephen dressed professionally and provided his own props to ensure his design was advantageously displayed. His sketchup rendering, exhibiting a birdseye view of the Sierra 2. Center, was a superb example of computer simulation.

The meeting flowed well, from the introductions through the presentations and questionnaire. Community members asked questions and volunteered their thoughts in regards to the four focus sites.

The only regrettable aspect to the design forum was the lack of participants from the community. Although the Sierra 2. Center had sent out 700 email notices and the design forum was announced in the Viewpoint, the publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (See Appendix C), the turnout at the community meeting was a disappointment. The number of community participants was small, 16 total.

Although limited in size, the participants that did attend responded well to the questionnaire and enthusiastically interacted with the Team Members, asking questions and raving over the designs.
Phase 5
Final Design

* Final Consultation with Client

* Final Landscape Planting Design

* Perspectives

* Recommendations

* Project Manager’s Assessment
Final Consultation with Client

Following the community design forum, the Project Manager gathered and analyzed the community meeting results, then met with the Client and several board members. The focus of the meeting was to establish the elements that the Client wanted in the final landscape planting design.

Following are the results for each focus site.

**Northwest Corner**
- Improve path next to Theater
- Swales by the pathway to aid drainage
- Directional signage
- Put evergreen/flowering vine on chainlink fence
- Benches/seating in enclosed area
- Trees in open space for shading
- Improve corner sign
- Add solar uplighting

**North Parking Lot**
- Trees added if possible next to daycare fence for shading (roots an issue)
- If available space add trees/plantings between Caterer’s building and parking lot

**Rear Parking Lot**
- A pathway with trees and plantings (replace grass patch on the west wall of the main building)
- A planter on the south end of the center car spaces (depends on emergency and utility vehicle access)

**Front Entrances**
- A curvilinear path connecting both sidewalks
- Plantings/Shrubs to hide transformer
- Benches/seating along pathway

**Alicia Bramble**

**Stephen Ramirez**

**Hart Farrell Hedberg**

**Gwen Xu**

**Jordan Cabarrubias**
Recommendations

A successful landscape starts with a strong foundation.

To address the limitations of the project the Project Manager made the following recommendations for the design implementation:

* Phasing (noted in order of importance)

  * Prioritize design elements - implement as funds become available.
  * Irrigation system update and improvement - a strong foundation begins with a good irrigation system.
  * Removal of expendable plantings and amending the soil.
  * Plant trees first, then add understory plants as budget allows.
  * Stucco wall around Theater courtyard. The following are elements that can be implemented before wall is built:
    * Keep chainlink fence as a barrier and add an evergreen flowering vine. *(Pandorea jasminoides 'Lady Di')*
    * Benches can be included in this area for seating.
    * The trees can be planted (in the designated location) for shade.
  * Update Rear Parking Lot:
    * Tree additions will not displace any of the existing parking space.
    * Adds shading to avoid the heat island effect and beautifies a barren/hot site.
    * Tree planters are also used for stormwater runoff.

* Budget/Help to frey costs - Contacts

  * SMUD - Sacramento free tree program
  * Teichert Construction - concrete donations
  * Neighborhood City Architect - Palm Trees
  * Community Oriented Businesses - Target, Home Depot and Nursery's
    * Discounts/Donations
    * Project/informative classes
  * Community Colleges - good resources for implementation of landscape design (Classes may use Sierra 2 Center as a training project for the following courses):
    * Landscape Maintenance Courses.
    * Pruning Courses.
    * Irrigation Courses.
    * Construction Courses.
    * Plant donations.
  * Curtis Park Community Members
    * Donate time, labor and expertise.
    * Adopt a plant (new plant maintenance).

The Project Manager will be available to answer questions in regards to the final landscape planting design and recommendations.
Project Manager’s Assessment

The final phase of the planting design began developing as the Project Manager re-evaluated the Team Members’ master plans, analyzed the thematic maps, took into consideration the Client’s chosen design elements, and heeded the Principle’s advice to look to the future of the community center. Through all of this, the final landscape planting design matured to a design that suits the Sierra.2.Center and can be accomplished in phases.

Many aspects of the final design were gleaned from the Team Members’ work. When reassessing their plans, the Project Manager took into account the elements that maintained the integrity of the site, but also aided the site in sustainability and aesthetics. One of the design elements that was influential was the stucco wall design created by both Kim Chacon and Helen Chun. By incorporating this element into the final plan, it was the Project Manager’s intent to create an inviting courtyard setting, but also to generate a connection from the North Parking Lot that would direct visitors to the Sierra.2.Center. This design element not only preserved the integrity of the site but would also add continuity by mirroring the stucco wall surrounding the courtyard on the southwest end of the site.

Another element that was consequential to the final design was the Rear Parking Lot tree well/stormwater catch basin design created by both Mike Riha and Stephen Ramirez. The designs referenced the sustainability aspect of the site by addressing stormwater runoff and heat island effect. The Project Manager took into consideration the Client’s concern regarding the loss of needed parking spaces but professionally knew the barren, hot parking lot needed trees for shade and a stormwater drainage system. After further site evaluation it was established there were appropriate spaces in the parking area where tree well/stormwater catch basins could be implemented without displacing parking spaces.

The Project Manager also felt it was neccessary for recommendations to be made for the Sierra.2.Center in order to address the project’s budget limitation. After talking to community members and others, the Project Manager was able to come up with suitable recommendations that would help the center expedite the implementation of the landscape revitilization.
Conclusion

When I chose the Sierra 2 Center’s revitilization landscape design as my senior project, my goal was not only to be a part of a team that was instrumental in producing a design that would be implemented, but also to gain the practical experience of being a Project Manager. This journey far exceeded my expectations.

I gained the experience of gathering a team, executing the project program with the guidance of an experienced instructor and achieving an end product for the Client. I also acquired the knowledge of orchestrating a design forum and the practice of collaborating with the Principle, Team Members, Client, and the community to create a successful community meeting. This will be invaluable in my future career.

I learned the importance of team work, using Team Members and the Principle for what they have to offer. Having the project be a landscape design was a coaction venture. It was a team working together to achieve an end result: a satisfied Client. This project was a collaborative effort by the Team Members, the Principle, the Project Manager, the Client and the community.

I learned that even though the project has limitations, it is responsibility of the professional to use their expertise and create a design that produces the best possible result for the Sierra 2 Center.

The Executive Director Julie Adams-Gerth expressed her desire to make the Sierra 2 Center landscape more inviting. I feel that the final landscape planting design is not only inviting and welcoming but, when implemented will make the Sierra 2 Center an outstanding valuable asset in Curtis Park and the surrounding areas.
Bibliography


* Reid, Grant W. Landscape Graphics (Plan, Section, and Perspective Drawing of Landscape Spaces).


* University of California, Davis, Special Collections (Archives), UCD Library.
Appendix A - “Firm’s” Team Members

Cristina Avramovici  Alicia Bramble  Carly Brennan  Jordan Cabanubias  Kim Chacon  Wan Wan Helen Chun
Hart Farrell Hedberg  Daniel Hui  Forrest Luna  Rachel Jacobson  Mark Morris  Jessica Norling
Nathan Patterson  Stephen Ramirez  Mike Riha  Ryan Sandwich  Joshua Scherrette  Robbie Sims
Carly Smith  Sze Mei (Cecilia) Tse  Keith Wright  Xiaojun (Gwen) Xu  Eric Yamasaki  Venus Xiaoyun Yuan
Appendix B - Community Meeting Questionnaire

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Proposed Sites
To help gain better insight into the community’s perception of the existing landscape surrounding Site 2, we would appreciate your answers to the following questions about the proposed design sites. The site evaluation will close the front site (both front entrances are divided into two sections since the student focused on front of the commercial district).

SITE 1 – FRONT MAIN ENTRANCE
How do you use this site?
What do you like about this area?
What don’t you like about this area?
What would you like to see added, removed or improved to this area?
Do you have additional suggestions?

SITE 2 – SECONDARY FRONT ENTRANCE
How do you use this site?
What do you like about this area?
What don’t you like about this area?
What would you like to see added, removed or improved to this area?
Do you have additional suggestions?

SITE 3 – BACK PARKING LOT
How do you use this site?
What do you like about this area?
What don’t you like about this area?
What would you like to see added, removed or improved to this area?
Do you have additional suggestions?

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We are hoping to gain community participation in this landscape project and are planning a Community Meeting Day in the future. The landscaping project will be done in phases and schedules when funds and time allow.

Would you be willing to help on any future planting days?

If so, do you have any specialized skills or equipment that could be utilized for the project? (examples: knowledge of irrigation installation, working and possibly even a shovel, knowledge of plant growing, etc.).

Would you be able to bring your own tools to use? (shovels, picks, garden)

Would you be interested in submitting a tree or plants for this project?

If you are able to participate in any planting days, are you willing to donate your time? (please leave your information so Site 2 can contact you in the future).

Name:________________________
E-mail:______________________

Thank you for your participation! Any personal information is only for Site 2 use. UC Davis will not be using this information.

SITE 4 – CORNER STREET EAVES (Lot 1) AND LAUNDRY
How do you use this site?
What do you like about this area?
What don’t you like about this area?
What would you like to see added, removed or improved to this area?
Do you have additional suggestions?

SITE 5 – SIDE PARKING LOT (CASTRO) ENTRANCE
How do you use this site?
What do you like about this area?
What don’t you like about this area?
What would you like to see added, removed or improved to this area?
Do you have additional suggestions?
Appendix C - Viewpoint Write-Up

UC Davis class designs new Sierra 2 landscape

By Susan MacCulloch
Viewpoint Staff Writer

Talk about a “win-win” scenario: A UC Davis class studying landscape design in the context of historic preservation is developing a new landscape plan for Sierra 2. For free.

Credit this synergy to Sierra 2’s Executive Director Julie Adams-Gerth. She “went right to the top” with a cold call to Steve McNiel, chair of the university’s landscape architecture program. Julie’s assertiveness paid off when McNiel, who teaches a class in historic preservation to upper division students, agreed to develop a landscape design for Sierra 2 as a class project.

The Sierra 2 project “provides an excellent design experience for students in the historic preservation design studio,” McNiel said. His course introduces students to the range of projects common in historic preservation practice and addresses such topics as urban renewal, adaptive reuse and urban in-fill as cities and counties increasingly adopt smart growth principles. McNiel believes Sierra 2 represents an exceptional example of this process.

“Its emphasis on preserving the historical characteristics, while expanding the capabilities and sustainability of the Center’s landscape, provides the students with an opportunity to see a positive example in action,” McNiel said.

Students conduct research and design based on the National Register of Historic Places criteria and determination of the eligibility process. They work within the Secretary of the Interior’s definition of standards for treatment of historic properties. In tandem, the class is also interested in sustainable, socially relevant and culturally sensitive design, according to McNiel. “They are likely to produce a wide range of interesting and aesthetically pleasing proposals,” he said.

According to McNiel, the class will produce a variety of solutions, “and will undoubtedly run the gamut from pure preservation authenticity to less tame artistic expressions and interpretations.” Plant materials always follow the functional requirements of supporting community needs and activities. Usually, designers can locate native, period or contemporary plants to fulfill space-making requirements. And the client — in this case SCNA, representing the community — will have final input on plant selection.

McNiel’s class began the design process with a site analysis. Working in teams, the students visited Sierra 2 and the neighborhood in early April. They took notes and photographs.

The class teaching assistant, Mindy Joyce, described the site visit as one where students “analyze everything: the existing landscape design, Sierra 2’s history, its building architecture and that of surrounding homes, the environment, the soil and what grows there now.”

Existing plantings and new plant suggestions are appropriate not only for today’s energy conservation but also what’s appropriate for our climate, in context with the surrounding architecture.

In another win-win development, Mindy has made Sierra 2 her senior project. She will produce more detailed drawings of the Sierra 2 landscape plan, integrating SCNA’s wishes with her own design expertise, “all with the focus on community involvement and planning in the future,” says.

Take a look on May 13
Landscape design students will present their plans for Sierra 2 at 7 p.m. May 13 in Curtis Hall. Neighbors can expect to meet the young designers, see their drawings and review a vintage plant list.

Correction:
In the Curtis Park Village project story last month, Elizabeth S. Mc Dermott of The Interior Designer & Co. was incorrectly referred to as Elizabeth Montgomery. Our apologies for this mistake.

Julie Adams-Gerth, who will serve as one of Mindy’s advisers.

SCNA has set aside funds from its fund-raising activities to implement the new landscape design. Once the plans are approved, preparation and planting will begin in phases, weather permitting.