



BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Winter 2024-25

WHO WE ARE

Arts Council of Big Sky was founded in 1988 to provide cultural experiences to residents and visitors of Big Sky. For 36 years, Arts Council of Big Sky's mission has been to enrich our community through artistic experiences. Our vision is for Big Sky to be a community connected and inspired through art.

We have grown to be one of the leading non-profit arts organizations in Southwest Montana. Key efforts include presenting music, film, and theater **EVENTS**; offering art workshops and **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** for people of all ages; and establishing a lasting and impactful **PUBLIC ART** program in our community.

Our goal is to solidify our role as an anchor arts institution, expanding access to services, and operating as a true community hub. To turn our dream into a reality, **we are exploring the community's capacity and willingness to support a \$10 million philanthropic investment to transform a vacant building into a vibrant arts and cultural hub and secure our future operational stability.**





OUR CHALLENGE

We have grown exponentially in the last decade, reaching farther into the community and engaging our diverse population by meeting a variety of needs, abilities, and expectations.

While our current rental space in the BASE community center allowed us to expand our operations and become more visible in the community, we have hit the extent of our capacity to grow further as an organization and are finding it difficult to meet our administrative, event and programming needs.

Growth By-The-Numbers:



Budget has tripled to \$1.3 million in the last 10 years



Community film, music, and other arts events have **tripled to 70 per year**



Supported more than **600 working artists** this past year, up from ~100 a decade ago



Completely built and launched a community arts education program that **now serves 1,000 participants annually**



Create a youth arts program that **now serves over 2,500 youth** and generates 200 youth volunteer hours annually



REIMAGINING 77 LONE PEAK DRIVE

A Space for Creative Collaboration and Community Connection



We have purchased and now have the rare opportunity to revitalize 77 Lone Peak Drive, a former restaurant in a prime location. Renovating an existing building is a sustainable and timely approach to repurpose a local asset and transform it into a brand-new art center. This is the first revitalization project on this scale for Big Sky. As responsible stewards and artists, **we are taking advantage to restore the current bricks and mortar, energizing a dark empty space into a colorful, joyful, and vibrant community haven.**

MAIN LEVEL

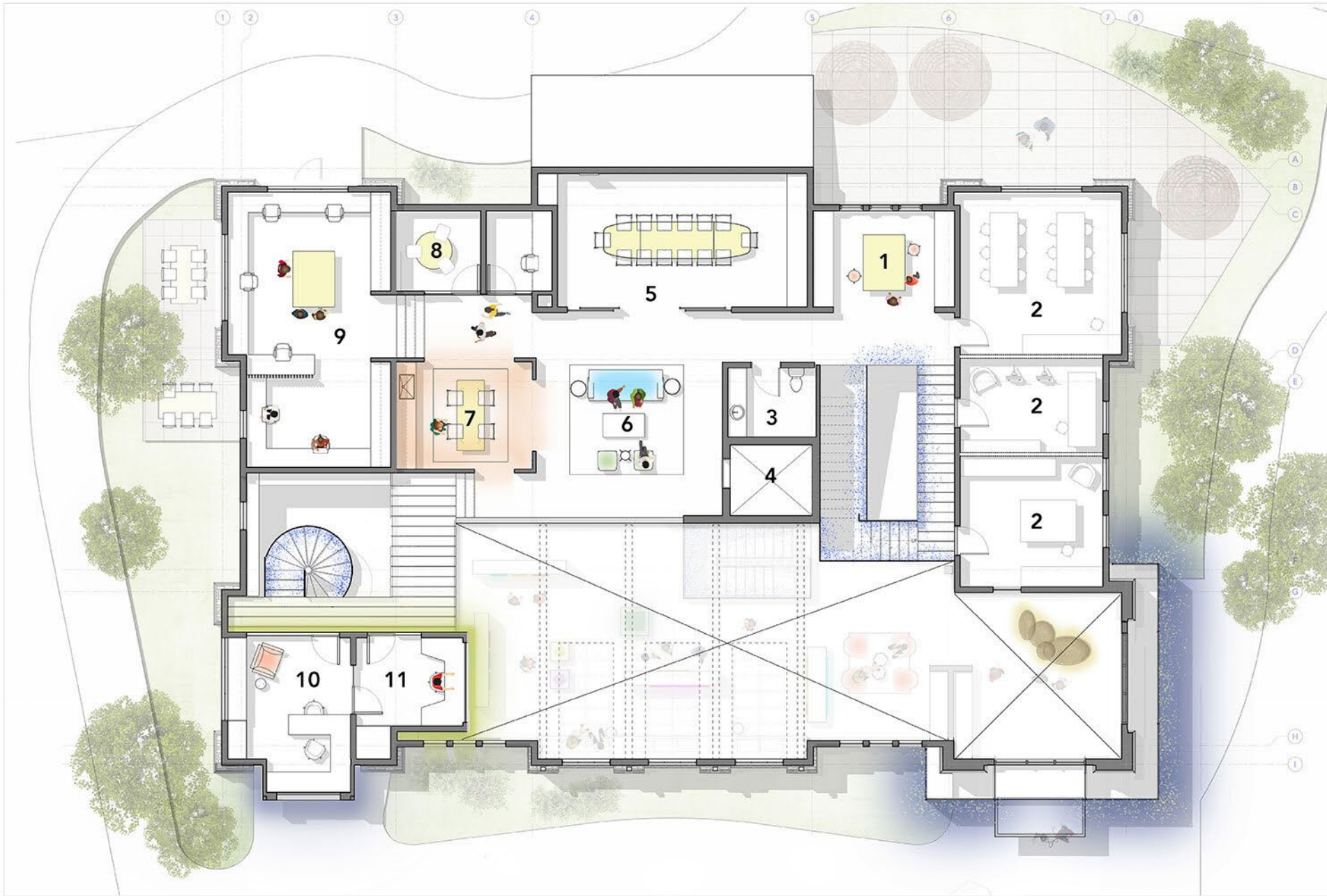


MAIN LEVEL

1. Entry / Foyer
2. Reception
3. Gallery / Flex Space
4. Listening Lounge
5. Restrooms
6. Elevator
7. Gallery
8. Ceramics Studio
9. Kiln Yard / Patio
10. Mixing / Glazing / Firing Area
11. Community Lounge / Kitchen
12. Dumbwaiter
13. Youth & Flex Classroom
14. Patio
15. Overhead Door

Courtesy of CCY Architects

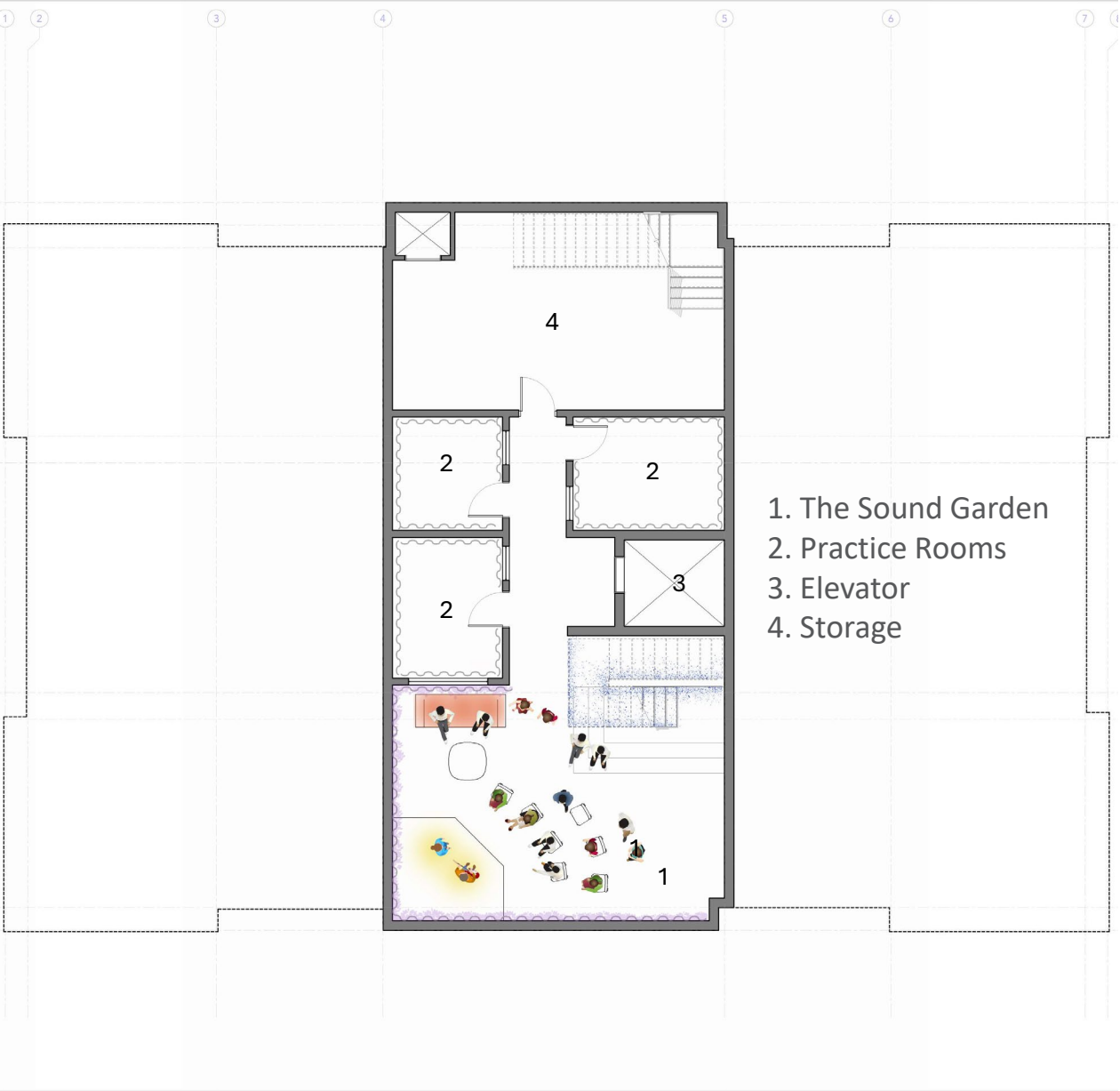
SECOND LEVEL



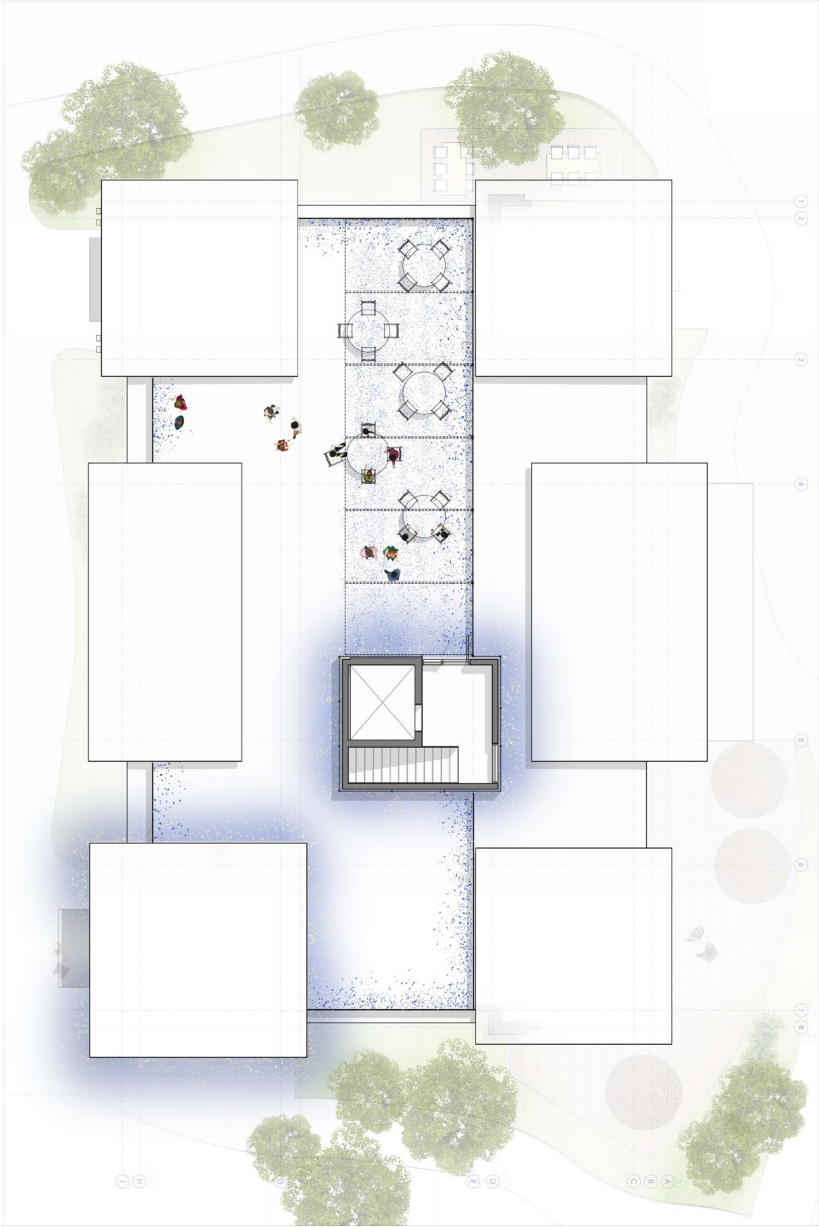
UPPER LEVEL

- 1. Printmaking Space
- 2. Flex Studio/Classroom
- 3. Restrooms
- 4. Elevator
- 5. Conference Room
- 6. Lounge
- 7. Workspace
- 8. Zoom Pods
- 9. General Office Space
- 10. Radio Station
- 11. Recording Studio

LOWER LEVEL



ROOF DECK



PROJECT DETAILS

- Dedicated ceramics studio plus additional classrooms and studio space for a variety of other art and music programming
- Multi-use venue and event space: permanent home for classical and jazz performances and concerts and other events critical to our mission
- Dedicated space for out-of-school and summer youth programming
- Professional gallery to feature local and visiting artists
- Basement music studios and performance space; spaces for community members to rent to teach classes
- Radio station: a low power FM community radio station for local DJs, live talk and sports shows, student programs, public meeting broadcasts, and emergency services
- Big Sky's only rooftop venue for one-of-a-kind events
- Commercial kitchen for culinary programs and catered events
- Administration offices and community meeting spaces
- Community space for new programming, including art therapy, music therapy classes, and accessible educational offerings

Project Investment: \$10 million

We have widespread community support and partnerships to leverage for our success, including a generous **\$3 million lead gift** which helped us to purchase the property.

Estimated capital costs: \$9 million

Endowment fund for operating expenses: \$1 million



Expanding collaboration with community partners to create a community asset that is inclusive, diverse, and provides a **healthy and safe environment**



Building a flexible space for events, programming, and educational opportunities that inspire self-expression, cultural awareness, and a **strong and vibrant community**



Developing Big Sky as an **artistic destination** that enriches the community, boosts the economy, and supports and nurtures local artists



Establishing an endowment fund to sustainably meet growing operational needs and **secure the future** of Arts Council of Big Sky

VISION AND IMPACT

JOIN US

We request your participation in responding to Arts Council of Big Sky's plans to transform a vacant building into a space for creative collaboration and community connection in the heart of Big Sky.

To assist with determining our next steps, Arts Council of Big Sky has retained CCS Fundraising, a highly regarded strategic fundraising firm with extensive experience partnering with arts and cultural organizations, to conduct a campaign planning study. The purpose of the study is to gather reactions to our plans through one-on-one interviews with close supporters and an e-survey to a broader audience.

Your Role:

- Share your reactions to our vision for the future
- Help us identify key messages that resonate with our community
- Advise on capacity and readiness to launch a campaign
- Discuss opportunities and resources that will contribute to success

We invite you to share your unique insights and perspectives in a private conversation, which will take approximately 45-60 minutes (and will not include a solicitation of funds nor future obligation).

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

