

Project Name: Options High School

Project Location: Bellingham Public Schools, Bellingham, WA

Project Area: 50,974 SF

Project Narrative:

Options High School is a new alternative high school in Bellingham, Washington that serves the majority of Whatcom County. The project site is adjacent to Bellingham High School and was formerly used for light industry. The District Warehouse previously occupied and shared the site with Options High School's seven portables. Options High School is a small accredited school of choice that supports students as they develop their passions, learn at high levels, and plan for a wide range of educational and vocational opportunities beyond high school.

Open collaborative spaces were high priorities in the interior design, with the integration of extended learning/common spaces and high levels of transparency between spaces. Floor to structure glass and oversized barn doors extended learning from classroom spaces into common areas bordering corridors. Options High School offers an innovative Career and Technical Education program from computer web design and robotics to engineering. Other unique programs to Options High School include a GRADS program for in-school academic and childcare support, along with a state of the art performing arts stage and commons that doubles as a black box theater for academic and community use.

The design concept was to create a modern, functional building that could house the school's numerous programs on a limited site. The building footprint utilizes the entire buildable site area, achievable through collaborating closely with the City of Bellingham to vacate and develop under-utilized rights of way. The building fronts residential, light industrial, and educational sites, as well as a portion of the City of Bellingham Bike Route. Development of the site included extending and improving this route for the community, and was an element that had to remain open during construction. The surrounding context influenced the scale, material palette, and fenestration placement. Warm wood tones, metals, green screens, and colorful siding choices were all placed fronting their respective context. The majority of the window placement faces west to take advantage of the views toward downtown Bellingham and Bellingham High School athletic fields. These views are further enjoyed from the exterior decks and rooftop plaza. With zero future site area to accommodate student population growth, the Design Team incorporated necessary infrastructure to build-out the roof plaza which would provide four additional future classrooms. Currently, the rooftop plaza houses a portion of green roof and serves as an outdoor space for agricultural programs, outdoor classroom activities, and student recreation.



OPTIONS HIGH SCHOOL
SITE PLAN



OPTIONS HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS
SECOND FLOOR PLAN





 **OPTIONS
HIGH SCHOOL**







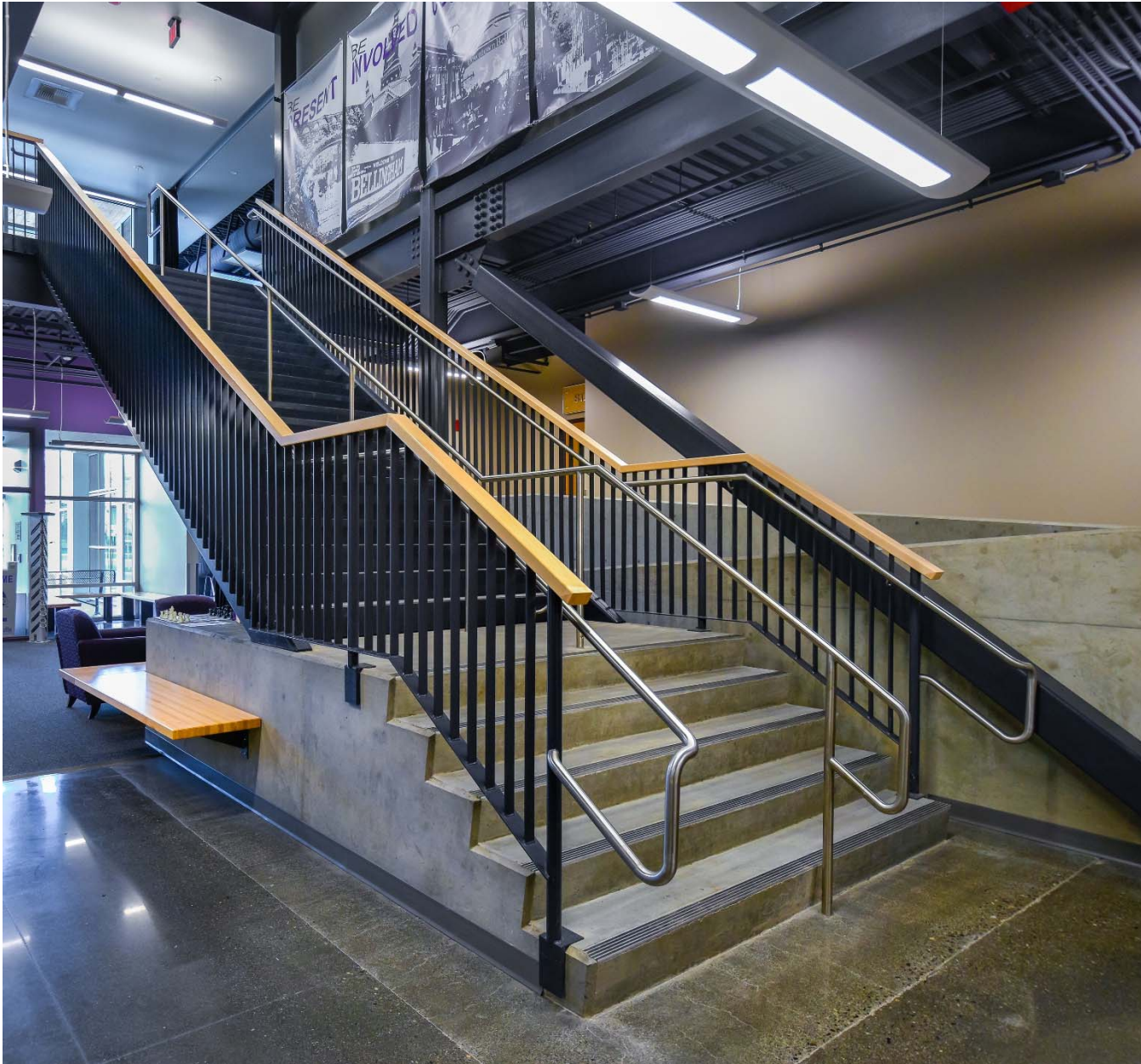
Black Box Theatre / Commons



Commons



Commons



Main Stair



Gymnasium



Fitness Room



Extended Learning



Extended Learning



Patio



Green Roof



CTE



GRADS Program