

# VICTORIA COUSINO

AIA, NCARB, WELL AP

## Work History

Senior Architect  
March 2017 - Present  
Knit  
Las Vegas, NV

Project Designer  
June 2015 - February 2017  
Vedelago Petsch Architects  
Henderson, NV

## Education

Master of Architecture, 2015  
University of New Mexico

Bachelor of Science, Architectural Engineering, 2012  
Vermont Technical College

## Professional Affiliations

American Institute of Architects, Member

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, Member

Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition, Member

## Accreditations

Registered Architect, Nevada

WELL Accredited Professional

## Honors/Awards

AIA Women Building Nevada  
Rising Star Award 2023

## Community Service

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, "Big Sister"  
2019 - Present

Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Volunteer  
2017 - Present

ACE Mentor Program of America  
2017 - 2018



Clark County School District Elementary Prototype



Grace Presbyterian Church

## VICTORIA COUSINO AIA, NCARB, WELL AP

Victoria is a dedicated architect with a passion for creating sustainable and community-enhancing designs. Victoria has been working in the Las Vegas Valley for over 8 years and achieved professional licensure in 2019.

Victoria's journey into the profession formally began with the completion of her Master of Architecture in 2015, although her interest in design started much earlier. Her current role at Knit, a regional architectural firm where she has been a valued team member since 2017, has allowed her to grow and flourish in many aspects of the career field.

One of Victoria's key strengths is her ability to lead the team in all phases of a project, from initial client interviews and proposal development to the final stages of construction. During her career she has worked a wide array of project typologies including primary education, higher education, recreational, worship, and commercial, among others. Her versatile skill set enables her to provide holistic and comprehensive solutions to clients, ensuring that their expectations are not just met, but exceeded.

Despite her proficiency in all aspects of architecture, Victoria's primary focus remains on design. She believes that thoughtful and innovative design can be a driving force behind the betterment of communities. Victoria's dedication to creating spaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also promote health and sustainability is a testament to her commitment to community and architectural excellence. Victoria pursued becoming a WELL Accredited Professional to better implement these design strategies, and since 2022 has led her firm's internal sustainability team for the 2030 Commitment.

Additionally, Victoria is deeply committed to fostering the growth and development of younger architects entering the profession. She actively mentors and guides emerging talents in her office, through AIA events, and at outreach events with K-12 students. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and experiences to help them navigate the complexities of the architecture industry and develop their careers.

Victoria embodies community and mentorship in all aspects of her career and personal life. Throughout her career, Victoria has continuously taken the extra step to advance her own knowledge as well as to help advance those around her. The architectural community in Las Vegas recognized Victoria's efforts and importance to the Las Vegas AIA chapter when she was selected to fill a vacant position on the Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2022 term, and was subsequently voted in as a Director to continue on for the 2023-2024 term. Her efforts across the profession have been recognized numerous additional times by award recognitions, invitations to join speaker

panels and interviews for her opinions in various publications.

Outside of the profession, Victoria's natural instinct to be involved in her community continues well beyond architecture. As a trail runner and cyclist, she is an advocate for the outdoors, volunteering with the Friends of Nevada Wilderness and working with the Outdoor Business Coalition. Additionally, she has volunteered her own time and resources to be a "Big Sister" with Big Brothers and Big Sisters over the last four years.

Victoria's unwavering passion for architecture, combined with her dedication to healthy and sustainable design principles and her ability to work on a wide range of project types, sets her apart in the field. Her portfolio showcases her ability to create spaces that are not just beautiful but also functional, sustainable, and community-focused. Her professional journey is proof of her commitment to making a positive impact through architecture.

With a strong foundation in architecture and a fervent desire to make the world a better place, Victoria continues to be a driving force in the industry, leaving a lasting legacy through her innovative designs and her commitment to the well-being of communities, both through her architectural work and her mentorship of the next generation of architects.

# II

## AIA LAS VEGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### MEET YOUR 2023 AIA LAS VEGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**James Horvath, AIA**  
2023 President  
Bergman, Walls & Associates, Ltd.



**Troy Moser, AIA**  
2023 President-elect  
Moser Architecture Studio



**Alexia Chen, AIA**  
2023 / 2024 Secretary  
LGA Architecture



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Director of Financial Resources  
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Urban Architecture & Design



**Andrew Martin, AIA**  
2022 / 2023 Director  
Andrew Martin Architecture



**Melvin Green, AIA**  
2022 / 2023 Director  
KME Architects



**Victoria Cousino, AIA**  
2023 / 2024 Director  
KNIT



**Wellbe Bartsma, AIA**  
2023 / 2024 EPYAF Director  
Gensler



**Kayleigh Hasshaw**  
2023 Allied Director  
TJK Consulting Engineers



**John Sawdon, AIA**  
2023 Past President  
KNIT



**Daniel Ortega**  
2023 Education Liaison  
UNLV School of Architecture



**Ivan Gonzalez-Vasquez, AIAS**  
2022 / 2023 AIAS President  
UNLV School of Architecture

### AIA Las Vegas Board Director, 2023-2024

In 2022 Victoria was chosen to serve as an interim Board Director and went on to be elected to a two year term for 2023-2024. As Director, Victoria seeks to engage younger members and those new to the practice. She is a believer that we are stronger together and understands the importance of cultivating relationships on the local and national level.



### AIA Women Building Nevada Rising Star Award, 2023

This award is given to a young woman in her early years of the profession who is growing in leadership through her professional roles and activities. The selection committee commented, "Victoria is amazing to work with and great at coordinating with design consultants which helps make for a smoother design process. She cares about what she is doing, is active in the community, participated in the Affordable Housing Charrette, and currently serves on the AIA Las Vegas Board of Directors."



I think everyone considering entering the career field could benefit from a greater understanding of all the different roles you can play as an architect. Architecture is a profession many different personality types can thrive in if they are given the right opportunities in the right setting. Our goal should be to educate potential future architects on how their skills may be applied to the career, whatever their skills may be. Finding your niche or area of expertise can allow you to excel in a field that you may have thought did not hold a place for you.

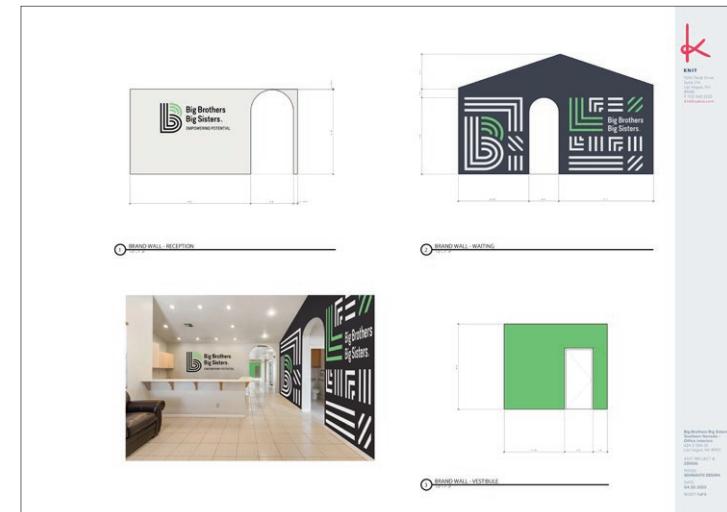
**Victoria Cousino,  
AIA, NCARB, WELL AP**  
Architect  
Knit Studios

#### **“The Credential”, 2021**

In September 2021 Victoria was asked to contribute to a conversation in The Credential newsletter on the topic of “What The Future Holds for Talent in Architecture and Engineering”. The article gathered the thoughts of women in the profession on where they saw the future of the field.



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®**  
OF SOUTHERN NEVADA



#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, 2019**

Victoria joined the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Southern Nevada in the Fall of 2019 as a way to give back to the community and serve as a friend and mentor to a local youth.

Victoria has been paired with her “Little” Arianna for over 4 years and has seen her develop from a shy, quiet child into a social, outgoing teenager. As the youngest child herself, Victoria has enjoyed the opportunity to act as the older sibling and provide guidance and advice.

In addition to being a “Big”, Victoria has encouraged coworkers to join the program, and she participates in the annual Bin Ball tournament to raise funds for BBBS, with additional financial support provided by Knit. The firm has also provided pro bono design services and donated furniture to the Las Vegas BBBS office.

# WELL AP™



GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION INC.™ CERTIFIES THAT

## VICTORIA COUSINO

has attained the designation of WELL AP by demonstrating the knowledge and understanding of the interaction between health and wellness within the built environment and the implementation process for the WELL Building Standard™.

CREDENTIAL ID: WELL-AP-0000016420  
ISSUED: FEB 23, 2018  
VALID THROUGH: FEB 23, 2024

2101 L Street NW | Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20037  
WELLcertified.com

RH

Rachel Gutter  
CEO & President  
GBCI

Peter Temperton  
President  
Green Business Certification Inc.

## WE ARE WELL



AIR



WATER



NOURISHMENT



LIGHT



MOVEMENT



THERMAL  
COMFORT



SOUND



MATERIALS



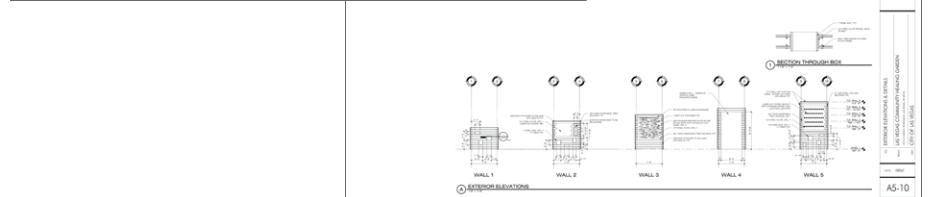
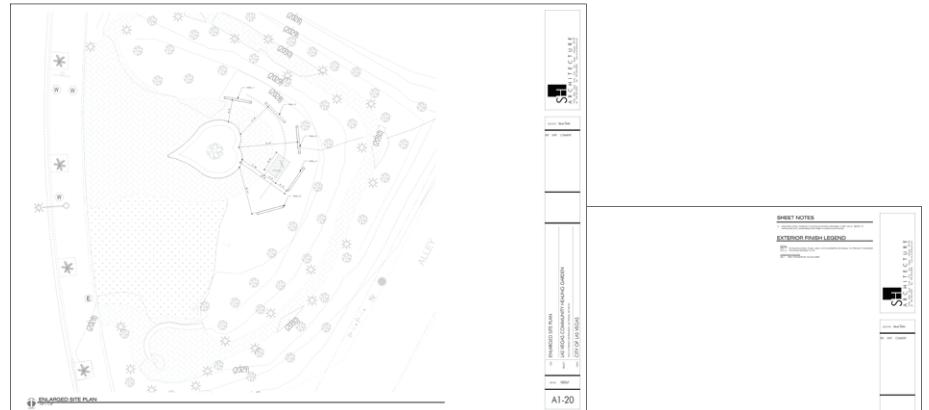
MIND



COMMUNITY

## WELL Accredited Professional, 2018

Victoria completed the WELL Accredited Professional program in 2018, becoming one of the first in the state of Nevada to achieve the certification. This program focuses on the health and well being of building occupants with specific focus on the 10 WELL Concepts. The WELL AP certification demonstrates commitment to healthy buildings, people, and communities.



## Las Vegas Community Healing Garden, 2018

Following the events of October 1, 2017, local artists came together to create a temporary healing garden in Downtown Las Vegas. The garden became very important to the community and the decision was made to create a permanent installation. Victoria was the project manager for Knit (then SH Architecture), and worked with the artists and McCarthy Building Companies pro bono to bring the permanent healing garden to life.

achievements



## Room S231

### S18 - Roundtable: PM's Perspective on the H+L Conversation

*Victoria Cousino, ASSOC AIA, WELL AP, SH Architecture*

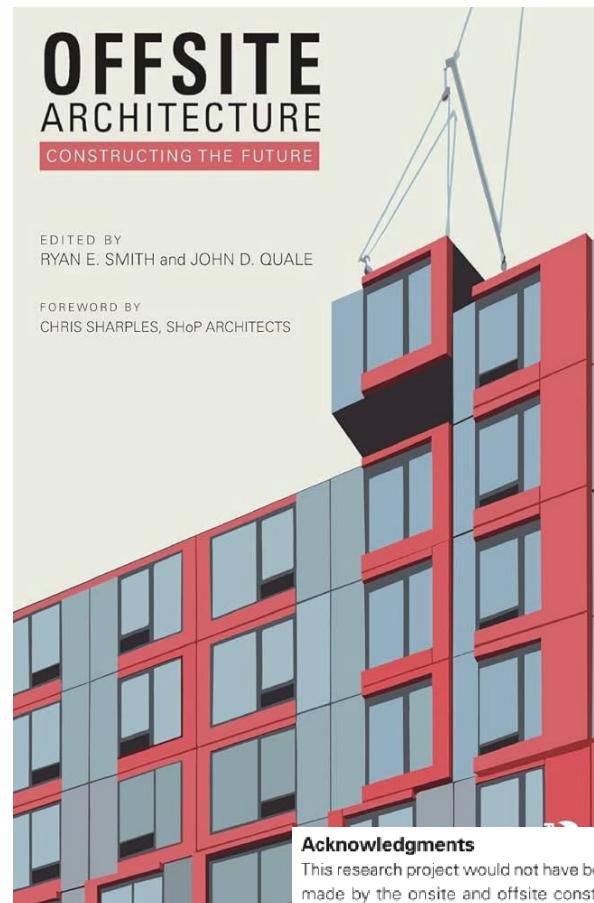
*Dawn Duranleau, AIA, NCARB, LEED GA, CORE Construction*

*Bryan Jass, LEED AP BD+C, CxA, AE Design*

*Deborah Burnett, ASID, GMC, LCG, AASM, Benya Burnett Consultancy*

### LightShow West Speaker, 2018

In 2018 Victoria was selected as a panelist for the LightShow West Expo. The panel discussed the effects of lighting on health and wellness, and how to best incorporate healthy lighting design into projects. Victoria was chosen due to her project experience and WELL AP accreditation.



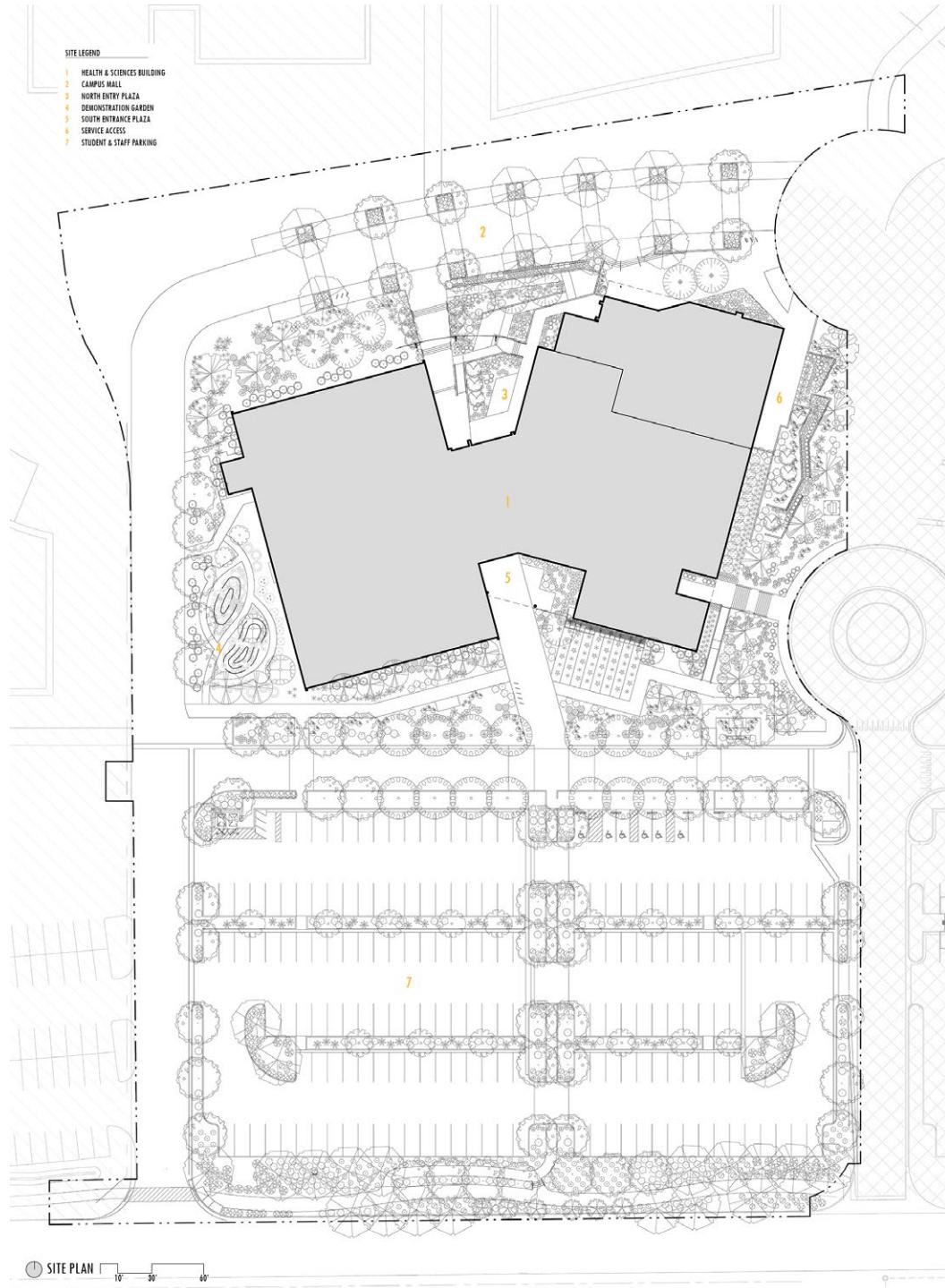
### Acknowledgments

This research project would not have been possible without the time commitment made by the onsite and offsite construction company employees who participated. Partial funding for this study and chapter was provided by the University of Virginia School of Architecture, the University of New Mexico School of Architecture + Planning, and a grant from the Modular Building Institute (MBI), a commercial modular industry trade association. MBI made suggestions to the research team for companies to contact, but none of these companies provided data used in the research. University of Virginia graduate students Rachel Lau and Emily McDermott and University of New Mexico graduate students Victoria Cousino and Mhd Ala Eddin Arar also contributed to the research.

### Research Assistant, 2015

While pursuing her Master of Architecture at the University of New Mexico, Victoria served as a Research Assistant to Chair and Professor of Architecture John D. Quale.

In this role she aided Professor Quale in the research, writing, and editing of his book *Offsite Architecture: Constructing the Future*, published in 2017. Her work on this publication furthered her own interest in prefabricated and modular architecture, particularly as it relates to sustainability and affordable housing.



## College of Southern Nevada Betty Englestad Health & Sciences Building

### Victoria's Role

Lead Designer/Assistant Project Manager

### Project Narrative

The Betty Englestad School of Health & Sciences was a joint use project combining the programs of the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) and Nevada State College (NSC), with funding provided by the Nevada State Public Works Division. Additionally, the building houses spaces for campus wide use such as general education classrooms and the campus library.

Accommodating the needs of all end users while staying on time and on budget proved to be an exercise in collaboration and open communication. Through the CMAR delivery method the project team was able to deliver the project on time and under budget, despite the majority of the construction taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since opening in 2021 the building has already seen many future nurses, EMTs, and healthcare providers pass through its doors, with many more to come in the future.

### Project Awards/Publications

2021 AIA Nevada Design Awards

Citation Award for Built Category - Commercial Architecture

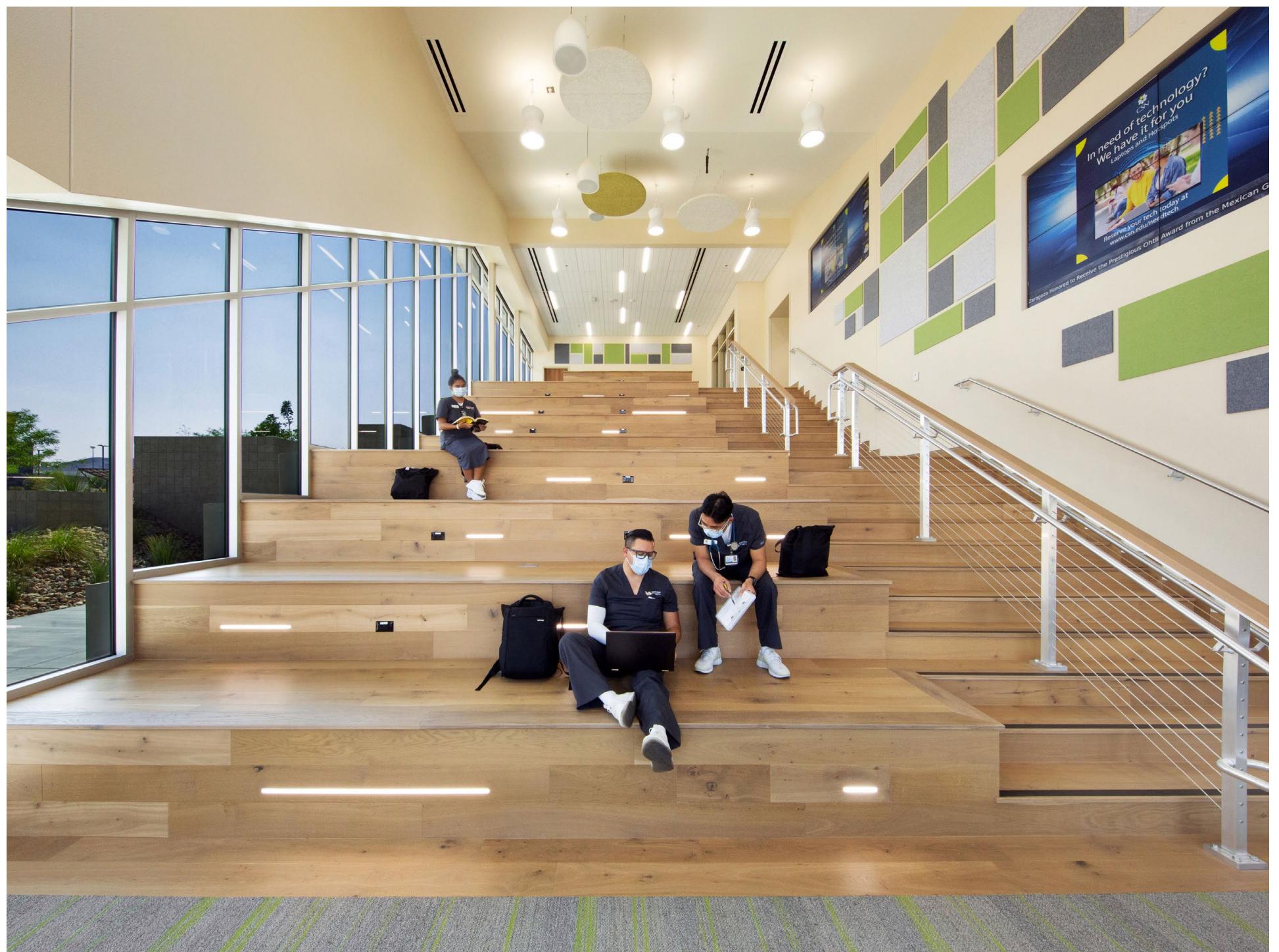
Engineering News Record

“Healthy Collaboration on Nevada Sciences Building”

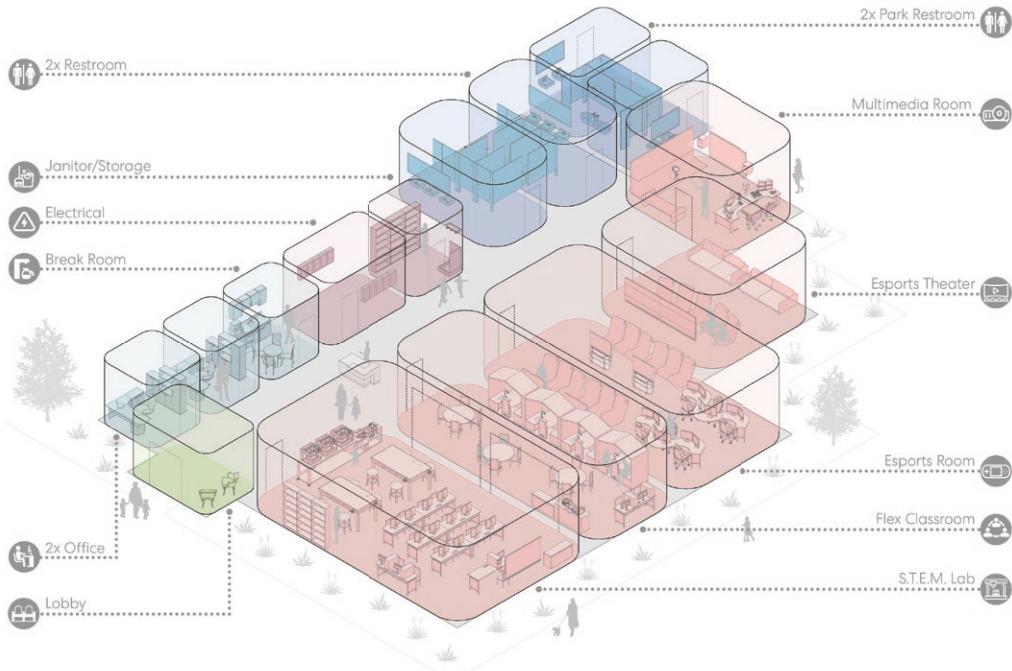
April 19, 2021



professional work



professional work



## City of Las Vegas Ernest and Betty Becker Family Technology & Recreation Park

### Victoria's Role

Lead Designer/Project Manager

### Project Narrative

The Ernest and Betty Becker Family Technology & Recreation Park was a collaborative effort between the City of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, and community residents.

Through outreach sessions with students at J. Harold Brinley Middle School and Cimarron Memorial High School, as well as local parents, teachers, and allies, a program for the building was established. A maker space gives students access to 3D printers and fabrication tools, inspired in part by Cimarron's award winning robotics team. A multimedia room provides opportunities for podcasting, DJing, and video content creation. The esports room allows for a greater reach into the entertainment sphere, while a flex classroom offers crucial residents of all ages who lack proper access to these valuable resources.

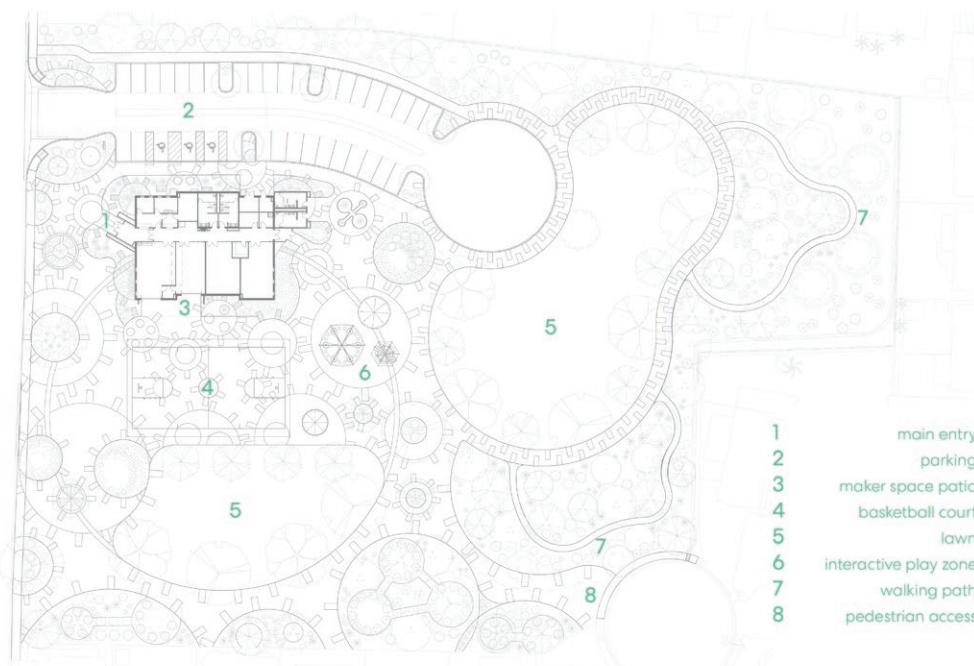
The park itself retains, but improves upon, its most beloved features. The aging basketball court is replaced by a low maintenance, durable, integral color concrete surface. Interactive, educational play features take the place of the outdated play structures. New shade structures dot the park, while a meandering, well lit path weaves its way through it all.

New additions bring the park not just in line with, but ahead of, current recreation standards. WiFi access is provided to every corner for a connected experience. Infrastructure is provided for projecting movies, using the building itself as the screen, for movies in the park, as well as the integration of smart exercise stations.

The Center is the culmination of the efforts of an entire community to bring to life a space they collectively take pride in.

### Project Awards

2023 Associated Builders and Contractors of Nevada Excellence in Construction - First Place



site plan



professional work



professional work



## Vasion Corporate Headquarters

### Victoria's Role

Lead Interior Designer

### Project Narrative

Located on the site of the former St. George, Utah Municipal Airport, the Vasion Corporate Headquarters is the cornerstone of the progressive new development TechRidge; a pedestrian focused mixed-use district.

The vision for TechRidge is one of collaboration, community, and connection to nature. With Southern Utah becoming an increasingly desirable location for tech start-ups, the development aims to foster these creatives while also maintaining and promoting the access to the natural beauty the area offers.

As one of the first buildings on the Ridge, the Vasion Corporate Headquarters sought to reinforce the characteristics of the greater development.

For Vasion, a cloud based software company, transforming the world of digital work begins with redefining their own concept of the workplace. When designing their new corporate headquarters and simultaneously re-branding their company, Vasion remained dedicated to creating the highest quality work environment possible for their employees.

By providing flexible work spaces, engaging environments, and a company vision that is reflected in the building itself, Vasion has continued to attract international talent and pave the way for the future of tech in St. George.

### Project Awards

Utah Construction and Design

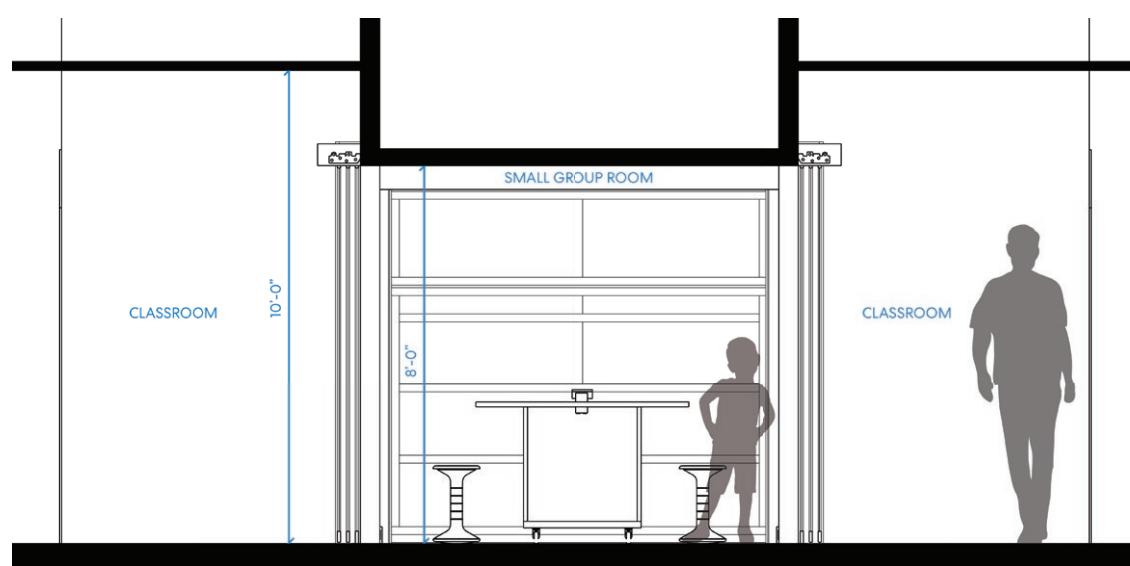
2021 Most Outstanding Commercial/Office Project Under \$10M



professional work



professional work



## Clark County School District Red Rock Elementary School

## Victoria's Role

## Lead Designer

## Project Narrative

First opened in 1955, Red Rock Elementary School had become outdated, inefficient, and unable to meet the needs of a modern educational facility. This led to the school being allocated for replacement as part of the over \$2 billion of 2020-2021 Bond Rollover (2015 CIP, Revision 5) that has been dedicated to the modernization or replacement of schools that are aging and unable to meet the current needs of the Clark County School District (CCSD).

Knit was selected as one of several firms to design a new elementary school prototype to be implemented on multiple sites over the next decade.

The new facility will house a program that reflects the needs and desires of a modern school. The proposed facility will include state of the art technology, larger and more diverse classrooms, playgrounds and play spaces in line with accessible and salutogenic design, and a built environment that promotes healthy learning through natural daylighting, views to nature, healthy building systems, and a secure, home like community.





professional work



professional work



## University of Idaho Prichard Art Gallery/University of Idaho VandalStore

### Victoria's Role

Lead Designer/Project Manager

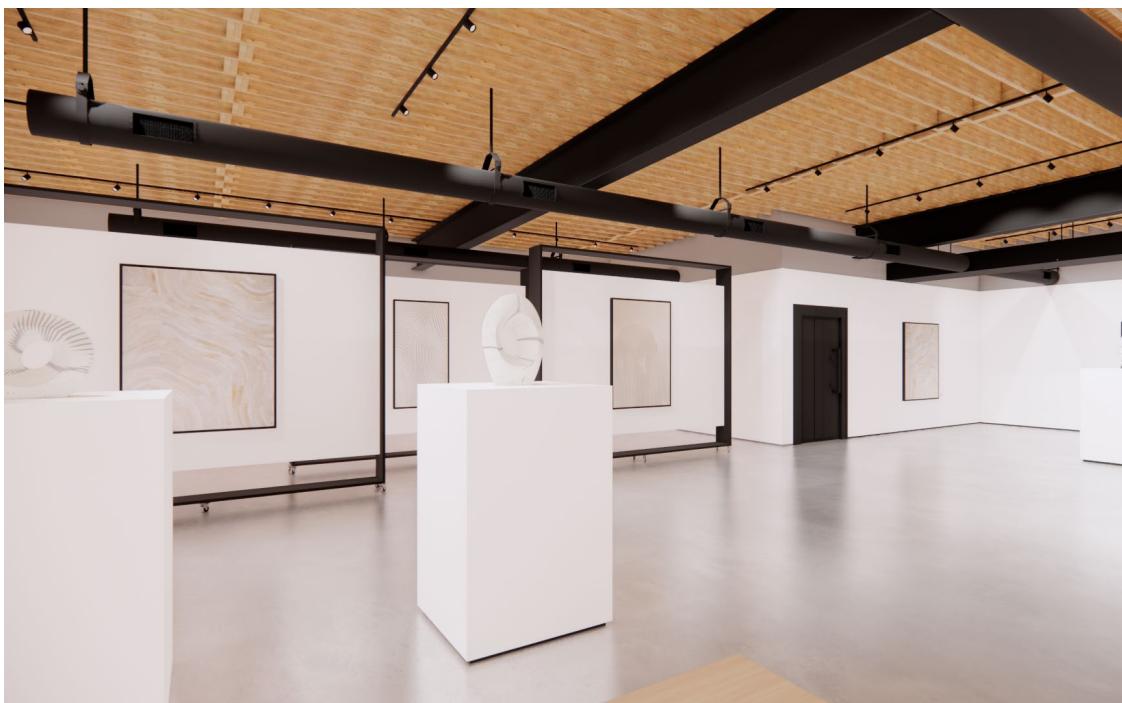
### Project Narrative

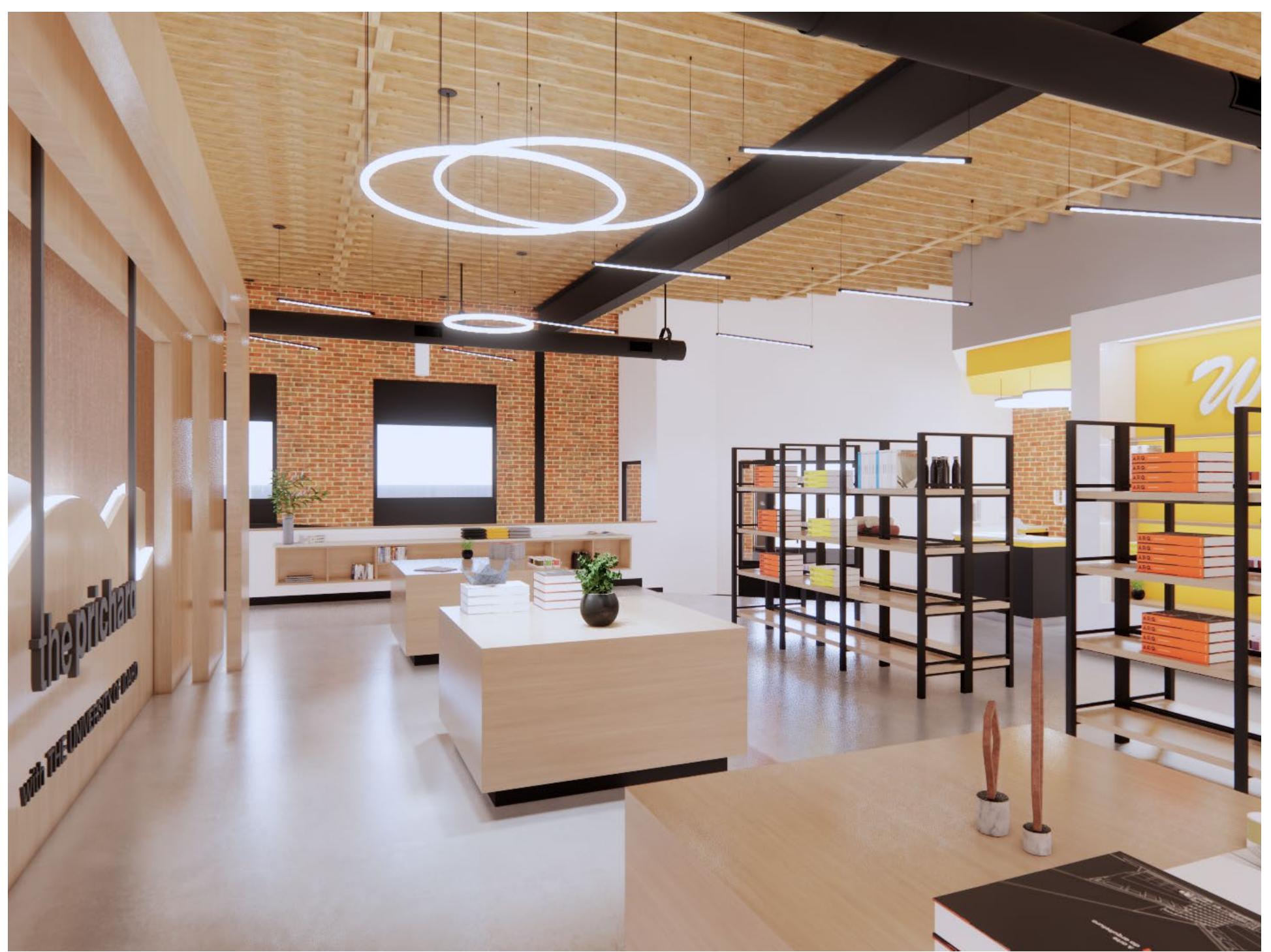
In 2023 Knit donated services to the University of Idaho to conduct a feasibility study that examined the anticipated scope of work to convert the existing Fourth Street facility into the combination Prichard Art Gallery/University of Idaho VandalStore/Welcome Center. The study evaluated various factors, including potential challenges with existing conditions, financial considerations, and the overall feasibility of the project.

The facility is located at 114 East Fourth Street, Moscow, Idaho at the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Highway 95/ Washington Street. Early drawings of the building dated March 20th, 1936, depict the original use as a creamery owned and operated by the Korter family, known as "Korter's Pasteurized Milk". The building later housed J&J Glass, before being purchased by the city in 1968 and becoming the City Hall and Police Station. The University of Idaho purchased the building from the City of Moscow in 2021 with plans to convert the 9,000 SF space into the art gallery and retail store.

Although the building is not on any historic registry, it is located within the Moscow Downtown Historic District with the current designation of "Noncontributing Property". Part of the goal of the renovation would be to restore the historic facade and potentially achieve a "Contributing Property" status.

Knit presented design options to the University of Idaho, and once a design was selected, assisted in the creation of funding and marketing documents to aid fundraising and donations.





professional work





November 7, 2023

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN**  
College of Art and Architecture  
875 Perimeter Drive MS 2461  
Moscow ID 83844-2461  
208-885-5423  
208-885-9481 (FAX)  
caa@uidaho.edu  
uidaho.edu/caa

Dear AIA AxNV DSA – Young Architect Award Jury:

I am honored to write this letter of support for Victoria Cousino. I have known Victoria for two years as she worked on a pro-bono project for our College of Art and Architecture and the University of Idaho. During that time, I found her to be strong team leader whose goal was to address our needs successfully and respectfully as we visioned our new art gallery, retail space and welcome center in an 87-year-old structure.

I particularly enjoyed working with Victoria and her team of all women architects and designers. She led the team with a firm hand but allowed them independence and encouraged them to dream with us. It was evident she truly mentored all members of the team and offered opportunities for growth for less experienced designers. I was impressed with her leadership skills, thoughtful consideration of our needs, strong design and planning skills, and her realistic approach to problem solving for our rural land grant university.

The project was a complex renovation of a 1936 creamery building located near the historic district of Moscow, Idaho. I specifically asked the KNIT team to consider the possibility of designing the exterior to reflect the building forms, materials and fenestration patterns that might enable it to be added as a contributing structure to the existing National Historic Register designation. Victoria made sure to consider this important request and offered a design that when implemented could be considered by the Idaho State Historic Site Review Board. I appreciated her willingness to add this dimension to a feasibility study that focused on code compliance, programing, and interior space planning. The submitted design is one that will move the building and gallery into the future by supporting a transformational living learning lab for our students and faculty.

The quality of Victoria's work is excellent and recognized by our University Architectural and Engineering group. University leaders in Facilities and Auxiliary Services remarked how efficient and professional the KNIT team was, and certainly look forward to working with them in the future. Victoria's leadership, organizational skills and follow through are evidenced in these accolades.

In conclusion, Victoria's efforts in supporting our students, faculty, the community, and the citizens of Idaho are greatly valued. She is a mentor to designers of all ages, a role-model for women in leadership, and a forward-thinking business professional. I strongly encourage the Jury to consider her for this honor without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shauna J. Corry".

Shauna J. Corry, PhD  
Dean

MOSCOW      BOISE      COEUR D'ALENE      IDAHO FALLS      STATEWIDE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

To enrich education through diversity, the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

letter of recommendation



Samuel D.  
Tolman AIA  
Architect

8141 Orchard Glen Ave  
Las Vegas, NV  
89131  
702/510-9178  
samncarb@gmail.com

November 6, 2023

AIA Las Vegas  
1131 S. Casino Center Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89104

AxNV DSA – Young Architect Award

To whom it may concern;

I have worked with Victoria Cousino on several projects over the last few years. She is extremely talented as a young architect. Victoria goes out of her way to assure that all aspects of a project are clearly defined and executed with expertise. We should all be proud of the up and coming generation of architects such a Victoria. With her knowledge and caring attitude for the profession we as seasoned architects can rest assured that we are leaving the profession in good hands.

She is very active giving back to the profession through the AIA and other endeavors. She fills the gap often left behind between the client, the profession, the public and fellow architects and other professions associated with architecture.

I am impressed with her ability to work through problems that arise on a project both engineering, interiors and architecture.

I would highly recommend her as Young Architect of the Year.

Hold or have held  
ARCHITECTURE  
LICENSES IN:

Utah  
Iowa  
Nevada  
Arizona  
Colorado  
California  
Minnesota  
New Mexico  
North Dakota  
South Dakota

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Tolman AIA NCARB

Certificate Holder of  
NCARB (The National  
Council of Architectural  
Registration Boards.)



November 8, 2023

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Victoria Cousino

Dear Jury,

I am writing a letter of recommendation for Victoria for the AxNV DSA – Young Architect Award for many reasons. First of all, she is amazing to work with. She is a talented designer and great at coordinating with the other design consultants in a way that seems effortless. Working as a sub-consultant under Victoria has always been a pleasure. She is skilled at navigating tough project types and makes the design process smooth and exciting to be a part of. The projects we have worked on together are meaningful and respectful to the clients she represents and the community in which the project is located. A specific example would be our work together on the Clark County School District elementary schools. Victoria and I worked closely to create thoughtful and innovative spaces that marry the indoor and outdoor environments and provide unique and educational opportunities for learning through play.

She became a WELL AP to better serve her clients, which shows how much she cares about what she is doing. She is also active in AIA and the community in general. She participated in the Affordable Housing Charrette, participated in various AIA committees, and currently serves on the AIA Las Vegas Board of Directors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Anna L. Peltier".

Anna Peltier, Principal Landscape Architect  
ASLA, LEED AP BD+C, SITES AP  
PLA NV #824, MI #3901001747, AZ #70343, UT #7477415-5301