CYRIL GEORGE CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Conceptual Design Statement: (DRAFT)

This narrative accompanies the conceptual design drawing and sketches included within. Through conversations with Professor Lance Twitchell, Provost Karen Carey, Librarian Elise Tomlinson, Facilities Director Keith Gerken and Facilities Planning & Construction Project Manager, Pua Maunu and the design team, and a comprehensive review of materials, existing building plans, the design for the center has taken a strong direction and shape. The conceptual design explores the model of ‘clan house’ and captures a curiosity for finding the strongest, most culturally sensitive way to relay through design an “indigenous space to centralize and promote the quality and value of Alaska Native knowledge” as described elsewhere in this application, and being an open welcoming space to all.

Primary spaces within the overall conceptual design include the “cultural center” within the existing structure of the library (approx. 2000 sf) which hold stacks for the primary book collection. This main space serves as a social/conversational space; a space for scheduled events and equipped with digital technology for presentation, teaching and learning. Other spaces in the design include a mid-sized language instruction classroom (about 660 sf) fully outfitted to serve a blended classroom experience and acoustically defined so one at a distance could hear and participate in the fine nuances of language and pronunciation. A gathering space (approx. 255 sf) would house a kitchen/break room to enable users of the center a space for cultural food preparation. An office is provided for the director of the space as well as two support spaces for storage of recording equipment, materials for instruction, secure and archive materials. Two private audio/study labs will also be acoustically separated for listening, recording or studying. These spaces will be used dually for a visiting elder in residence or visiting scholar.

Construction: Design through bid-ready construction documents would be developed within the first year; Bidding, Award and Construction activities would start in year 2 of the grant. Construction would encompass architectural, mechanical and electrical renovations to the space. Construction activities include some demolition of the existing rooms, ceiling and flooring. The cost estimate is based on framing with light gauge metal studs, structural glass and doors, laminated safety glass, a portion with a decorative frit pattern. Structural posts will be faced with red cedar planks. Wood finishes including walls, benches, will be faced with red cedar.

The Scope of ***Mechanical*** work consists of revisions to the heating and ventilating systems, plumbing systems, sprinkler systems, and automatic controls systems. Ductwork will be designed to limit noise disruption to sound sensitive areas. All ductwork shall be galvanized steel sheet metal. The automatic valve for the Language Classroom perimeter finned pipe heating unit will be relocated into the adjacent boiler room in order to reduce turbulent heating water flow noise.

The scope of ***Electrical*** systems are coincidental to the architectural, ventilation, and fire sprinkler system work and include power distribution, lighting & lighting controls, fire alarm, data and voice networks, audio-visual systems, and access controls. All new lighting will utilize energy efficient LED light sources. The existing fire detection and alarm system will be removed and reinstalled to accommodate new room configurations and ceilings. *Data & Voice Network:* All new data circuits will be comprised of Category 6 cables and used in conjunction with the UAS data network and VoIP communications network. *Audio-Visual* The language classroom will include a fully integrated AV system to support classroom and distance learning instruction, including an interactive Smart Display, speakers, microphones and wireless headsets for students. The Cultural Center will include a fully integrated AV system to support presentations as well as classroom and distance learning instruction, including an interactive video wall, speakers, microphones, wireless headsets. *Security:*  access controls on the doors into the Language Classroom, the Cultural Director’s office, Support, Gathering, and the Cultural Center will be provided.

All of the elements above is included in the cost estimate; detailed narratives were included in materials sent to the cost estimator to get the best possible estimate at this early phase.