SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CENTER (ICC)

Location: Scottsdale, Arizona
Architect: Architekton
Completed: 2018
Size: 32,719 square feet
Client: Scottsdale Community College, Maricopa County Community College District
Function: Indigenous Student Support + Success

For More Information:
http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/locations/icc
Imagine the Possibilities: Exploring Cultural Expression in Contemporary Native and Indigenous Architecture

The Indigenous Cultural Center (ICC) is the realization of a longstanding commitment by the college to provide a cultural center for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC). It also realizes an important goal for the college and SRP-MIC community towards self-sufficiency by providing high-quality teaching, learning, amenity and technology in this highly accessible and location.

Upon initiating the project, a challenge surfaced around how the building would represent and specialize around the different user groups coming from the Business School and the Indigenous Cultural Center. The expression of this union became a conceptual driver for the aesthetic expression and placement; creating different identities for each group while unifying the two around a large shared community connecting an axis aligned with the heart of the campus to the west and Red Mountain to the east. On the interior, the Business School and the Indigenous Cultural Center have different material selections to further create a subtle visual differentiation between the two programs.

**Project Goals**

- Educate students and visitors about the history of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Incorporate design elements rooted in SRP-MIC traditions
- Collaborative representation between the Business School and the Indigenous Cultural Center
- Physical connection to campus, the Indigenous Scholars Institute, and the SRP-MIC community
- Visual connection to adjacent east Red Mountain and the greater SCC campus
- Ample outdoor space for cultural events

**Location + Context**

The Scottsdale Community College campus sits on land leased from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC). The orientation of the Indigenous Cultural Center is rotated to make a connection with the Red Mountain to the East. It is one of the only buildings on the campus that is oriented off of the cardinal directions. The main entrance to the ICC is designed to face east and connect with a large outdoor gathering space on the exterior and a large community room with private access on the interior. This entrance is primarily for SRP-MIC community gathering events. The west entrance is used on a daily basis by students and faculty of the ICC and Business School and aligns with the rest of campus. Parking is located to the south of the ICC and is free.

**Architects and contractors facilitated user group meetings of tribal members, students, and faculty to determine must-haves and project themes.**

**Scottsdale Community College signs lease with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to build the campus in 1970.**

**The saguaro was a large part of the design since it holds an important place in the tribal community’s belief system.**

**The architects envisioned 3 buildings for this project but budget constraints required combining concepts into 1.**

**The Scottsdale Community College Indigenous Cultural Center, Scottsdale Community College, Architekton**
The ICC is situated off of a main circulation path that connects the ICC and the Business School. The circulation space aligning the main campus and Red Mountain, with entrance on both the west end and on the east. The ICC features a community room with private access that can be used by members of the tribe, a meditation and ceremonial space tucked in off the main corridor, office spaces, a kitchen and a large computer area reserved for use by Indigenous students and student groups. The diagram shows the distribution of space as allocated by the different users as those shared with the business school, those reserved for the SRP-MIC community, those for ICC staffing, faculty and administration, and students.

Photos above:
From the central space looking out and to the east; an Elder teaching in the ceremonial space; a weeping wall at the west entrance; the entrance to the business school.

Photos left:
Chairs for children in the community event space; a view looking east from the community event space with the outdoor event space beyond; a gathering space in the natural landscape surrounding the ICC with the east entrance beyond; the outdoor event space with seating and inlays naming views in the distance; Red Mountain; detail of the Saguaro, framed in view from the ceremonial space and of the exterior concrete walls which were cast on site with Saguaro ribs.

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