

WSU ELSON S. FLOYD CULTURAL CENTER



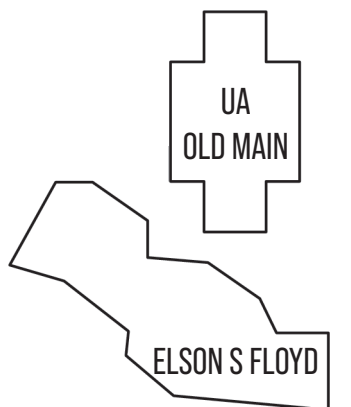
photo credit: GGLO

Location: Pullman, Washington
Architect: GGLO
Completed: 2017
Size: 14,960 Square feet
Client: Washington State University
Function: Cultural Center

For More Information:

<http://culturalcenter.wsu.edu/>

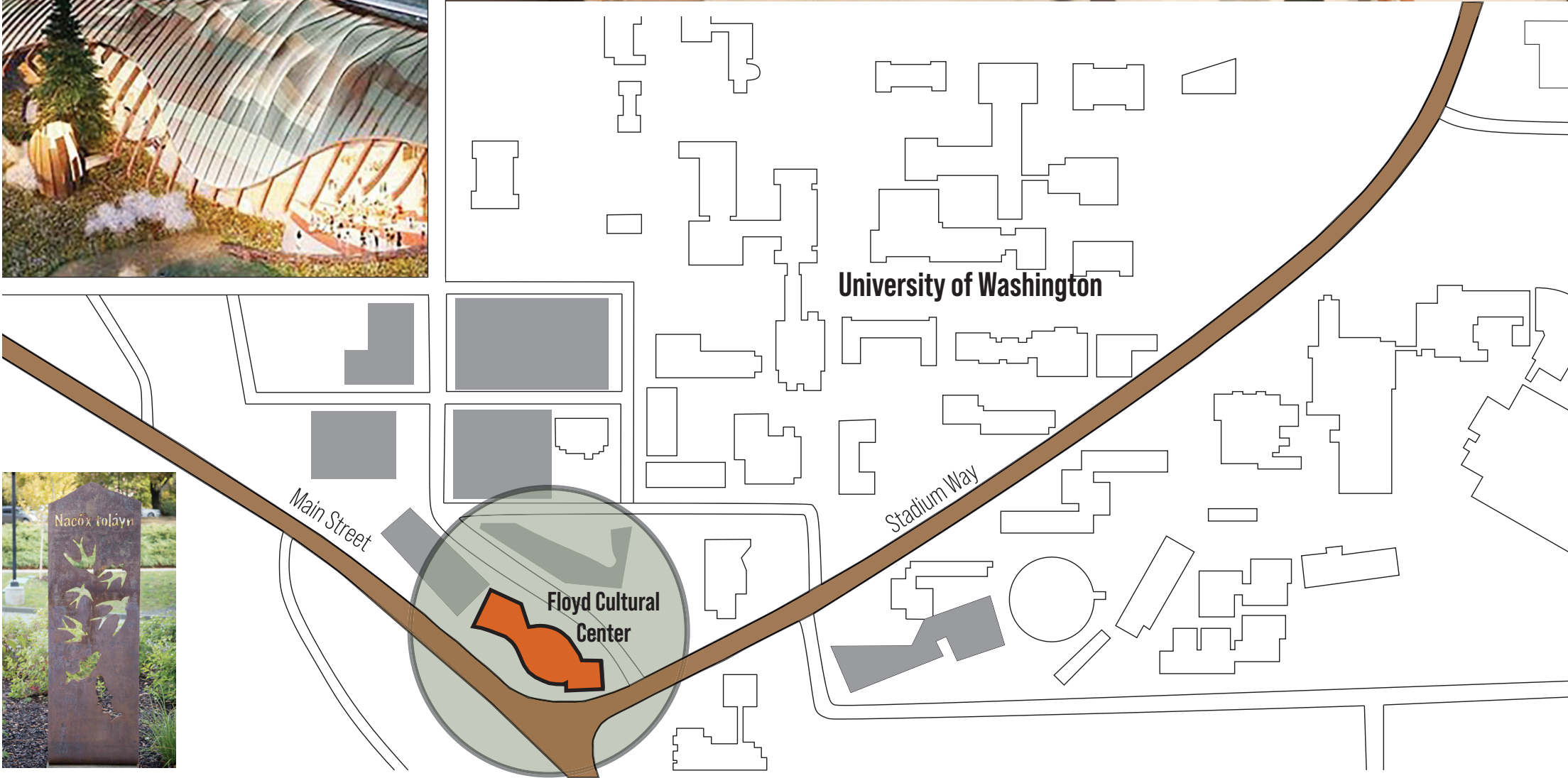
<http://www.gglo.com/project/ws-u-elson-s-floyd-cultural-center/>



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"The Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center reminds the country—the world—to look again at its histories, its contributors, and to learn from all its people."

The mission of the Floyd Cultural Center (FCC) is to engage diverse populations and increase cross-cultural understanding, by opening critical dialogues around race, ethnicity, intersectional identities, systems of oppression, cultural empowerment, and social justice. The Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center is supportive and welcoming, dedicated to advance socially conscious research, student engagement, community outreach, and academic and social innovation. Embracing cultural history is an intentional act that reminds us that those who have traditionally been underrepresented on the University's campus are not "new students". With bold representation and welcoming of diverse populations, we can not only learn about but learn from them.



Location + Context

The WSU Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center was purposefully placed at the entrance of the campus. As seen in the map above, Main St. cuts through the heart of WSU's campus and the Cultural Center greets all that enter. Because the building is very unique in its architecture, it attracts all students, faculty and visitors. It is easy to locate, visible, and accessible. Free parking is provided just outside the center (gray lots). The building is placed on an odd shaped parcel, chosen so that it is the first building seen when driving across campus. The Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center, a vision of the late WSU President, is inspired by an Indigenous philosophy of respect and interdependence between humans and nature. Cultural reference is given to the Nez Perce tribe, with a roof design inspired by the traditional earth-shelter structures. The reflective roof reflects the sky, adds vibrancy and draws attention to the site while paying homage to both cultural inclusiveness and sense of place.

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Cultural Connections

The WSU Cultural Center's unique vision is translated through its architecture. The former president of WSU had a vision to celebrate heritage and diversity at the front gates of the campus so that all feel welcomed, in their journey as a student. The design of this space pays tribute to the Nez Perce Tribe, which resides across Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The board in charge of overseeing the design, pushed ideas of journey, traditional Indigenous houses such as longhouses and pit houses, and organic movement, since they felt that the design should replicate the land as well. The main components of this building include a living rooms (gathering spaces), well equipped commercial and demonstration kitchens, knowledge rooms, and a meditation area. All spaces can be reserved for private use.

The knowledge rooms are spaces for gathering, small events, studying, or simply to lounge with friends in a more private setting. The doors to the knowledge rooms slide and open up to create a big conference room if need be. In the design, the team noted that the four rooms signify the four underrepresented groups: Native American, African American, Asian American, and Alaskan/ Pacific Islanders. Also, the rooms are each distinguished by animals that are sacred to the Nez Perce culture. Although these rooms represent an ethnicity, they are not exclusive to any group.



Living room community space with customizable furnishings and layouts



Knowledge room with space for up to 40 people



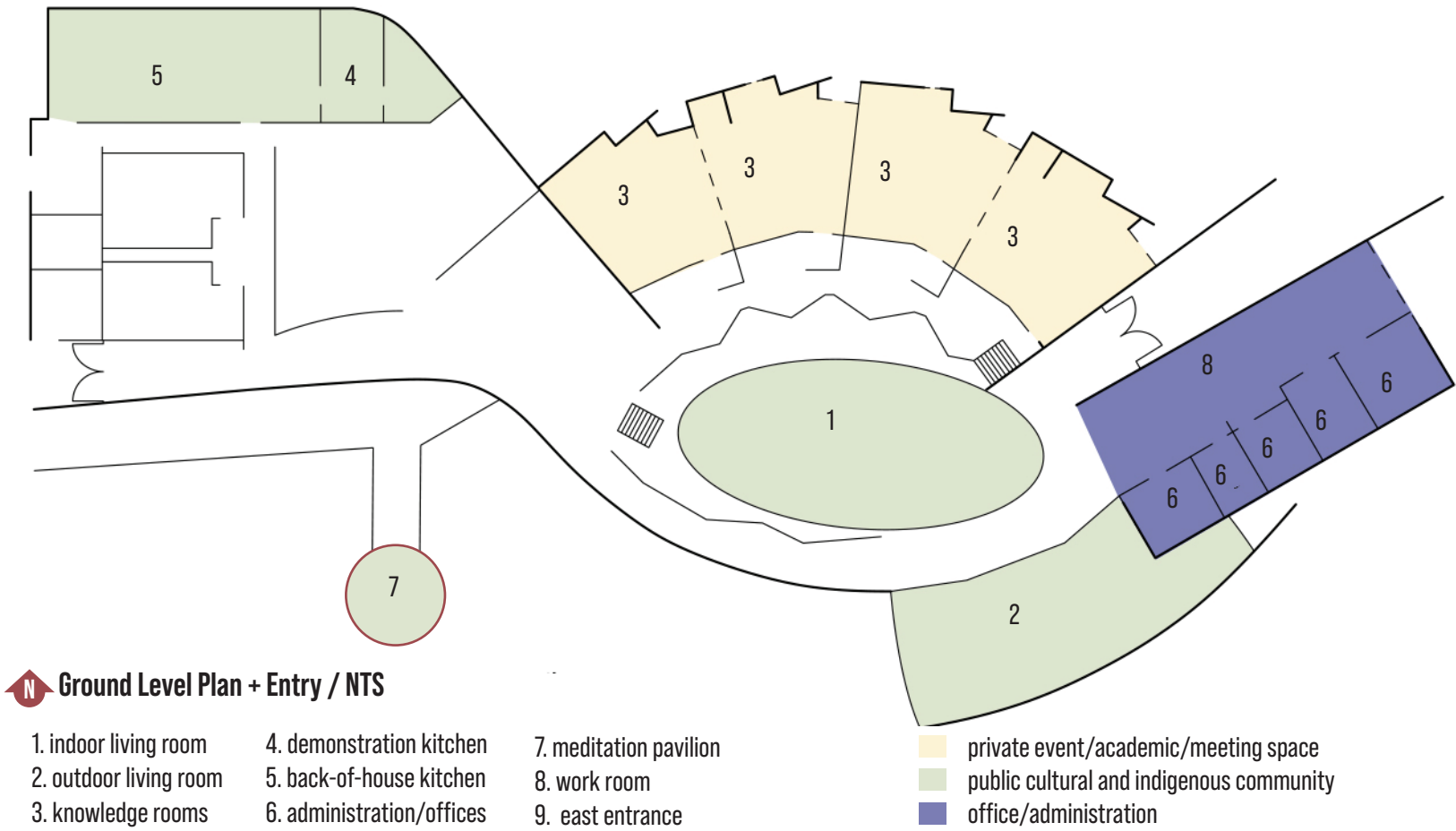
Art above the knowledge rooms: Golden Eagle & Serpent, Coyote, Turtle, and Sankofa Room



Outdoor fire pit



Demonstration and commercial kitchen



Meditation Pavilion

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