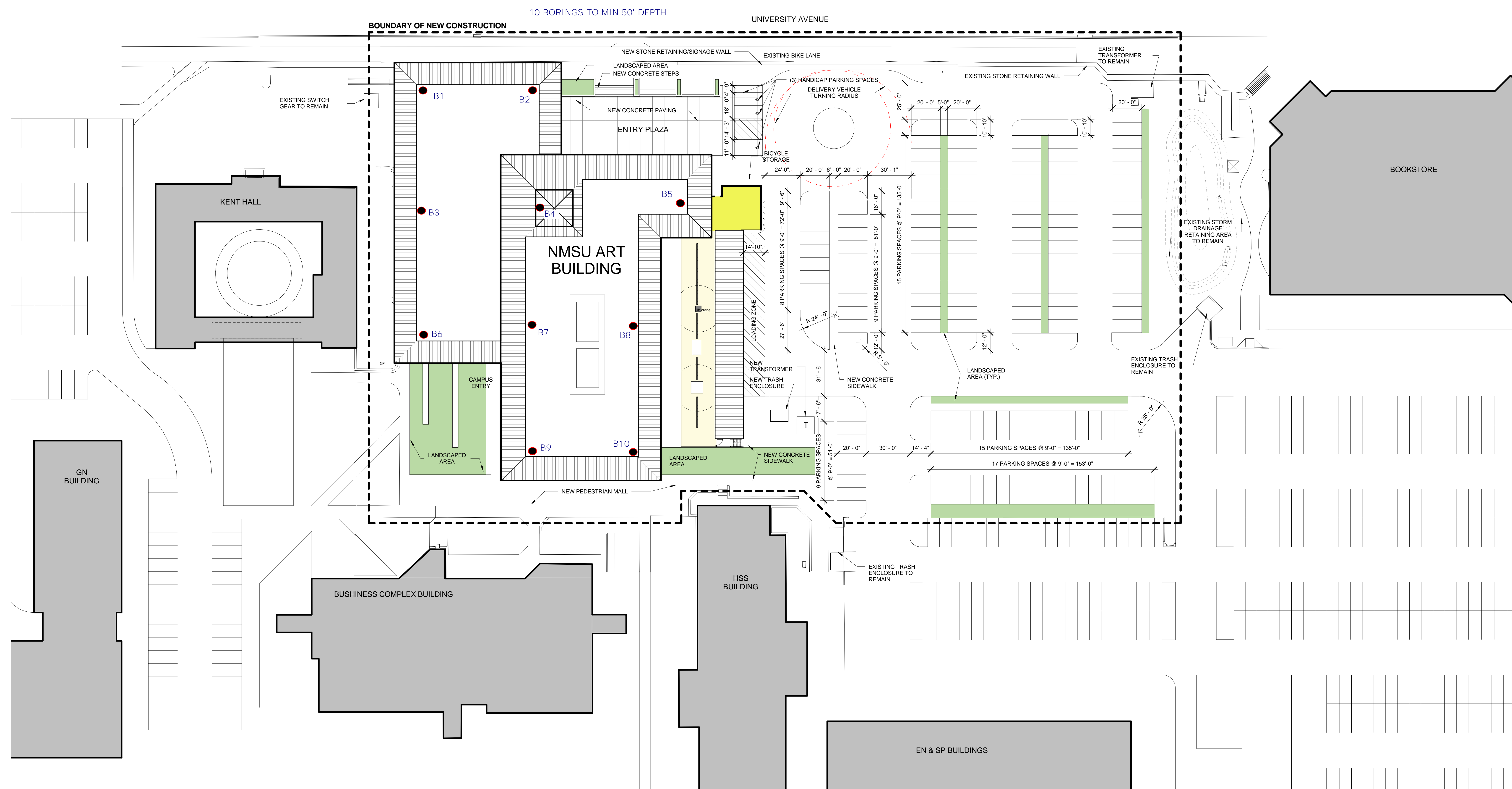


# NMSU Art Building Schematic Design Narratives

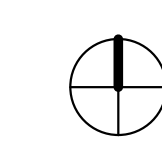


June 20th, 2016

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1 NEW CONSTRUCTION SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN  
1" = 30'-0"



PROJECT  
NMSU LAS CRUCES

NEW ART BUILDING

NMSU LAS CRUCES, NM

SHEET TITLE  
OVERALL NEW CONSTRUCTION  
SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

SHEET NUMBER  
A002

SCALE  
1" = 30'-0"

RMKM PROJECT NO.  
A0058

DRAWING FILE NO.  
A002

DATE  
6.11.2016

PROJECT MANAGER

DRAWN BY  
Author

DESIGN NARRATIVE  
New Mexico State University School of Art

June 2016

## Landscape Architecture

This new art facility will become a part of the campus fabric. It should fit seamlessly within the warp and weft of the campus landscape, less a singular addition and more an integrated part of the whole. This narrative discusses the design with attention to functional and aesthetic aspects, including elements that connect the new art center to the greater campus landscape. The following recommendations and approaches will illustrate anticipated landscape and related site development for this project.

**General Aesthetic Recommendations:** The goal for this landscape design is to create an engaging, cohesive, functional, comfortable and compelling environment for campus art. There is a natural connection between art and outdoor space. Recommendations would include the following:

- *Collaborate with the architect to make a strong connection between indoor and outdoor space. This includes possible outdoor workspace, outdoor instructional gathering space, outdoor exhibition space - investigate the potential for the outdoor spaces to exhibit student work and campus collections - a possible sculpture garden.*
- *Develop a plant palette that will help to foster a 'sense of place', i.e. a campus and regional identity, through the use of prominent campus species and regional natives.*
- *Consider the use plants to facilitate 'way finding', i.e., certain plants used at points of egress, pedestrian connection routes, public parking areas, entrances and significant nodes (informed by site visit to document existing plant use on campus).*
- *Use plants to express seasonal change and continuity of time, i.e., spring flower displays, fall foliage displays, winter deciduous/evergreen combinations.*
- *Investigate the potential of other plants not currently in use that can enhance the diversity and aesthetic quality of the campus such as Chihuahuan Desert natives.*
- *In collaboration with the Architect, develop a set of site furnishings that will provide a consistent and functional aesthetic, with minimal maintenance requirements (if site furniture is included in the project).*
- *Design a landscape that works with and enhances the architecture, .i.e, frames views, reinforces axes, helps with indoor/outdoor transitions and provides a balance to the geometric architectural materials with an organic and green surrounding.*

**Functional Recommendations:** In general, landscape design and maintenance should be consistent with "sustainable" principles established for environmental design.

Recommendations will be made to promote a healthy and functional landscape that also saves energy and lowers costs. Recommendations include the following:

- *Incorporate “water harvesting” where practical to contain runoff and direct it toward plants to reduce irrigation water use.*
- *Recycle landscape materials by using mulches to limit water use toward enhanced plant health. Mulches will be a provision of the landscape design.*
- *Use plants to temper climate extremes for more comfortable outdoor space in all seasons. Provide shade trees in gathering areas and pedestrian routes to cool during summer. Provide for sunny warm spaces during winter.*
- *Select and locate plants with regard to future mature growth so that pruning requirements are minimized or unnecessary.*
- *Select plants that are appropriate to the environmental conditions of the project site, i.e. low water needs, shade producing trees and wind attenuation.*
- *Provide comfortable resting-sitting-gathering places along clearly established pedestrian connections, routes and outdoor gathering places: design will be consistent with a comfortable and universally accessible campus for walking as a desirable and healthy way to traverse the campus. Provide safe bicycle access and parking to encourage and maintain secure and safe campus bicycle use.*
- *Use state-of-the-art irrigation design to optimize both efficient water use and plant health.*

## **Design Approach for Specific Site Areas**

### **Building Entrances in General**

- *Use landscape to enhance the new facility's entry areas.*
- *Provide shade for indoor/outdoor transition areas (where interior day lighting is not compromised).*

### **Outdoor Gathering Spaces in General**

- *Site Furniture – provide seating opportunities (benches, seating walls) in gathering spaces; bicycle racks located in high-visibility area for safety.*
- *Provide wind and sun protection*
- *Provide seasonal accents*
- *Foster a “sense of place” - regional identity through use of native plants.*
- *Avoid bright and reflective/glaring materials, but also dark materials that would absorb and radiate heat, creating uncomfortable outdoor summer conditions.*

### **Specific Outdoor Spaces**

#### **Main Entry Plaza - University Avenue**

*A row of trees has been provided along the building entry axis. These trees give shade to this open plaza, provide enclosure to limit exposure to the adjacent University Avenue and help create a sense of arrival by leading up to the building entrance.*

#### **Campus Entry Plaza - Southwest Area**

*The plaza design is simple with a paved terrace adjacent to the building. Three long seating walls help terrace this sloping grade. At the base of the slope, a large canopy shade tree will help make this area more comfortable in summer. The slope will direct surface runoff to the*

*tree. The design has been kept simple to allow for design flexibility when the adjacent plaza at Kent Hall undergoes redevelopment in the near future.*

### **Parking Areas**

- *These areas are vulnerable to weather extremes - heat, glare and wind. Provide a protective canopy of shade trees that will help to mitigate these weather extremes.*
- *Include pedestrian walkways to conduct people safely and comfortably between cars and the building entrance. The walkways also ensure that pedestrian approach to the building is safe and gracious.*

### **Potential Outdoor Sculpture Placement**

- *Investigate the potential for extending interior gallery space into the exterior to create a compelling outdoor garden gallery of student sculpture. This would be consistent with a strong architectural connection between interior and exterior space and enhance the landscape.*
- *Outdoor placement of sculpture also provides a strong visual cue to the building's function.*

### **Irrigation and Water Use**

#### **Irrigation System**

- *Fully automatic with a programmable controller.*
- *Trees and shrubs watered by ground level .25 and .5 GPM bubblers for easier maintenance and vandal-resistance (or drip irrigation system if requested).*
- *Automatic drain-valves for winterization maintenance - located adjacent to trees for efficient use of drain water.*

#### **Stormwater Harvesting**

- *All stormwater runoff will be diverted to landscape areas and/or collected in basins to both augment irrigation and reduce the cost of on and off-site drainage infrastructure as practical.*
- *Cistern design for rainwater storage can be provided if requested by the University.*
  - ✓ *The landscape architect will consult with campus grounds maintenance staff to ensure that the irrigation system's equipment, design, and use of components are consistent with campus standards.*

### **Environmental Plant Selection Criteria**

- *USDA Plant Hardiness Zone: 8a (10F—15F)*
- *Elevation: 3,950 feet*
- *Precipitation: Approx. 8 inches of rain; 2 inches of snow*
- *Soil: Range from fine sand to heavy clay (Mesilla Valley)*
- *Native plant association - Lowland Chihuahuan Desert.*

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