

LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP CENTERS

# American Indian Hall

**CELEBRATING OUR  
HERITAGE  
AND TAKING BOLD  
STEPS FORWARD.**



MONTANA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI FOUNDATION



# The American Indian Hall

## COMING HOME.

As Montana's first land grant institution, Montana State University was founded on a visionary idea – that access to higher education is critical to social and economic development, as well as the strength of American democracy – and that every student, regardless of background or family finances, has the right to pursue and attain a college degree. Once in school, it is our continued responsibility to provide the resources and support to make sure our students stay and graduate.

Almost fifteen years ago, MSU launched an ambitious fundraising project to support construction of an American Indian hall, a campus home for our growing number of American Indian students. MSU expects to reach enrollment of over 1,000 American Indian students by fall of 2020, making our need for the student center critical.

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## BUILDING A BRIDGE.

The American Indian Hall will be a campus home for our native students, a place to share meals, meet with each other and with students from other backgrounds. A gathering room will create space where people come together to share the collective wisdom of their history, a place to speak openly and honestly, a place to practice native customs and culture. Additional

rooms will house tutoring, counseling and mentoring, a kitchen, a drum room, space for Elders to provide counsel, and of course, rooms for students to visit, study or work on projects.

The American Indian Hall will also serve as a bridge between American Indian and other cultures, welcoming



**YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOME AS THE  
AMERICAN INDIAN HALL BECOMES A PLACE OF HONOR  
FOR OUR NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS.**

our native and non-native visitors alike, raising the profile of our American Indian population on campus, and bringing into sharper focus their community. The new American Indian Hall will provide a dedicated space for interchange that will focus on education and will celebrate the unique diversity we share.













With President Cruzado's leadership, several committees comprised of representatives from across campus have been assembled to guide the process of design and construction of MSU's new American Indian Hall.

Your thoughts are welcome as we embark on this task.

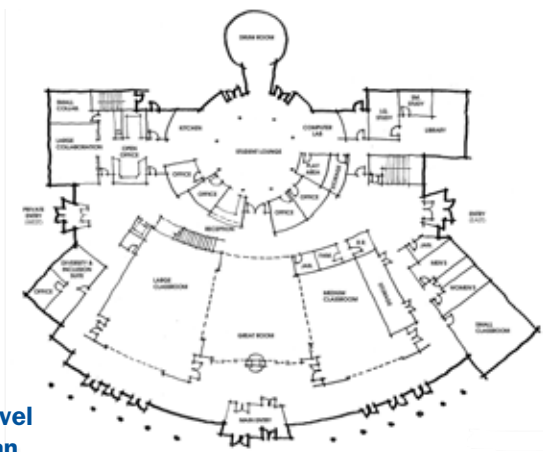
Building upon original concepts developed by Dennis Sun Rhodes of the Northern Arapaho and MSU Alumnus from the School of Architecture, the design of the building and accompanying grounds will be guided by a number of important constituents: President Cruzado's Council of Elders; the Native American Studies department at MSU; the American Indian Council (a student organization); our partners at the seven Tribal Colleges in Montana; the Associated Students of MSU; tribal elders from around the region; and interested community members.

The people of Montana want to write a new chapter based on trust and understanding among groups with diverse interests and world views. We all must be a part of this important conversation. The American Indian Hall at MSU will help advance that aspiration and allow our native sons and daughters to spread their knowledge within and beyond the reservation borders, into the world in which we now live. Our hope is that we can create a better future for everyone from this place, this educational home for our future American Indian leaders and all MSU students.

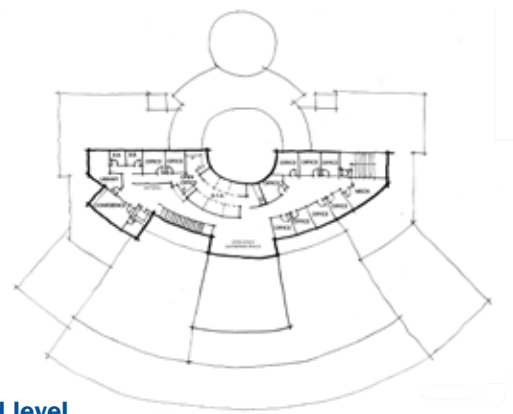
## The American Indian Hall is in preliminary design with programming to include:

-  **Three classrooms including outdoor learning space for students**
-  **Academic collaboration spaces and large conference room**
-  **Small conference room and Elder meeting spaces;**
-  **Student success center offices with flex space for future offices**
-  **Student room with kitchen, childcare area, library, computer room and study carrels**
-  **Gathering area for day-to-day student study and meeting use and for larger presentations, meetings, banquets and tribal gatherings**
-  **Drum room**
-  **Large storage area to serve the multi-functionality of the building**
-  **Exterior interpretative trail system for education on native plants and their uses as well as tribal narratives**
-  **Lower level for program growth space, utilities and additional storage**
-  **Cultural activities center**
-  **Space for Native American Studies administration and faculty, the Senior Diversity and Inclusion Officer and counseling offices**

## CONCEPTUAL FLOOR PLANS

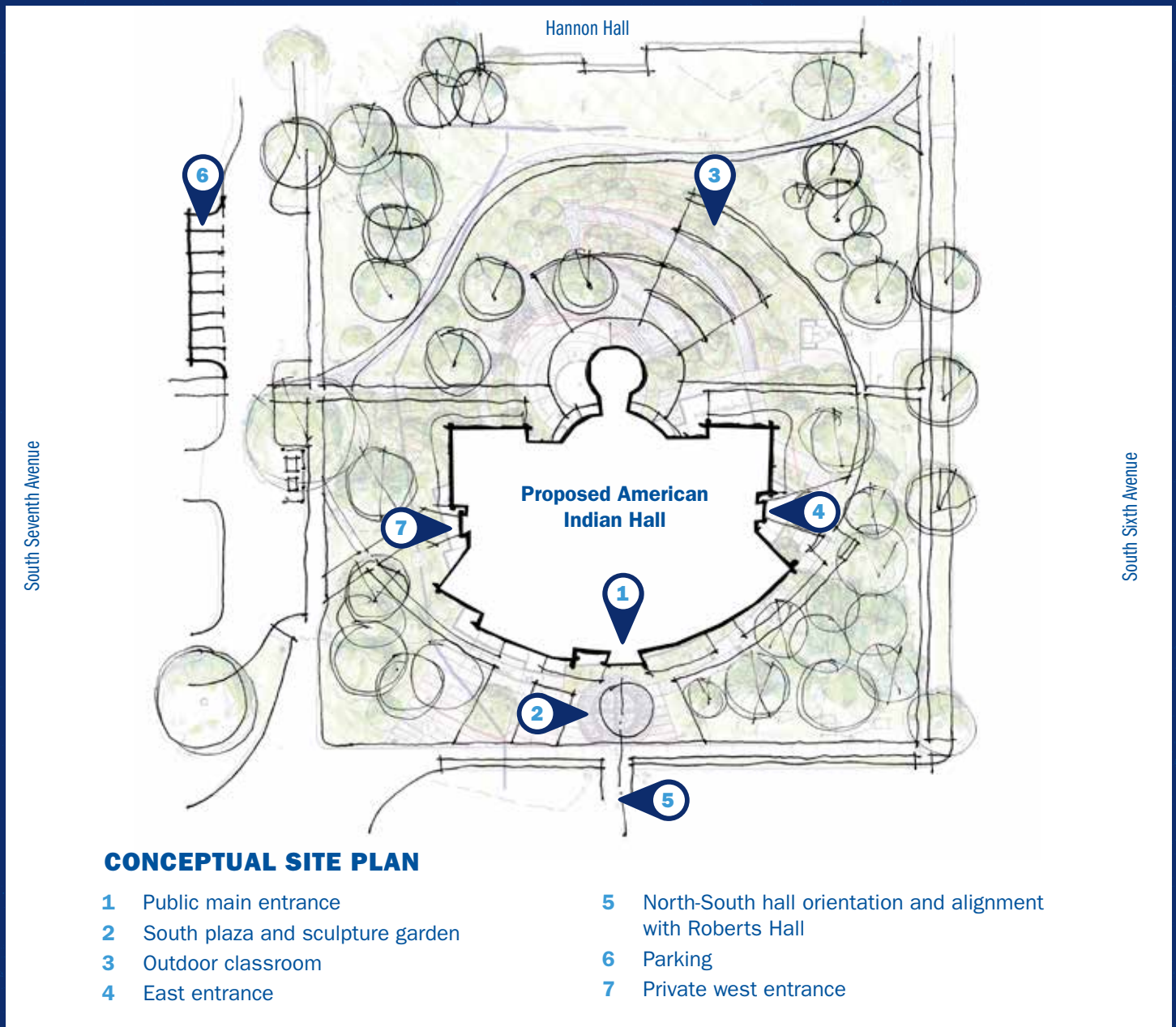


**First level floorplan**



**Second level floorplan**

# A CROSSROADS OF CULTURE AND STUDENT SUPPORT.



## JOIN US FOR A GROUND BLESSING CELEBRATION.

Friday, March 29 at 3 p.m., followed by the MSU Spring Powwow



Your comments and ideas are welcome. Follow the design process and let us know what you think at [montana.edu/aih](http://montana.edu/aih).

To email comments or to speak to someone about the project:

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