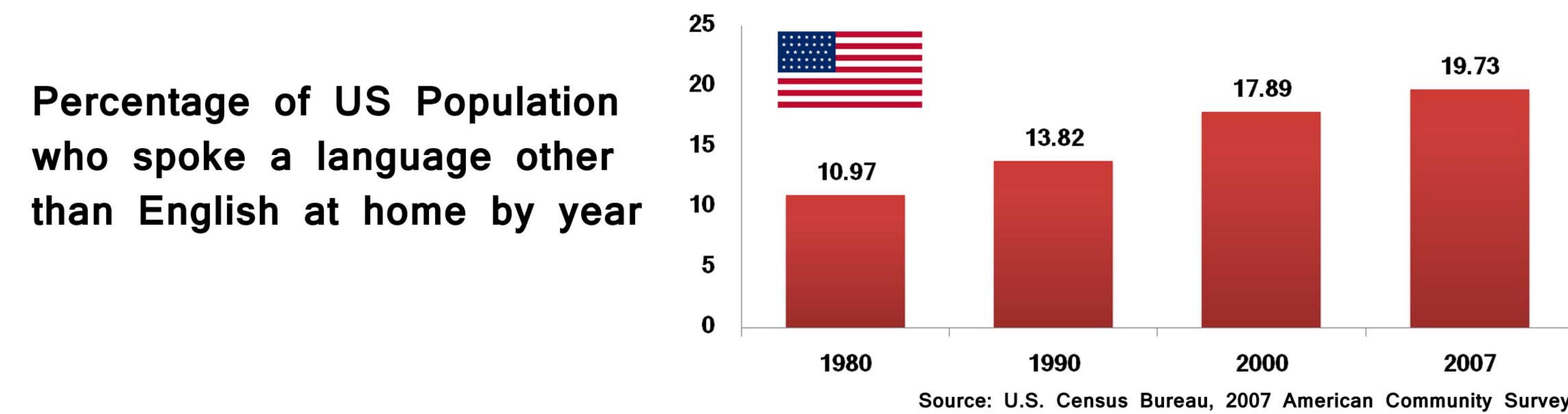
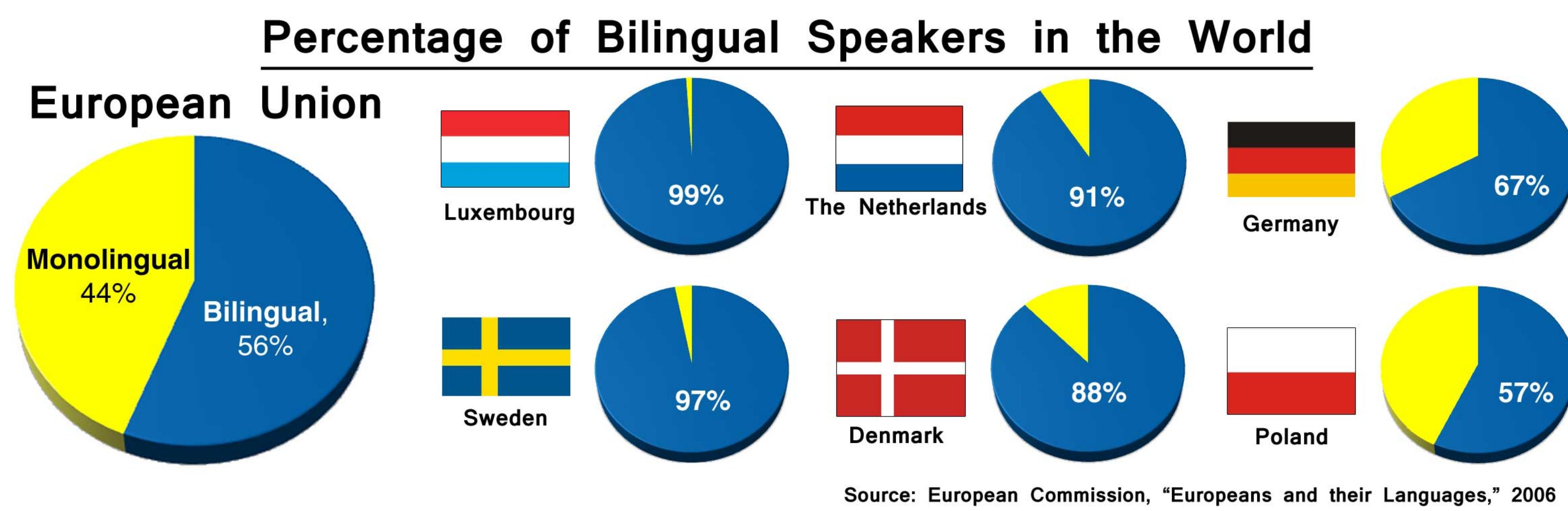


Best Practices in Second Language Acquisition: applications to a diverse community

RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

Plurilingualism: formal policy which encourages the study and use of multiple languages; protects minority languages and simultaneously facilitates regional and international communication - exemplified by the E.U.

Global English: English set as the language of business and international/regional relations; can put pressure on regional languages because encourages monolingualism - exemplified by the USA



Language enrollment has fallen drastically in the USA as universities and colleges lower language standards for admission. Similarly, the rise of Global English as a world lingua franca has decreased the urge students and US citizens feel to study foreign language. They believe that their mother tongue will suffice to get them most places in the world.

Bilingualism has historically been seen as a problem instead of a benefit in the USA, based on the erroneous belief that the human mind is burdened doubly by the introduction of another language besides English. Many people still fall under the sway of this belief. In fact, bilingualism can often help students develop stronger literacy skills in both languages.

Other languages are rapidly growing in importance as the USA and other English speaking countries are losing the grip they once held over the international economy.

RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

Applications of Theory:

- collaboration is key
- socially-based contexts
- provide motivation for learning
- provide content to lessons and cultural context to activities
- emphasis on “living language” and active use
- goal of communication
- focus on fluency
- less focus on producing at a native speaker level of grammar and more focus on communicative strength
- IT can be a great boon to FL if applied properly
- immersive experience remains the most effective tool to acquisition

Second Language Acquisition research indicates that traditional pedagogy is ineffective for developing a fluency in a second language. Instead of lecture formats, or memorization and repetition of recorded preselected content, recent theory and research has emphasized that **interaction** and **output** are essential to true acquisition.

Task-based education facilitates both input and output for foreign language students and encourages acquisition through meaningful exercises instead of simple memorization.

Skill Learning:
result of practiced behavior

vs.

Process Learning:
result of critical thinking and
desire to communicate

Learning
conscious knowledge
that requires recall

vs.

Acquisition
unconscious production

CLIENT AND GOAL

Proposal: a community based language and cultural center used for Expanded Learning Time (ELT)

Designed to bring students and adults from a diverse community together, this center will host multiple opportunities for **multicultural engagement**.

- foreign language classes (adult and child)
- ESL classes (adult and child)
- cultural engagement classes
- cultural dance, song, and art activities and classes
- cultural festivities
- survival language classes
- office space for cultural non-profits
- business forum for local owners

Mission: This community center and school will provide a place for the community to learn about one another, experience each other's cultures, and lead to a more understanding and open community.

Vision:

to create a more accepting and welcoming neighborhood where ethnic tensions are diminished and tolerance is developed

WOR(L)DS
center for
culture and community

CASE STUDY

Beacon Community Schools:
nationwide initiative for school
programming

“foster partnerships that maximize
resources and provide ‘collective impact’”

public school serves as a community
center - a safe haven for children and a
point of engagement for the community

youth-development

cultural affirmation and develop youth-
adult relationships

offer ESL, tech classes, job training,
physical health, community enrichment

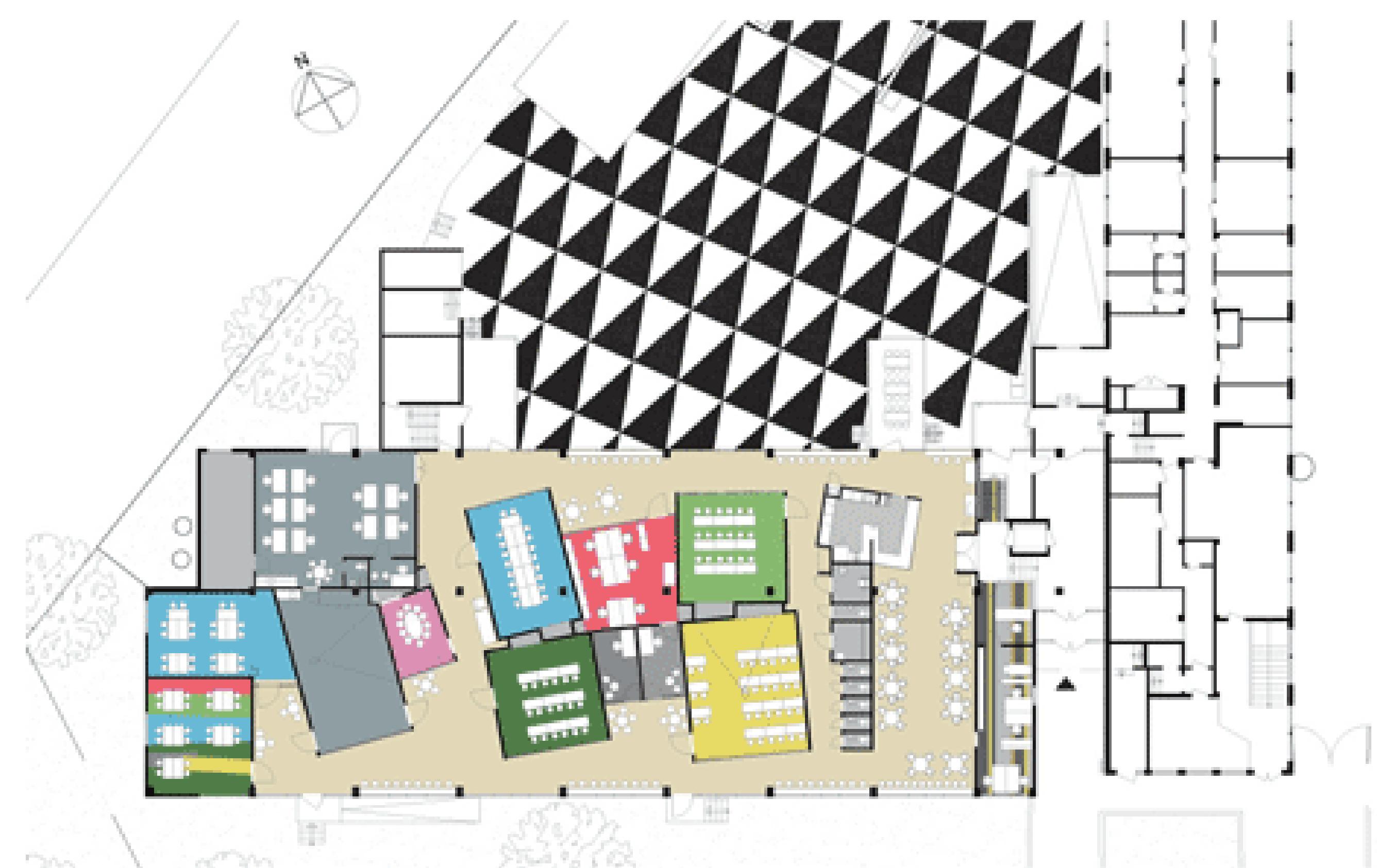
Stadsmisionen School
temporary school in ex-warehouse
Codesign

make use of “useless” space - corridors and staircases become meeting places

allow natural light through a main throughfare adjacent to the facade

glass classroom skins allow for daylighting to reach inside room spaces

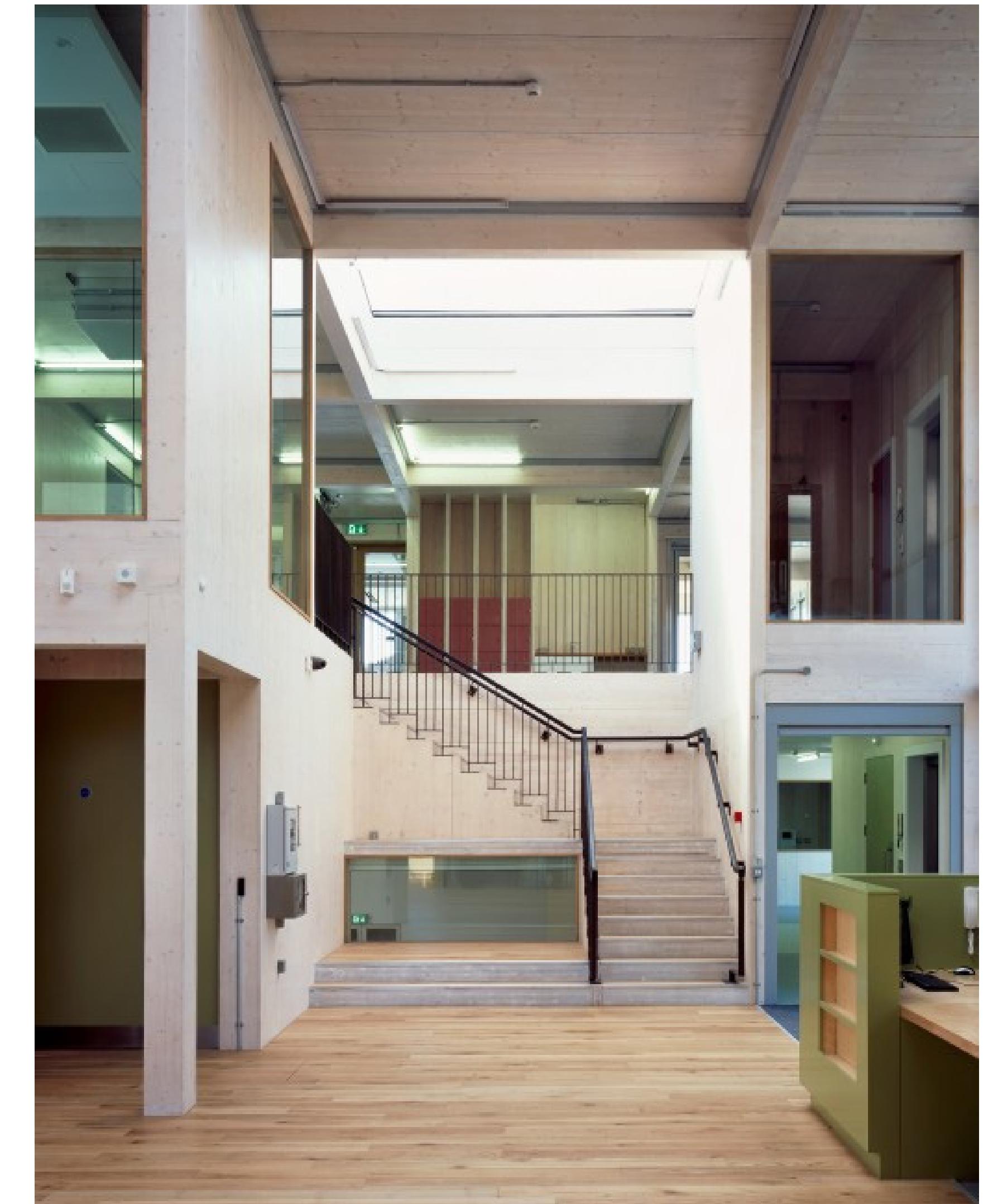
focus on easily reconfigureable and recyclable materials - low budget
emphasis



CASE STUDY

TNG Wells Park Youth Venue: youth & community center rcka architects (Lewisham, London)

youth center designed as a response to youth violence
makes use of flexible, undefined spaces
youth central to the planning scheme
simple and functional
open planning - overlooks and multi-story rooms provide a natural surveillance
extensive use of natural lighting
“blank space” on which students can leave their impression
designed so that youth feel that they can take accountability for the space

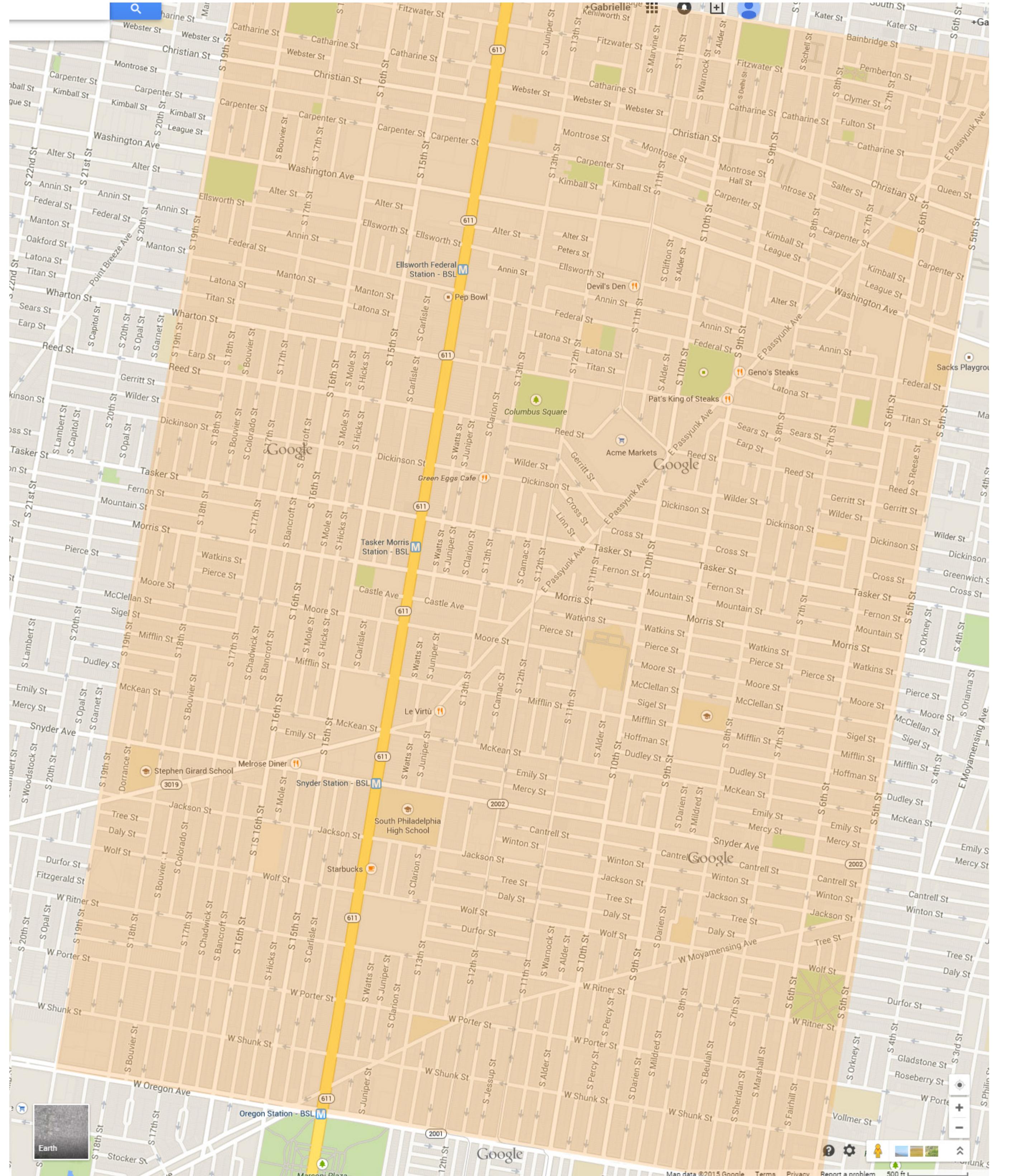


INTERIOR FACILITIES

dance studio
indoor and outdoor sports
recording studio
art programs
IT access
climbing wall

NEIGHBORHOOD

General Area Searched - Lower Moyamensing



Site specifications:

- high diversity area
- dense urban environment
- large population of foreign born residents
- proximity to schools

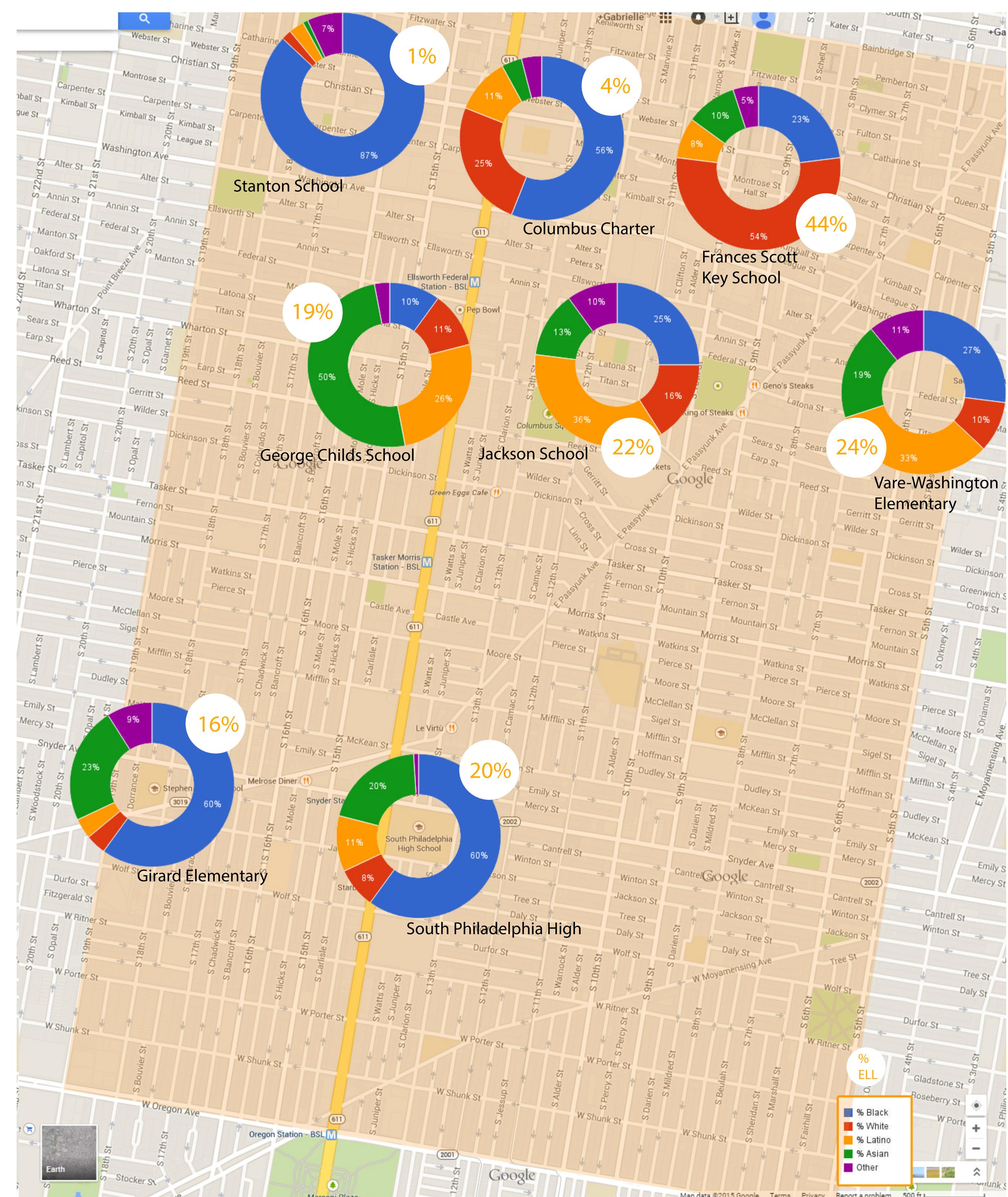
Selection:

South Philadelphia -
Lower Moyamensing
(depicted in light orange overall)

- surrounding area has many immigrants
- previously experienced ethnic tensions at South Philadelphia High School
- multiple schools in the area

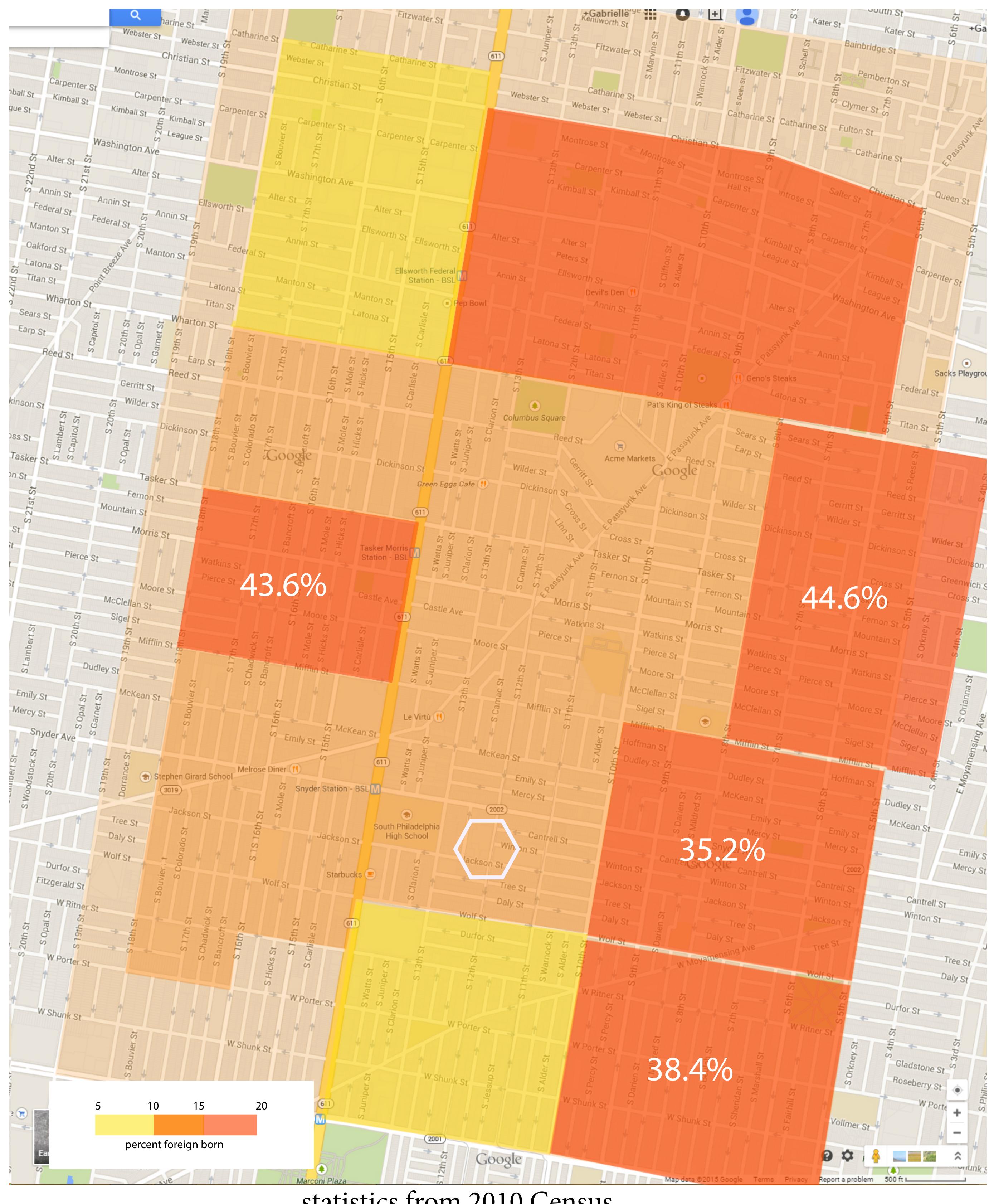
NEIGHBORHOOD

Ethnicity and ELL Population by School



statistics from Philadelphia Public Schools

Foreign Born Population by Percentage



Philadelphia as a whole has greatly increased in diversity since the 1990s, with a decrease in white population by 31.9%.

South Philadelphia in particular hosts peoples of many different regions, including Southeast Asia, West Africa, East Asia, and Central and South America.

Eastern South Philadelphia has experienced a 277% increase in Asian population and 317% increase in Hispanic population. Based on these huge demographic changes, I decided to start my search in this region.

Schools in the area have experienced a huge increase in ELL enrollments, with many area schools hovering around a 20% ELL enrollment rate.

PROGRAM

Goals:

multiple classroom spaces
to accomodate about 10% of
the school age population in
Lower Moyamensing

community programming

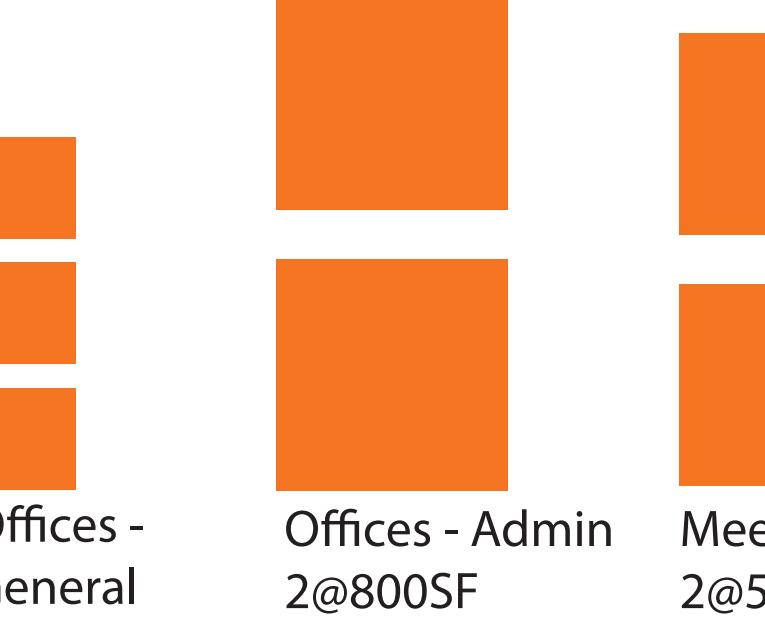
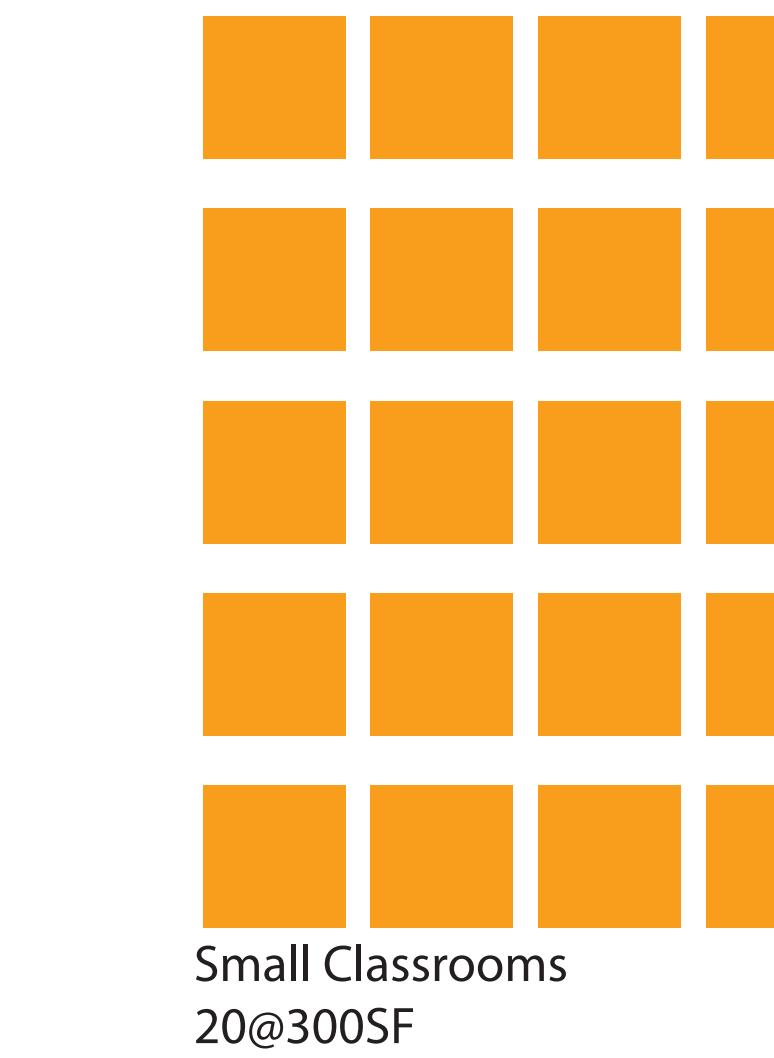
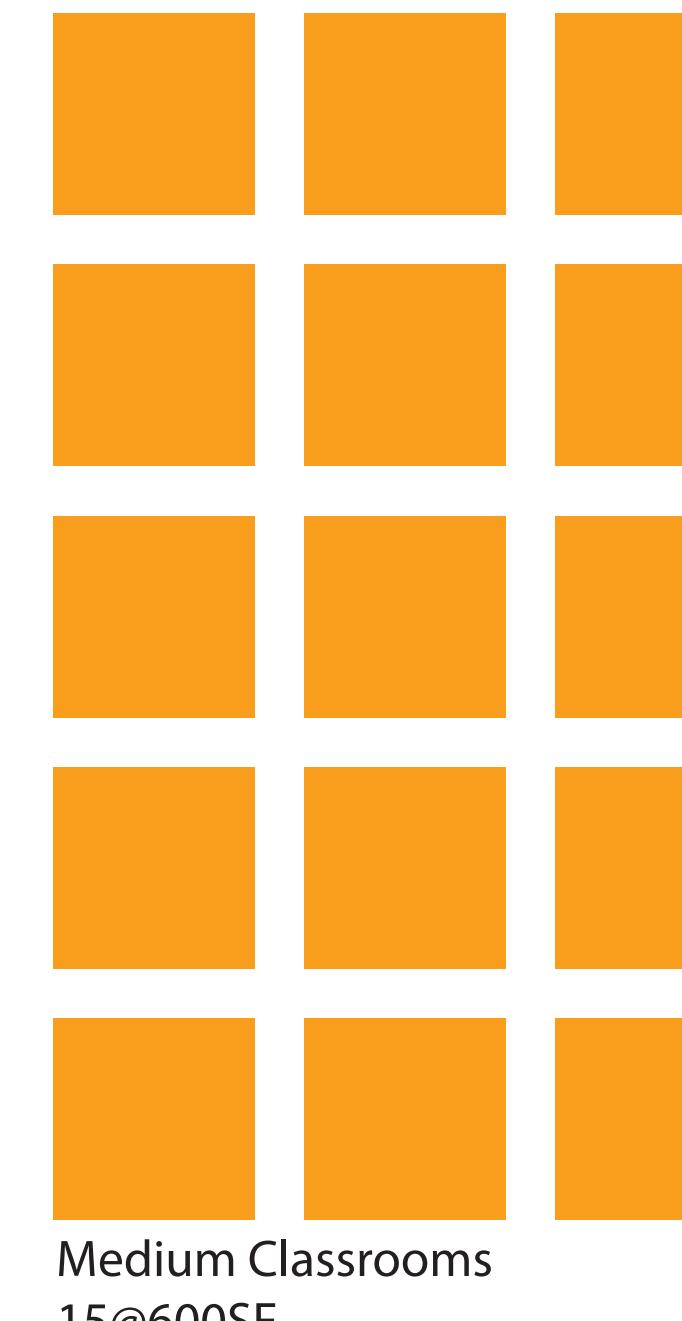
cultural events and festivals

dance, food, and music

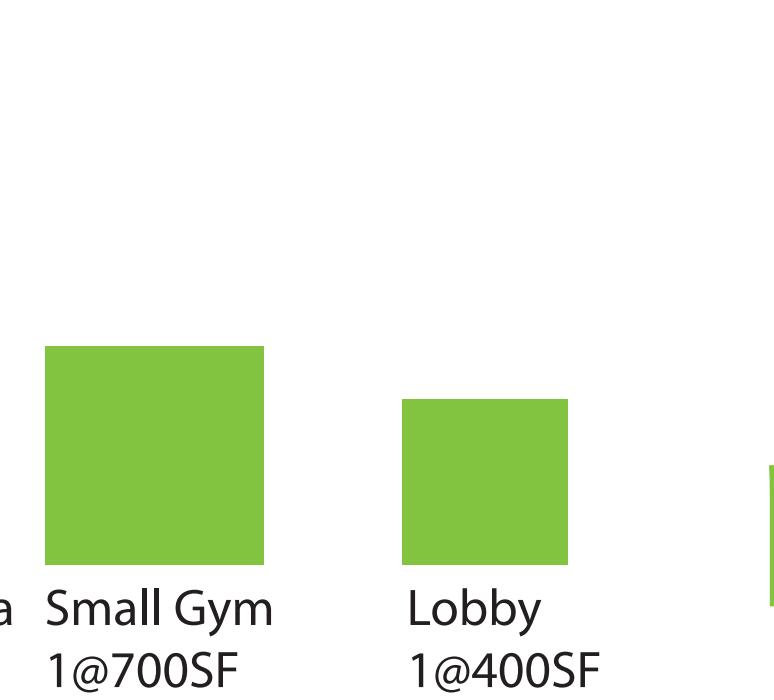
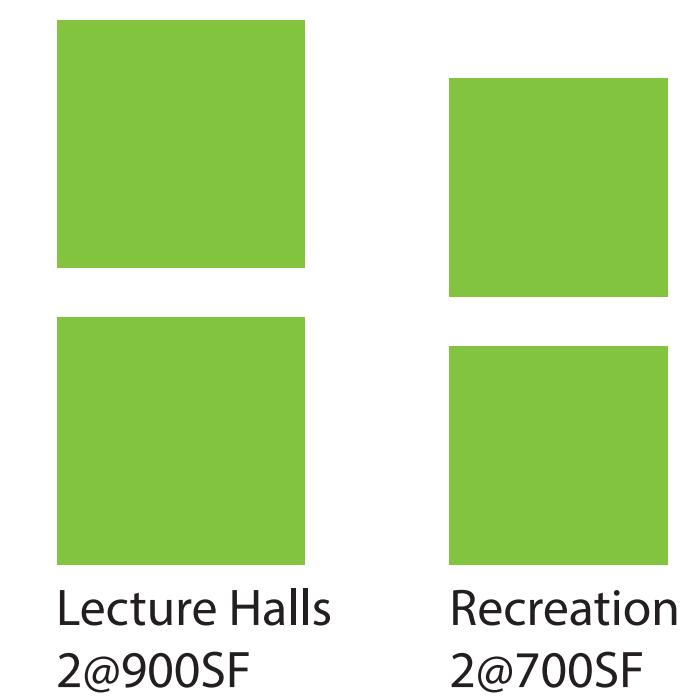
public engagement

multi-cultural understanding

~35,000 SF total



public

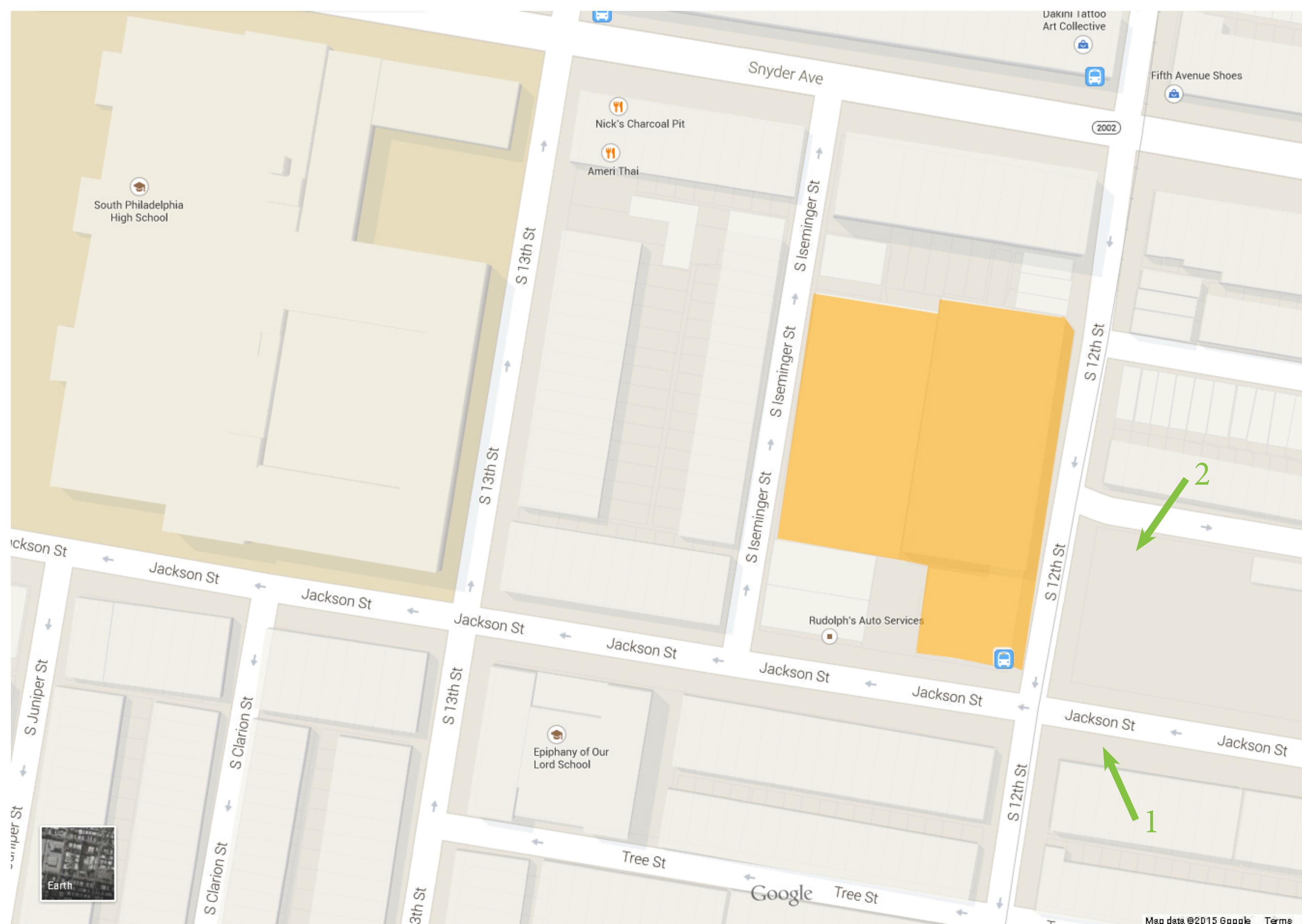


tenants

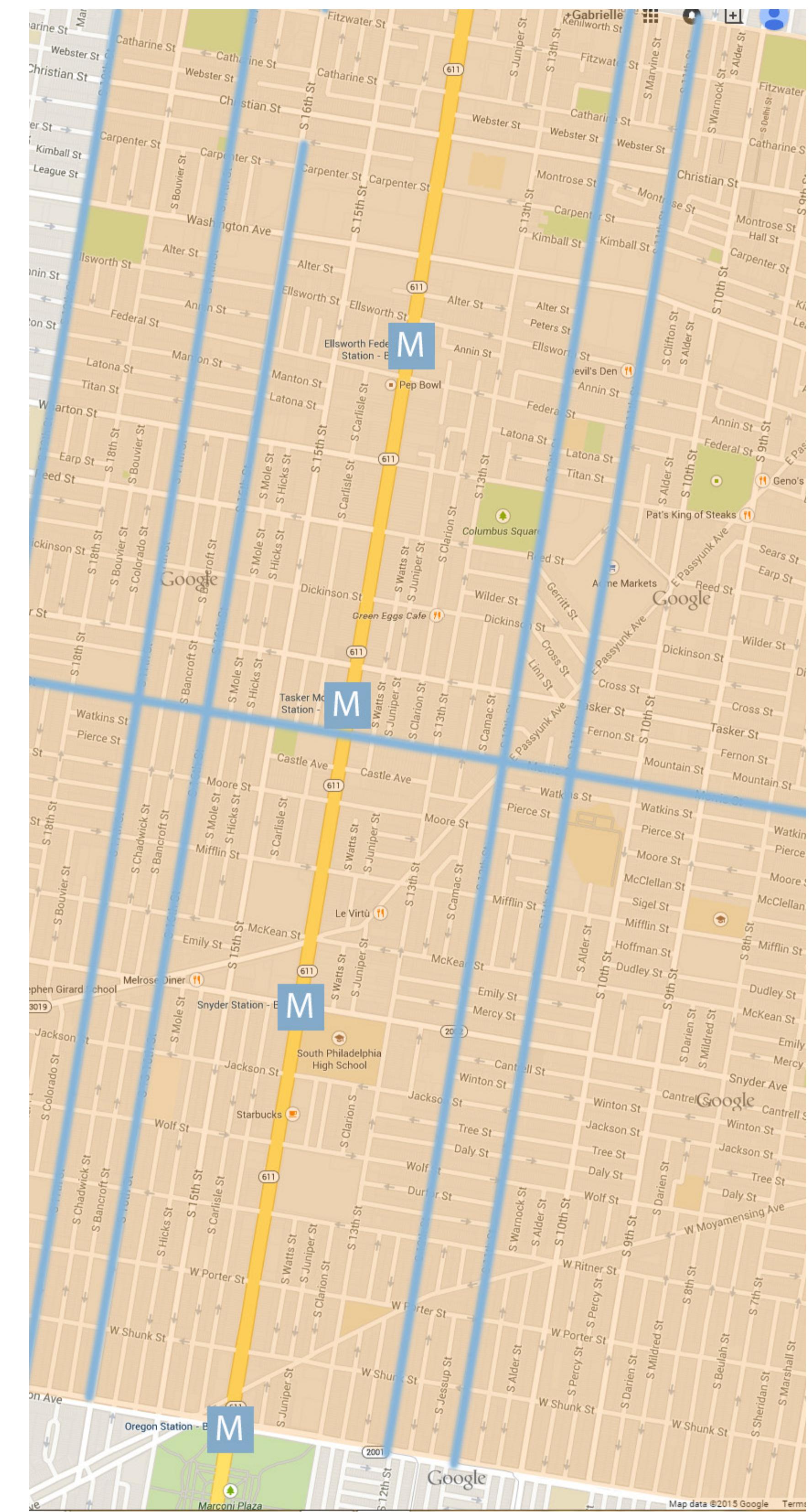
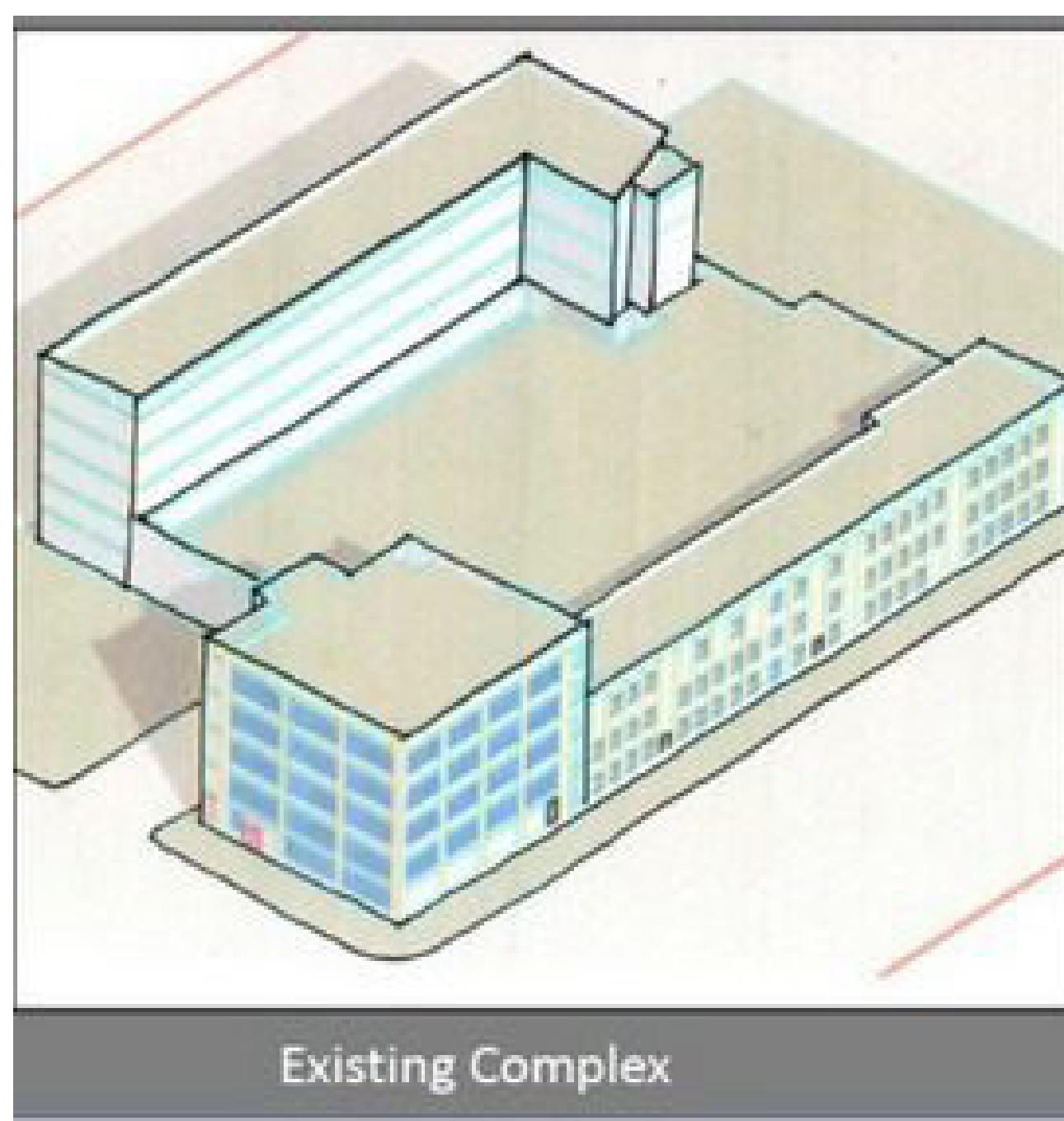
SPACE	SPACE	NUMBER	SF	ESTIMATED OCCUPANCY	TOTAL SF
	Classroom - Medium	15	600	20	9000
	Classroom - Small	20	300	10	6000
	Office-Teacher	4	600	8	2400
	Office-Other	3	150	2	450
	Office-Admin	2	800	8	1600
	Meeting Rooms	2	550	12	1100
	Tenant Offices	2	800	8	1600
	Lobby	1	400	-	1800
	Lecture Hall	2	900	60	1400
	Recreation Area	2	700	50	400
	Small Dance Studio	1	700	50	700

SITE

Site Plan



abandoned brush factory at 1201 Jackson St



Public Access via SEPTA

DESIGN ISSUES

open public connection

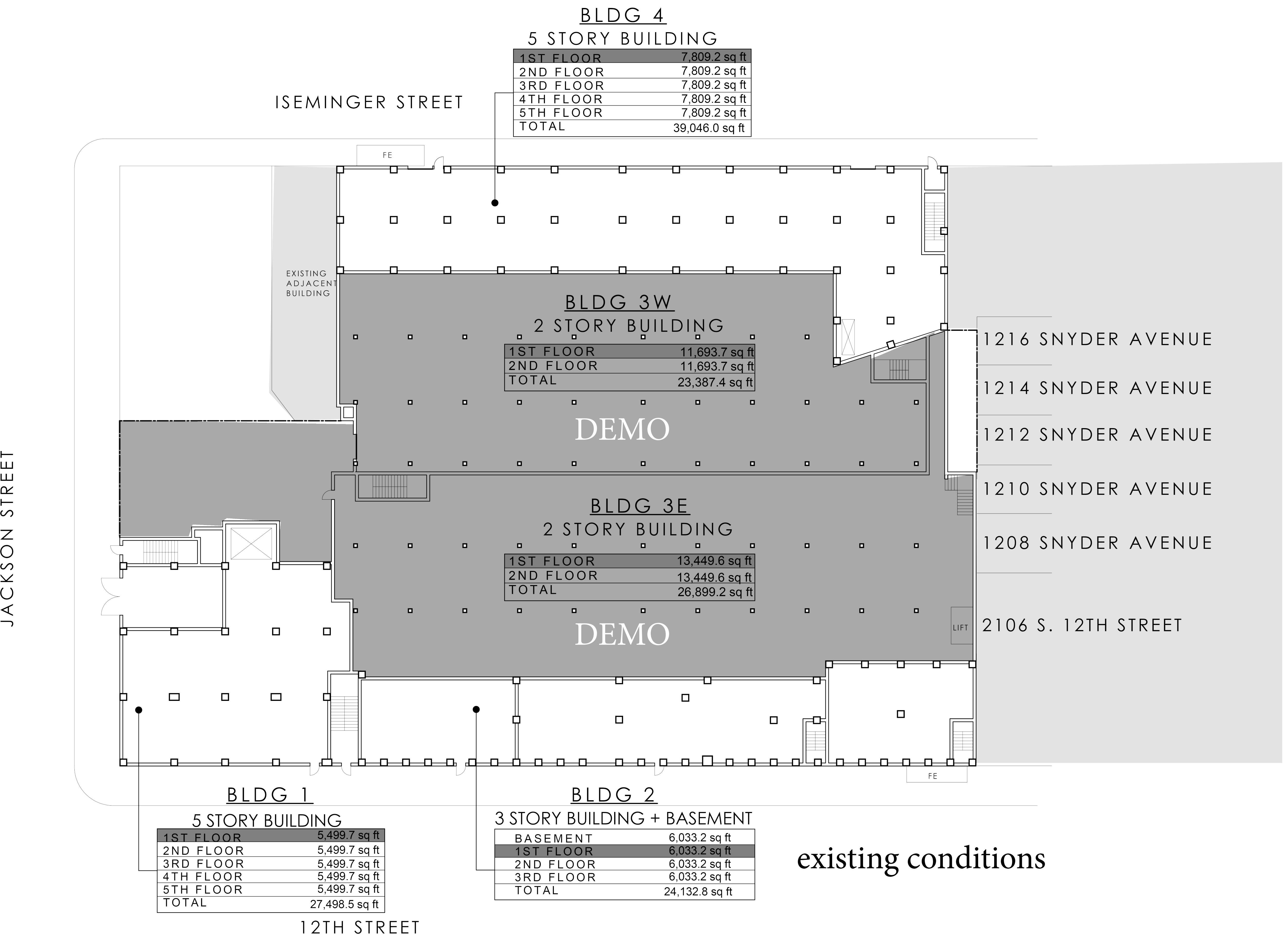
- create a courtyard for public activities and festivals
- encourage community participation through visibility
- easy public access with multiple entrances

welcoming environment

- people from all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds should feel that this is a safe environment
- natural light

human connection/communication facilitated

- many informal meeting spaces
- use of communication technology
- permeable spaces that encourage intercultural communication



DESIGN ISSUES

Interior Analysis

Building Type IIA

columns spaced in building 1 at ~19'-0"
building 2 at smallest ~ 11'-8"

windows at Jackson Street and 12th St only

11,533 SF per level (1 + 2)

exterior needs significant revamping

Codes Analysis

Occupancy groups : E, B, A-3

E- 17,100 SF total

B- 5,950 SF total

A - 3,900 SF

building occupancy 1,502 over multiple floors
less than 500 per floor - 2 exits per floor

24 bathroom stalls/gender over multiple floors

proposed modifications

