

THE **DAMIEN CENTER.**

CATEGORY
New Construction + Interior Architecture
Project Cost Greater than $5 Million

PROJECT TYPE
Workspace + Healthcare

ADDRESS
1420 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

COMPLETION 2025 May



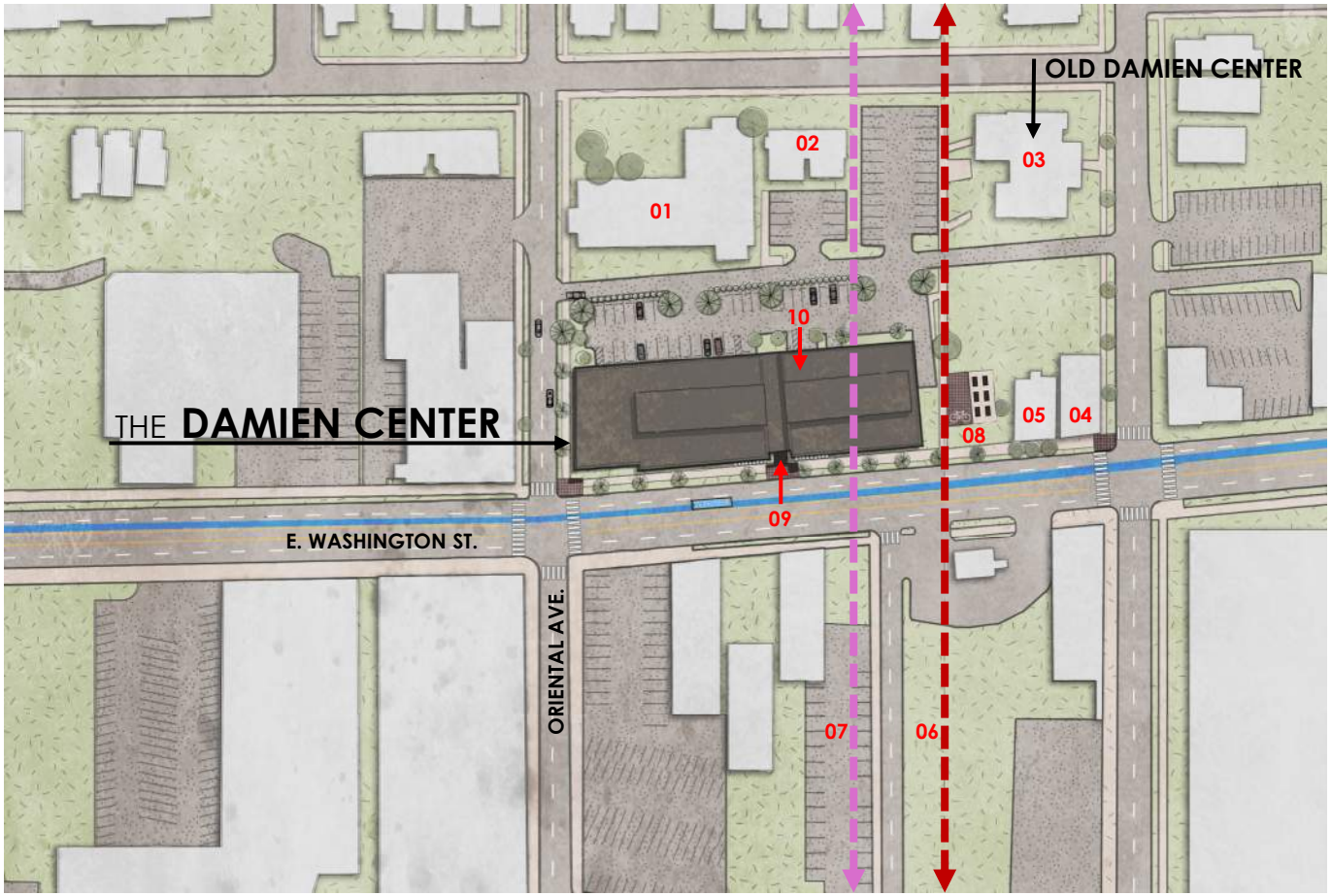
THE **ARCHITECT STATEMENT.**

The new Damien Center demonstrates how architecture and design can advance health equity, strengthen community identity, and create dignity through design. Located along Indianapolis' Washington Street corridor in the historic Holy Cross neighborhood, the 53,000-square-foot building integrates healthcare and social services into **a cohesive, welcoming environment centered on accessibility, belonging, and human connection.**

Serving more than 11,000 individuals across 38 counties, the project brings healthcare, dental services, mental health support, housing assistance, food security, employment services, and HIV prevention resources together under one roof.

Community engagement shaped key design elements, including a three-story community mosaic integrated into the elevator core at the primary entrance. Visible from both inside and outside, the **artwork transforms circulation into an expression of resilience, identity, and collective ownership.**

Expansive glazing, outdoor terraces, and a light-filled atrium bring daylight deep into the interiors, while warm materials, natural textures, and hospitality-driven spaces. **The Damien Center creates a permanent, dignified home for a historically underserved community, demonstrating how integrated design, wellness, and equitable access can foster inclusion, resilience, and lasting social impact.**



N

THE **SITE OVERVIEW.**

LEGEND:

01 EXISTING APARTMENTS
02 EXISTING HOMES
03 DAMIEN LEGACY CENTER
04 CAFÉ OZTARA
05 FUTURE PLANNED HOUSING
06 RELOCATED POWER LINES THAT EXTEND FURTHER NORTH AND SOUTH
07 EXISTING POWER LINES THAT WERE RELOCATED TO THE EAST
08 BIKE RACKS
09 STREET ENTRANCE
10 PARKING GARAGE ENTRANCE

The site strengthens the Damien Center's growing campus by connecting the new facility to its existing building, now the Legacy Center, Café Oztara, powered by the Damien Center, and future planned housing, **creating a connected network of services for the clients and community it serves.**

Key site challenges included relocating power lines through nearly a year of coordination with Citizens Energy Group, though the infrastructure remains a prominent feature of the site, as you will see.

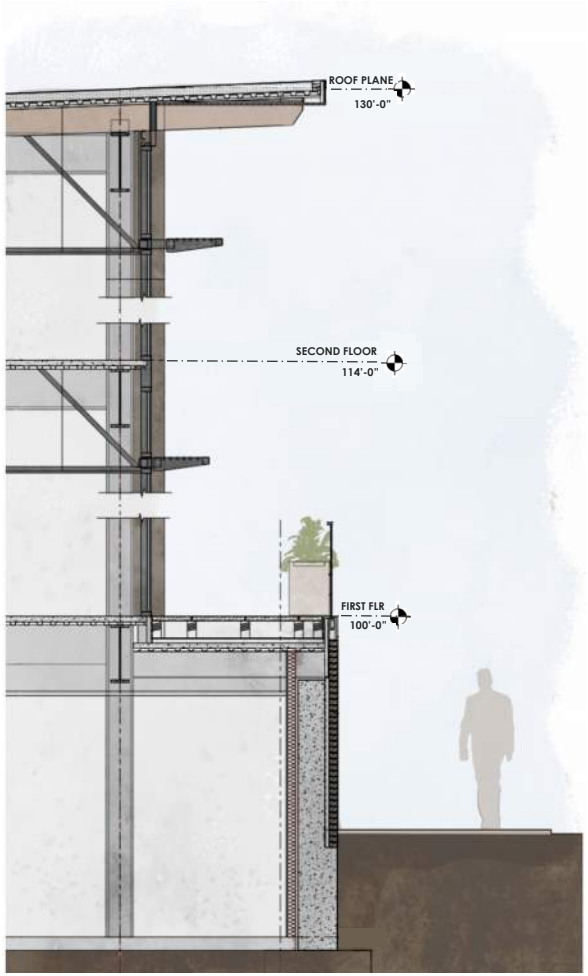
The site also incorporates parking, bicycle facilities, and integrated stormwater management, including rain gardens and native plantings that support biodiversity, reduce runoff, and create a more welcoming landscape.

The nearby IndyGo Blue Line will provide a bus stop just steps from the building, further **strengthening access, connectivity, and the Center's connection to the broader community.**

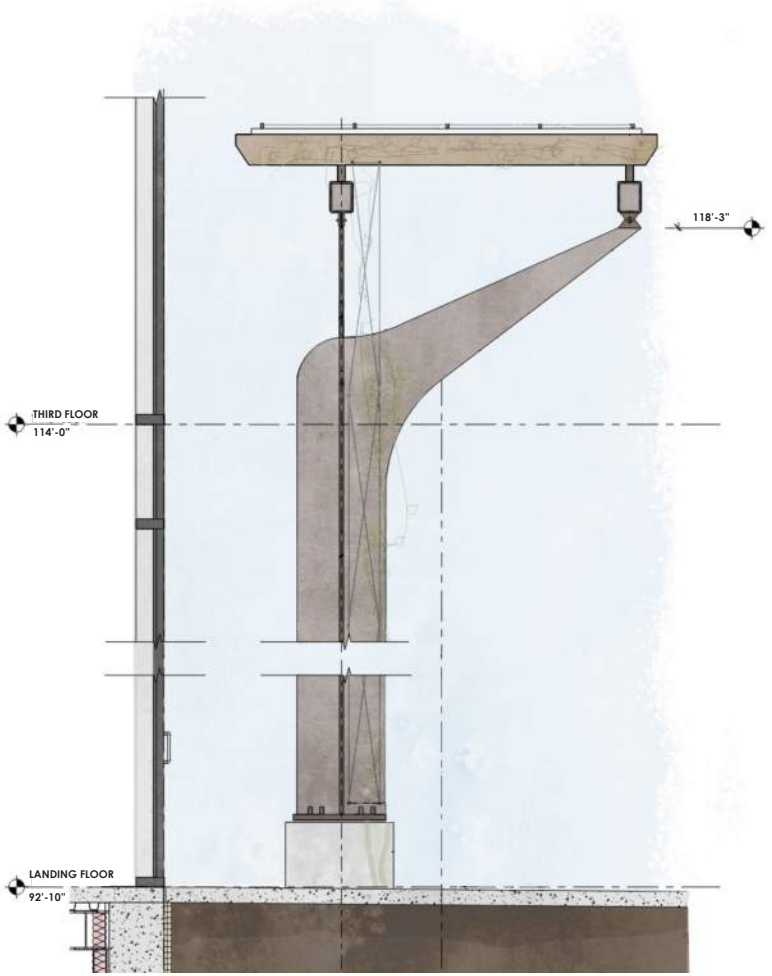


THE **MATERIAL LANGUAGE.**

The building's conventionally steel-framed, Type II-B construction is expressed through a durable material palette of brick, dark bronze-framed glazing, colored metal panels, cast stone headers, and perforated metal screening, **creating a contextual architectural expression that responds to the character of the surrounding Holy Cross neighborhood.**



EAST FACADE

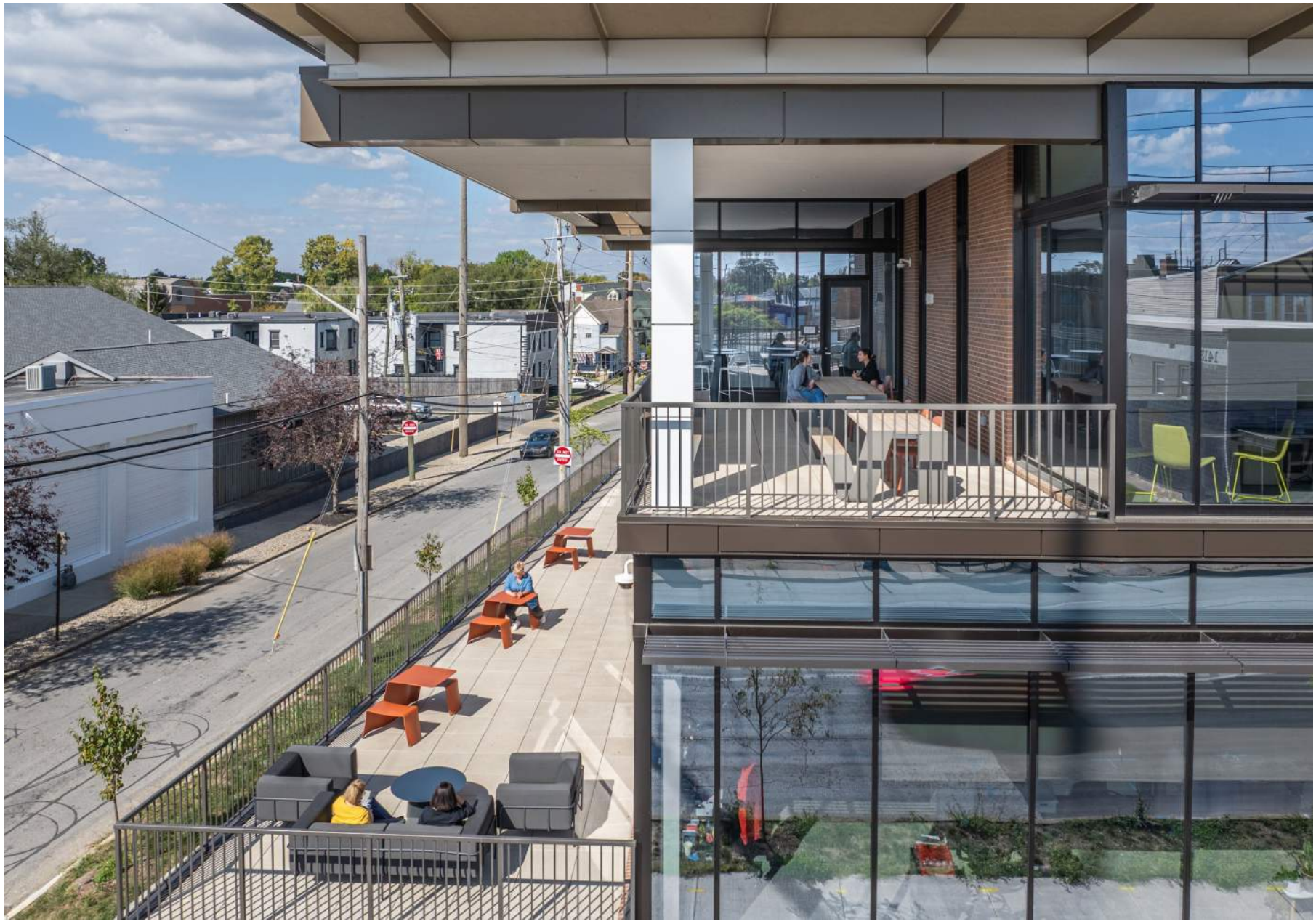


MAIN ENTRANCE

THE **SECTIONS.**

These sections reveal the architectural thinking behind the building's structure, material expression, and human experience. They **demonstrate how structure, envelope, daylight, and landscape are carefully integrated to create an architecture that is both durable and technically resolved, while also shaping moments of arrival, connection, and identity.** The drawings illustrate how thoughtful detailing at both the building and human scale contributes to a cohesive and welcoming environment.











THE **MEP SYSTEMS.**

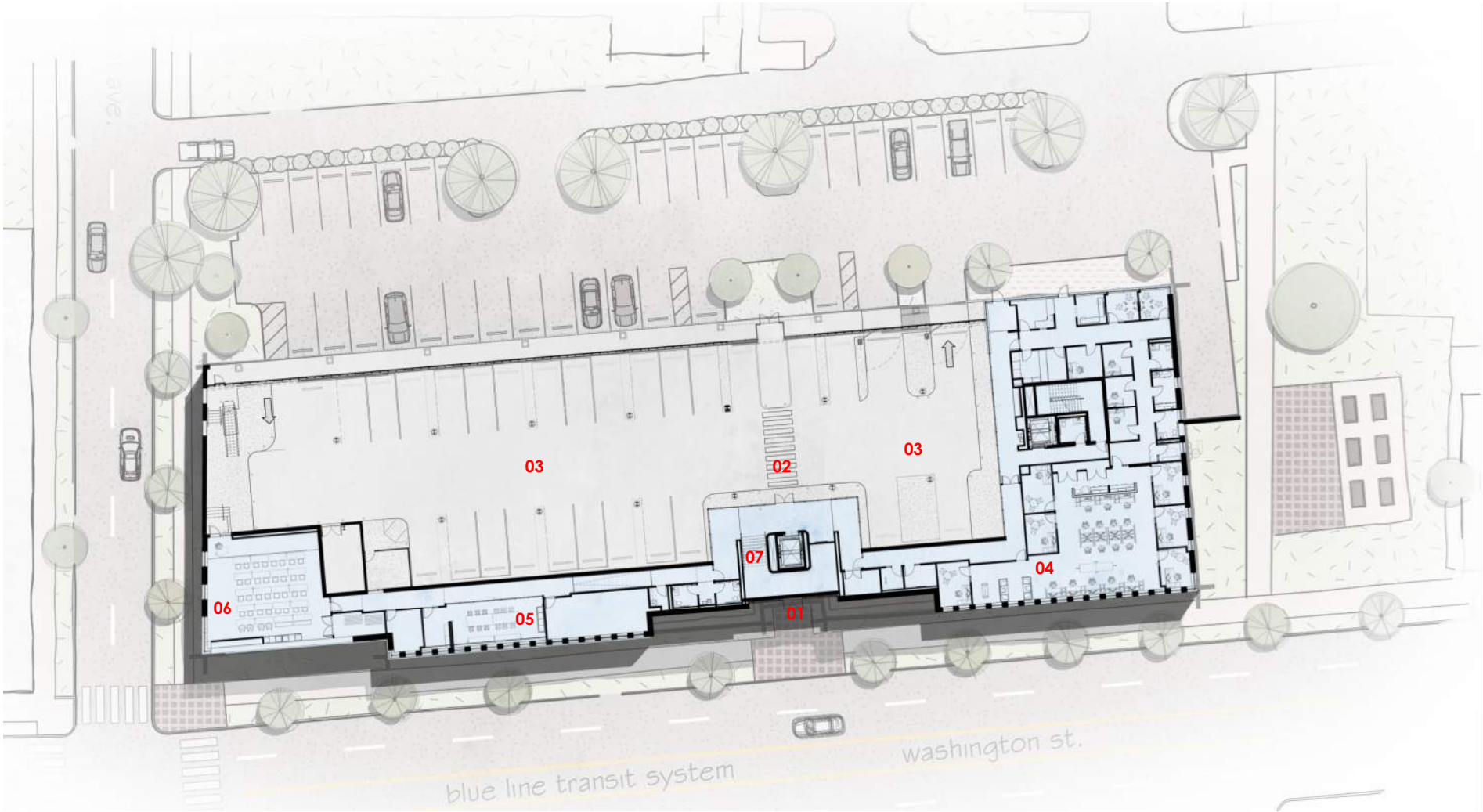
The MEP design strategy integrates energy efficiency, operational flexibility, resilience, and security to support the Damien Center's mission while minimizing energy use and long-term operating demands. A VRF energy recovery system and DOAS with energy recovery reduce energy demands while building automation system allows clinical, pharmacy, dental, and office areas to operate independently based on occupancy. Hospital-grade electrical systems, emergency backup power, high-efficacy LED lighting, and integrated access and security systems further **enhance the facility's performance, safety, and resilience creating a welcoming, responsible, and resource-conscious extension of the Damien Center's mission.**





THE **INTERIOR DESIGN.**

The interior design of the Damien Center transforms a complex healthcare program into a welcoming, human-centered environment centered on dignity, wellness, and belonging. While the interiors draw from hospitality to create warmth, comfort, and ease, the design recognizes the serious and essential work taking place within these walls. **Timeless materials, natural textures, expansive glazing, and a light-filled atrium soften the institutional character of healthcare while supporting wellness and connection.** Clear circulation, intuitive wayfinding, and comfortable gathering spaces create an environment where an underserved community feels safe, respected, and valued. A welcoming home where people can access critical care and services while finding connection, community, and belonging.

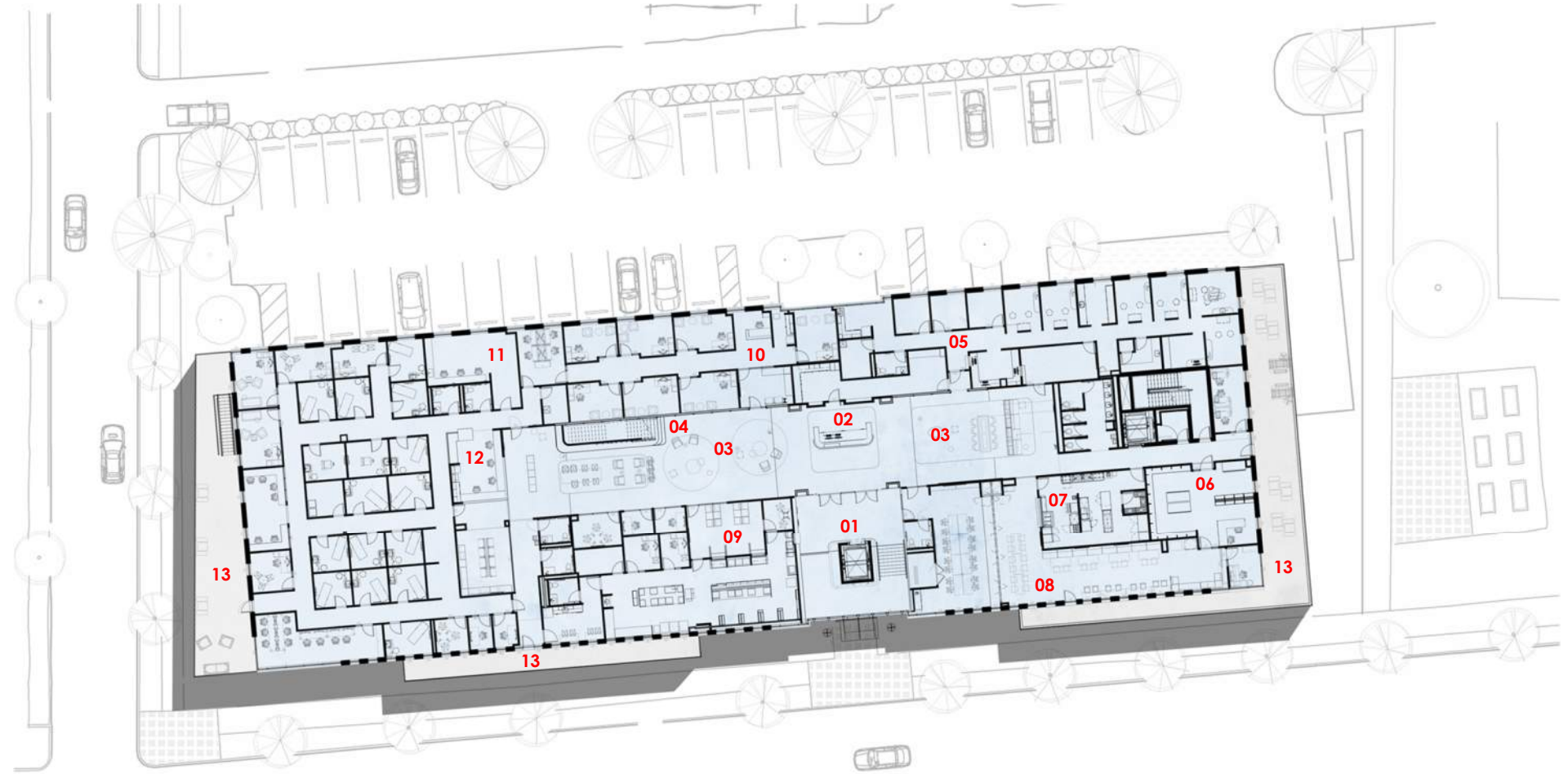


N

THE **FIRST LEVEL.**

LEGEND:

01 STREET ENTRANCE
02 GARAGE ENTRANCE
03 COVERED PARKING
04 COMMUNITY IMPACT
05 VOLUNTEER TRAINING
06 MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
07 ELEVATOR FEATURE

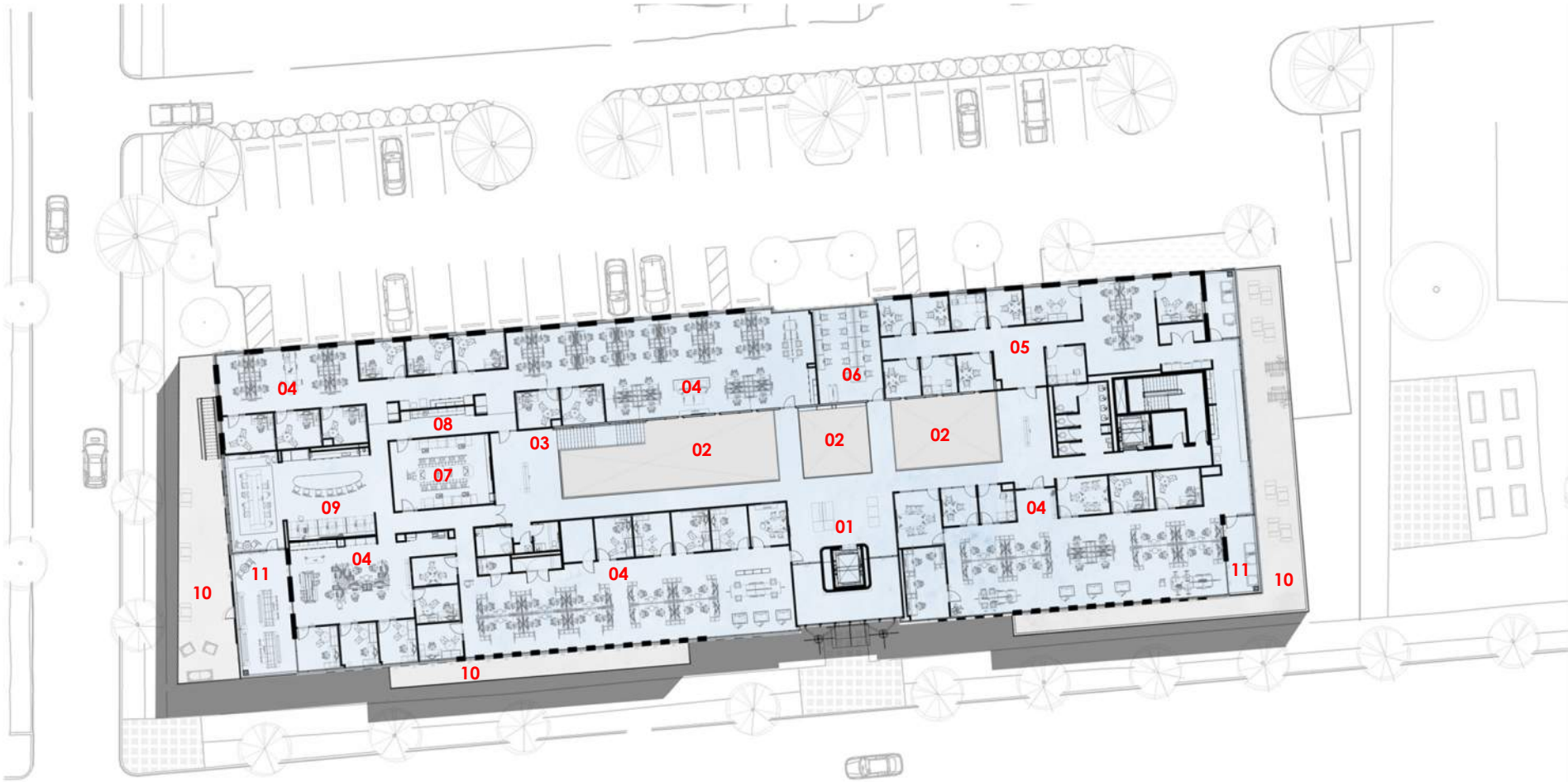


N

THE **SECOND LEVEL.**

LEGEND:

01 ELEVATOR FEATURE
02 CONCEIRGE
03 MAIN STREET
04 MONUMENTAL STAIR
05 DENTAL
06 FOOD PANTRY
07 WARMING KITCHEN
08 COMMUNITY ROOM
09 PHARMACY
10 MENTAL HEALTH
11 LAB DRAW ROOM
12 MEDICAL CLINIC
13 OUTDOOR TERRACE



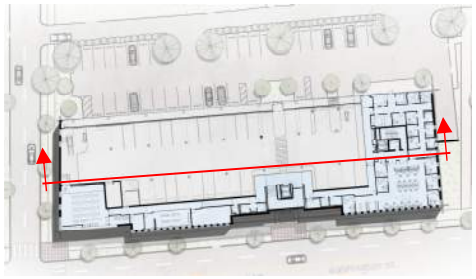
N

THE **THIRD LEVEL.**

LEGEND:

01 ELEVATOR FEATURE
02 OPEN TO BELOW
03 MONUMENTAL STAIR
04 OPEN OFFICE
05 CARE COORD. CONSULT
06 COMPUTER LAB
07 BOARD ROOM
08 BEVERAGE BAR
09 SOCIAL HUB
10 OUTDOOR TERRACE BELOW
11 OUTDOOR TERRACE









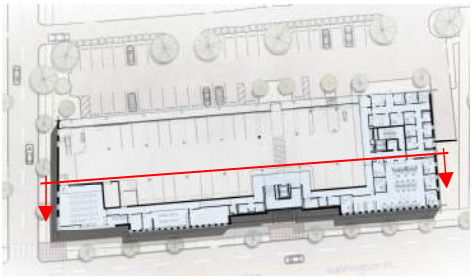
THE **NORTH SECTION**.

FIRST LEVEL

SECOND LEVEL

THIRD LEVEL









THE **SOUTH SECTION.**

FIRST LEVEL

SECOND LEVEL

THIRD LEVEL









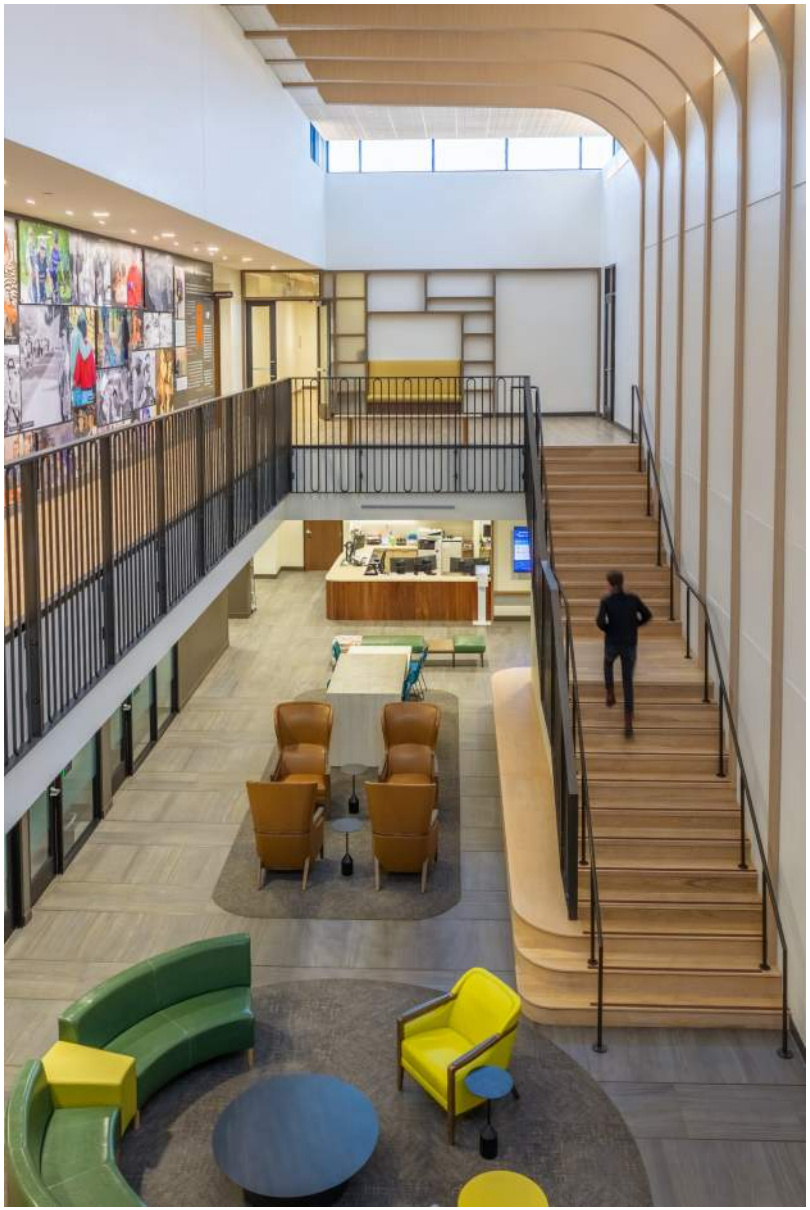


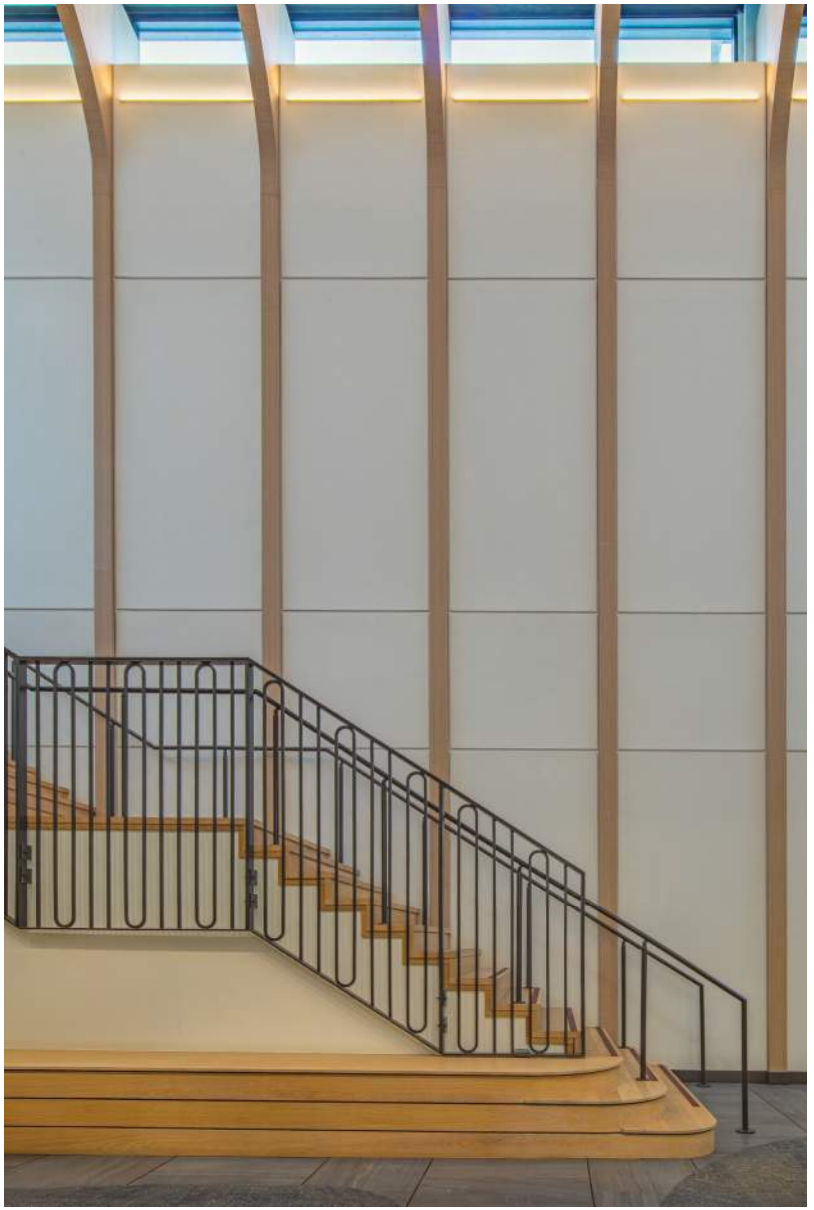
Community photography
Provided by **EMPACT ART**.

OUR STORY

In April 2025, Empact Art completed Indiana's largest mixed-media community mosaic for the Damien Center. **Titled *Our Story*, the 1,700-square-foot installation was inspired by the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and incorporates thousands of handmade ceramic pieces and handblown glass elements created by local artists.** The quilt-like composition was shaped through more than 3,500 individual contributions from community members, making it one of the largest community mosaics ever created.

The mosaic is installed on the Damien Center's elevator core, rising three stories at the building's main entrance where it is visible from both the interior and exterior, serving as a welcoming symbol of community, remembrance, and support. **Empact Art partnered with Indianapolis art therapists to facilitate more than 80 community workshops throughout the city, engaging clients, staff, and community members since the project launched during Indianapolis Pride in June 2024**. Rich in texture and meaning, *Our Story* stands as a powerful example of art's ability to connect people and tell the story of a community.

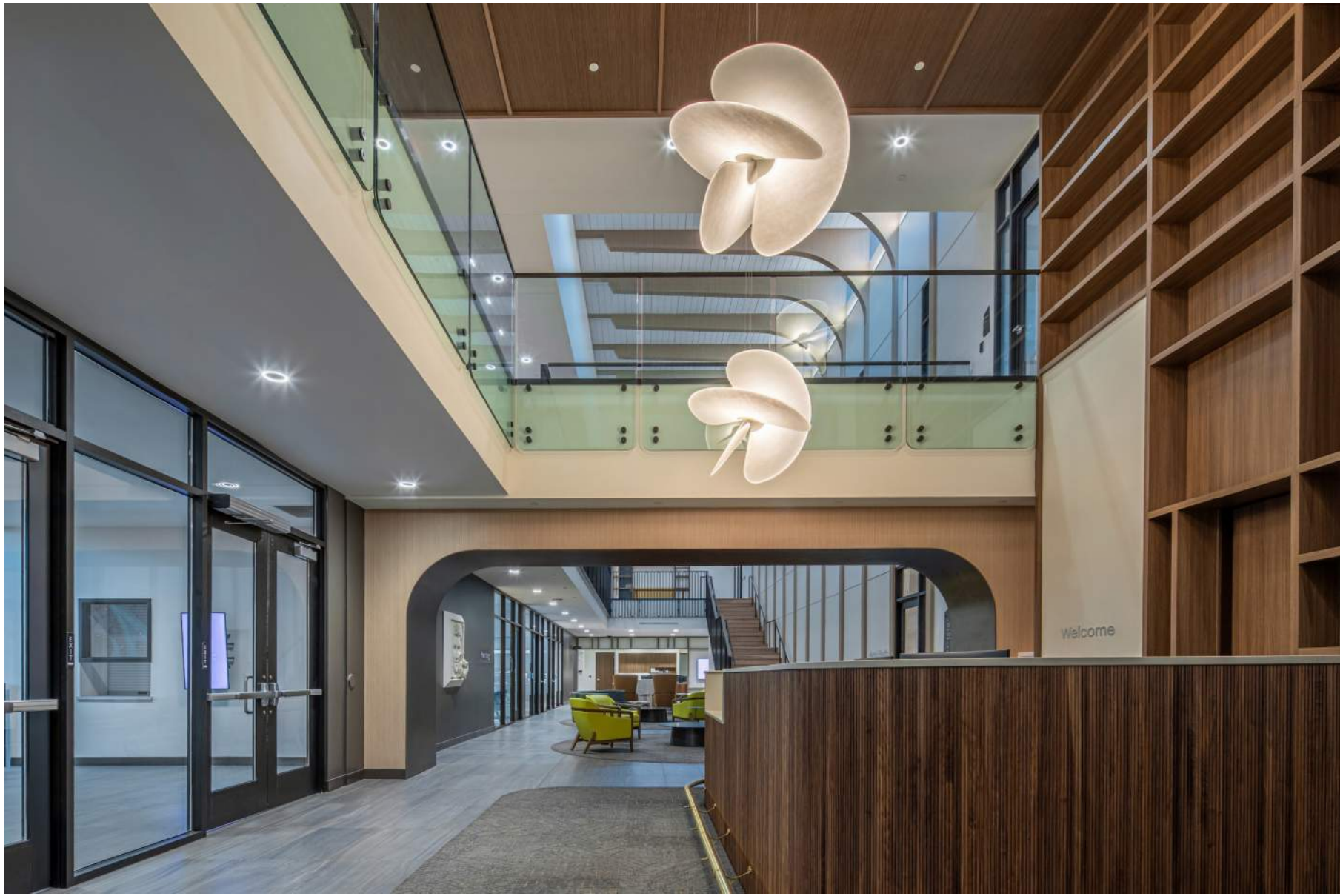






THE **ULTIMATE GOAL.**

Ultimately, the project reflects the belief that healthcare environments should do more than meet functional requirements. They should communicate that every person who enters is valued. **By creating a space that is both highly purposeful and deeply welcoming, the Damien Center strengthens its ability to serve the community today while providing a lasting place of hope, wellness, and belonging for the future.**


Welcome