Ha:sañ
Preparatory & Leadership School
Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) is a national initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal is to prevent or reduce the spread of obesity and related diseases by increasing opportunities for improved nutrition and active living. The method is implementation of policy, systems and environmental change. Pima County was one of 44 communities nationwide to receive funding for the CPPW grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. CPPW is being developed and administered by the Pima County Health Department, in partnership with Activate Tucson, a coalition advocating healthy eating and active living.
Ha:san Preparatory and Leadership school is located at 1333 East 10th St. in central Tucson. This school is bicultural public high school designed for Tohono O’odham youth and Native students interested in college prep curriculum sponsored by the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools.
Ha:san Preparatory and Leadership School prepares youth with college prep education and also enhances their knowledge of their culture and Native history. The curriculum covers basic requirements but also offers electives such as; gardening, Ethnobotany and Native health. The school has a flourishing garden with vegetables that are occasionally sold to local stores and farmers markets. In addition, young adults learn about traditional food preparation and how to make healthy eating choices. Harvesting wild traditional food and medicinal plants is a common practice of Ha:san. Not only do these activities support knowledge of traditional and historic practices, but the students are able to physically engage and experiment the healthy practices of their ancestors.
The major street north of the site is 6th street while running south of the site lies the major street Broadway Ave. West of the site is Euclid Ave and east of the site is Campbell Ave. The site is located in the Rincon Heights neighborhood. This neighborhood offers many calm streets for biking. The major bike routes near Ha:san are Highland and Mountain Ave. Which run north to south of the site. 7th and 8th Streets, which run east to west, also offer low traffic bike routes.

Surrounding the site are many features that are significant to Tucson. Besides being near many major transportation routes Ha:san is in close vicinity to the U of A, Tucson Unified School District, natural resources wildlife program, and Broadway Ave. retail area. Tucson High School wash is located north of the site. This wash has been the subject of restoration efforts and in some areas offers parks and usable green
ways. The Rincon heights neighborhood has also worked with community groups to create water harvesting basins along streets that incorporate native plantings. These basins add character to the area surrounding Ha:san.
The University of Arizona, Tucson Magnet High school, and Miles Exploratory Learning Center all surround Ha:san. The U of A offers the opportunity to use its field as parks. In addition, the field at Miles Exploratory Learning Center is accessible to the students of Ha:san. Currently the students at Ha:san use Miles field for physical activities and games. In addition, there is a small community park on 8th St. and Marin Ave. This park was built by the Rincon Heights neighborhood association.
Site Context

- West vehicular entrance
- Parking
- Volleyball court
- Bus parking
- Entrance
- Parking
- Volleyball Court
- Garden
- Basketball Court
Ha:san has many of the features that schools strive to have and serves as a model for school agriculture production. The school’s garden is flourishing and the school has a lot of character and with renovations the school’s outdoor facilities could reflect this character. The parking lot and bus loading zone could benefit from shade trees. The bio swales in the parking lot embraces water harvesting but needs some improvements. To utilize the full potential of water harvesting, the gutters on the roofs could be connected to a doen spot and water cistern. The landscaping in the front of the school might be enhanced with additional and native plant specimen.
Water flows towards the north and west side of the site. This offers the opportunity to create water harvesting basins that collect the street run off and utilize the water on site.

Looking south, this image shows how the perimeter is lacking vegetation particularly screening form the street.

This ditch on the east side of the school is one area on campus in need of re mediation and improvements.

The gutter drain located on the east side of the building would be an excellent site for a down spot and cistern.
**Development Zones**

By creating modules of development installation can begin when funding is available. The zones are ranked with importance in the diagram but, they need not occur in the given order. Modules of development can address current desires, set realistic expectations and recognize the importance of funding availability and the state holder interest.

**Inspiration**

**Traditional meets Contemporary**

The design of Ha:san takes inspiration from historic practices of the Tohono O’odham, in particular looking at the farming and food practices that kept the Tohono O’odham people healthy. Also realizing that many things have changed with development. The goal of Ha:san redesign was to combine historic indigenous techniques and practices and apply them to an urban contemporary site. The site seeks to encourage students to express themselves through gardening and physical activity by combining history and their contemporary culture.
The plantings selected for the perimeter incorporate plants that have been used traditionally by the Tohono O’odham. This area will serve as a demonstration garden to educate user on the historic plant uses and farming techniques.

**Heritage Gardens**

1. Native planting area which includes saguaro, cholla, prickly pear, agave, will be highlighted amongst a mix of plantings that includes mesquite
2. Informational signage about native species. Each featured plant displayed on rocks used a signs
3. Educational walking path
4. Water harvesting using the practice of Ak Chin farming. This harvested water is used for the ethnobotanical garden
5. Demonstration garden that practices the ancient farming technique of companion planting using the three sister-bean, corn, and squash
6. Mesquite bosque
7. Fruit orchard
8. Vegetable garden
9. Water harvesting cistern
**Educational Path**
An educational path will demonstrate the plants that were used in the traditional diet of the Tohono O’odham. Water harvesting basins with native plantings will be interrupted by patches of cholla, saguaro, prickly pear and agave.

**Heritage Gardens**

Ak Chin is an ancient type of farming that depends on seasonal rains and washes. This technique is inspiration for this urban setting.

Saguaro, or Ha:san, the school’s namesake, will be used to highlight the entrance to the school.

Stones may serve as signs and provide information about plants and their uses or provide inspirational quotations.

The ethno-botanical garden will feature plants that are used for traditional crafts. They will be irrigated with water harvested using the Ak Chin farming technique.

The orchard will use Father Kino historic fruit trees. Companion planting with heritage species will be used for demonstration garden.
Zone One focuses on using Native and desert adapted plantings for the school’s perimeter. Not only will the plants enhance the character and aesthetics of the school, but they will require less water and maintenance. The signs for the school could be made from native materials like local stone or rock.
Tidying up parking lot and perimeter by continuing native plantings that are featured at the front of the site. Creating a multi functional basketball court that can also be used as a volleyball court. The existing volleyball court will be removed and an outdoor gathering space will be created.

**Trees and Field**

1. Braking up vast parking lot by installing a median
2. Plantings in parking lot perimeter create a more aesthetically appealing space and create shade.
3. Basketball court also functions as a volleyball court
4. Cement removed where volley ball court was to create an out door space for gatherings.
5. Ocotillo fencing around school to provided privacy and also character.
Creating an area that students can express themselves creatively through physical activity.

**Self Expression**

1. Installing a creative dance floor that allows students to move and express themselves.
2. Creating a stage for possible performances.
3. Outdoor gym equipment around perimeter.
4. Encourage student art and self expression with murals.
5. Shade sails to protect equipment and provide comfort for users.