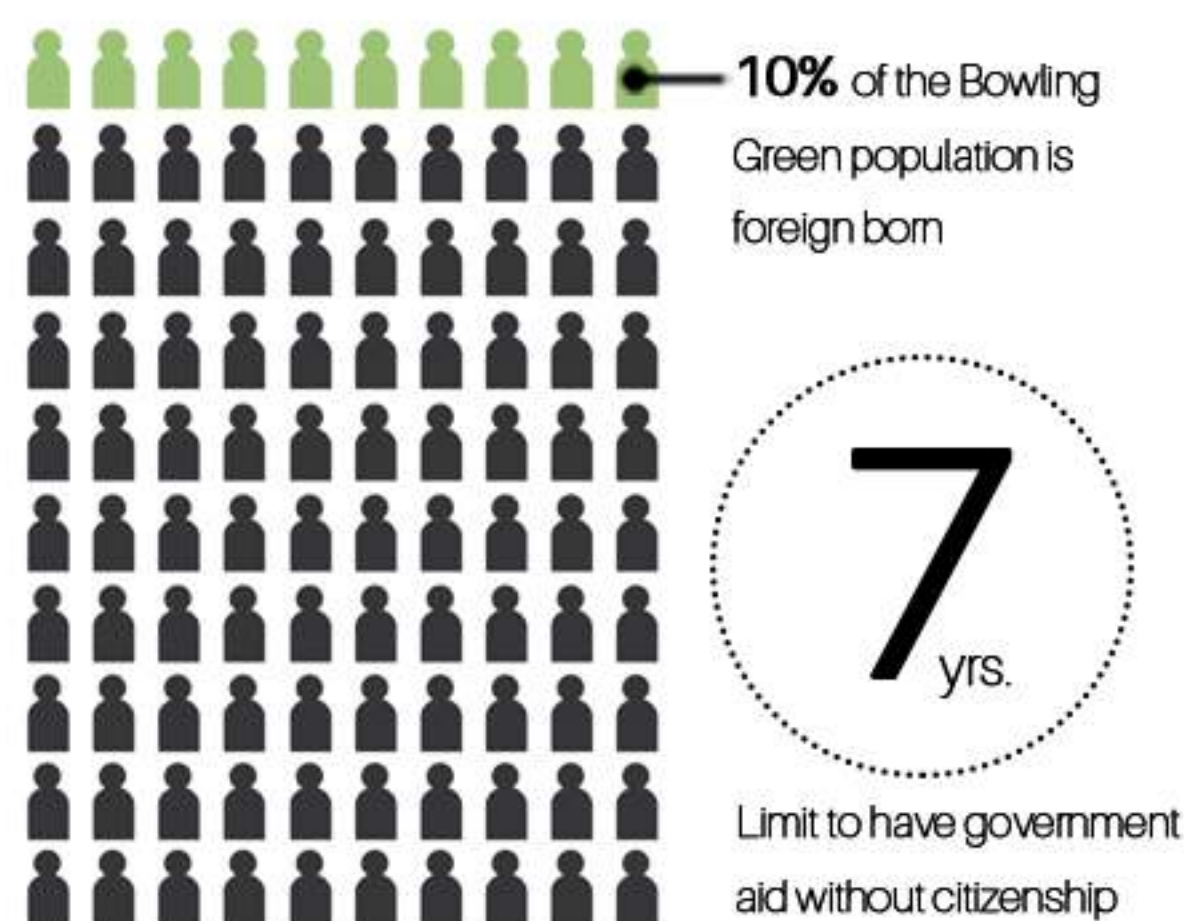
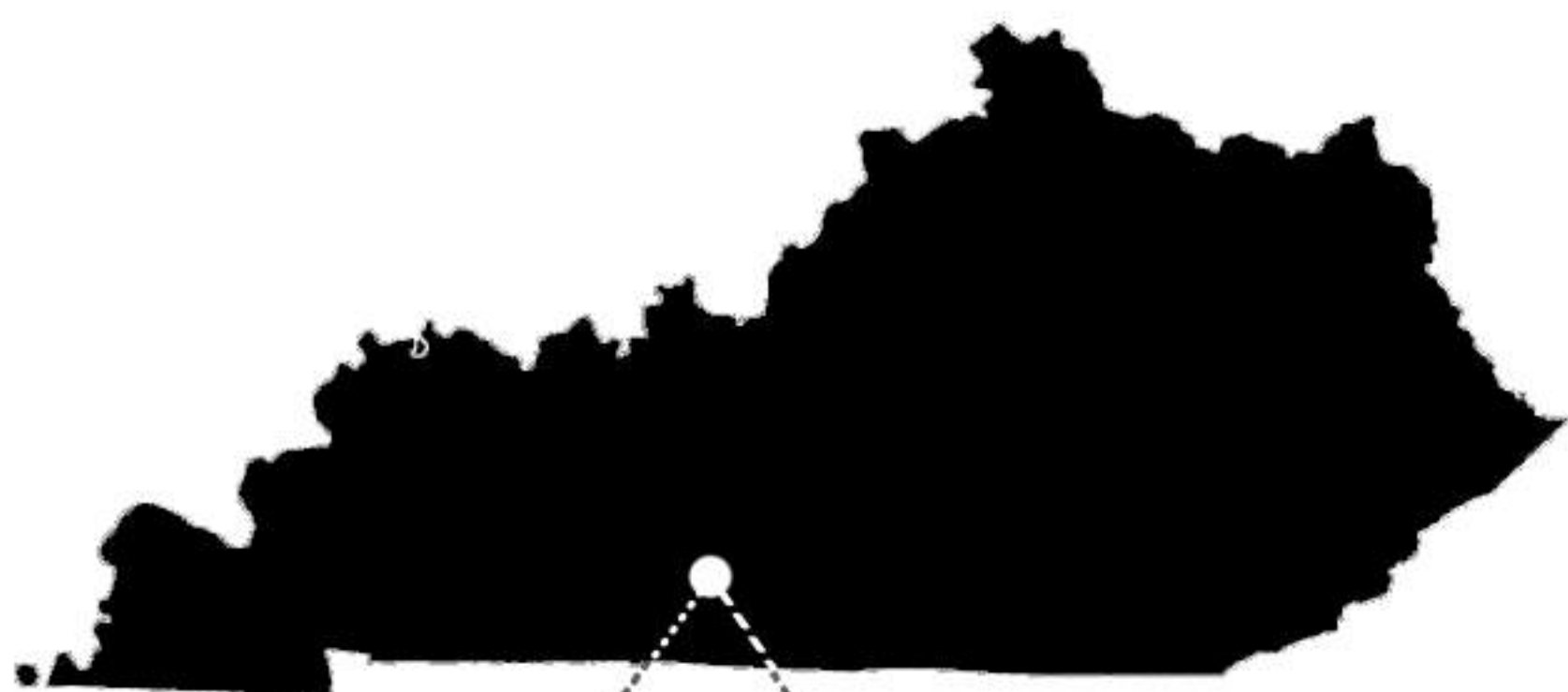




Location: Bowling Green, KY



Transcultural Interaction between Refugees and the Bowling Green, KY Community

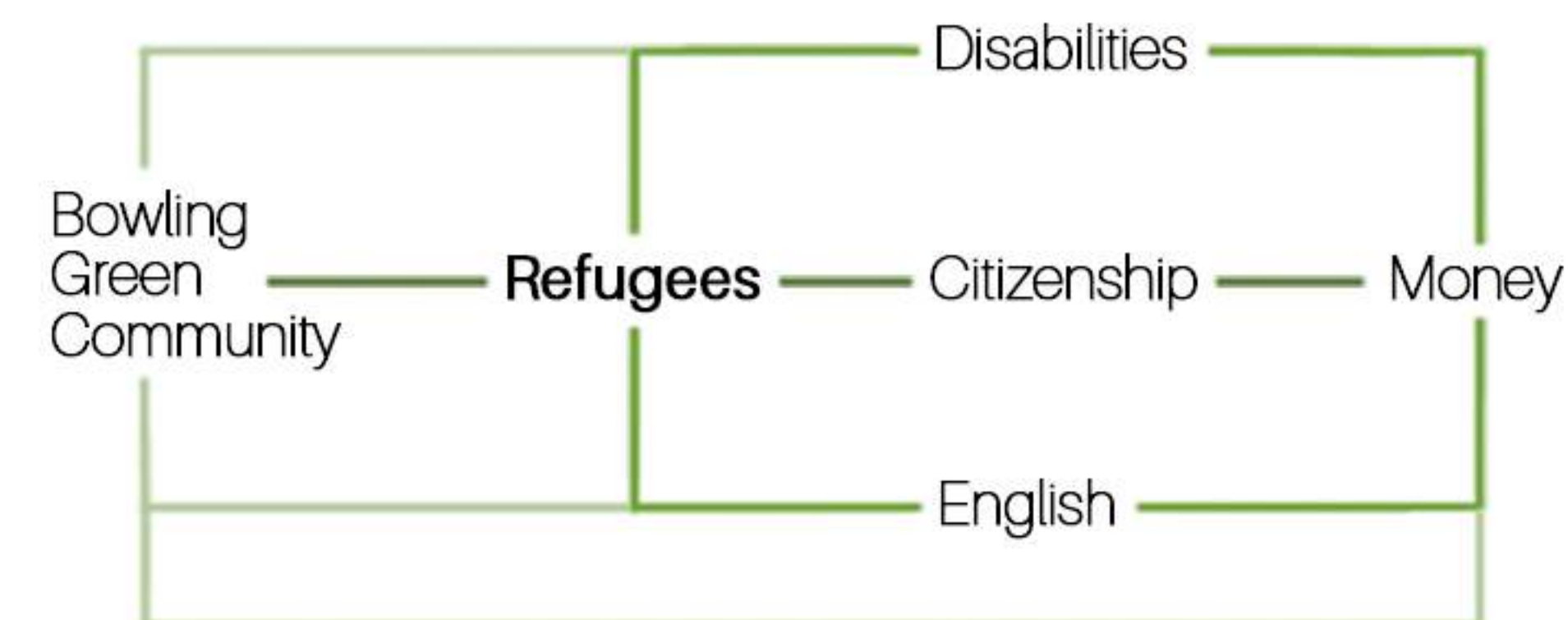
Emily Hamilton | Fall 2016

In Bowling Green Kentucky, there is a growing refugee population. Unfortunately, the amount of resources available for refugees does not correlate with the expanding refugee populace. As shown in a 2012 survey by the Census Bureau, roughly 10% of the residents, or 6056 people, in Bowling Green are "foreign born". However, there are limited resources for refugees. As one source stated, "The government itself doesn't have the resources ... to help set them [refugees] up with homes and jobs... they work with nonprofit organizations." Moreover, these organizations do not have the means to help incoming refugees fully integrate with the existing community, as seen in the lack of multicultural spaces developed in the city as well as disconnection between locals and the refugee community.

As explained by a local refugee advocate, refugees need to gain citizenship within seven years to maintain government benefits such as food stamps and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The problem in gaining citizenship is that many refugees have fulltime jobs and have little time to study for the test which is given in English. In addition to this, some refugees are illiterate in their own language, which creates an obstacle for refugees trying to learn English. Furthermore, those with disabilities may not have the \$600 required to obtain a doctor's notice to take the test in their native language. The inability to understand English may cause refugees with disabilities to fail the citizenship test and lose any government aid, thus causing them to fall further into poverty.

In order to combat these issues, Bowling Green needs a resource center that focuses on citizenship preparation and learning English for those unable to learn on their own. These tools can help refugees gain citizenship and maintain government aid while helping them integrate into society. Furthermore, the resource center will have features that draw other members of the community into the space such as shops and a café. Having a multicultural setting within a common space such as a café may invite different people into a single area in order to create an environment for organic conversations and interactions. The connections made through these interactions may help refugees fully integrate into society by an opportunity to link them with the local community.

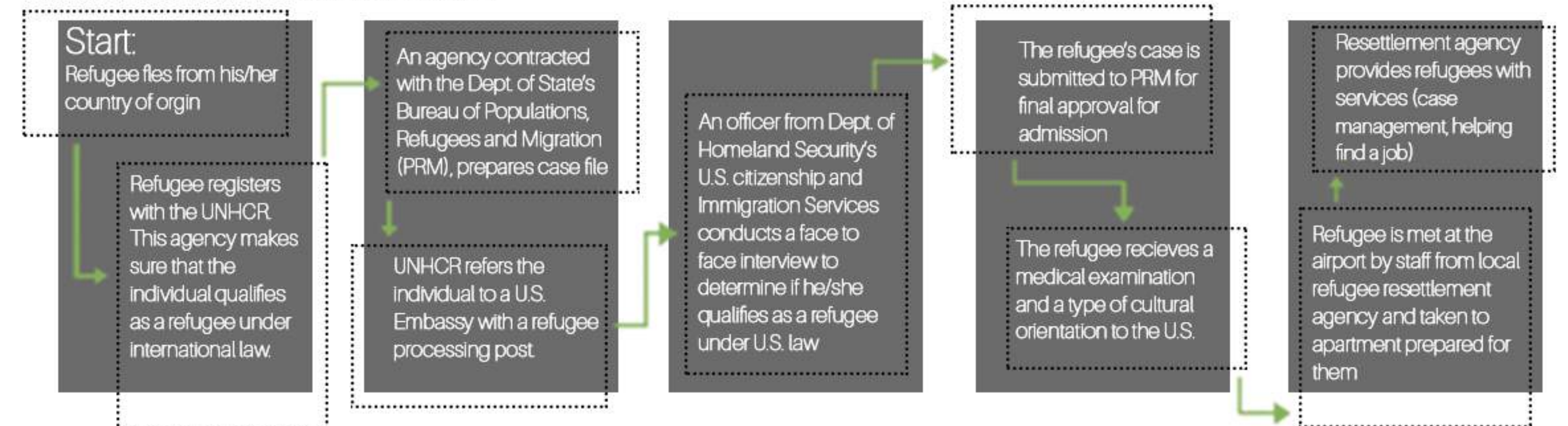
Defining the Intervention



Available Resources in Bowling Green

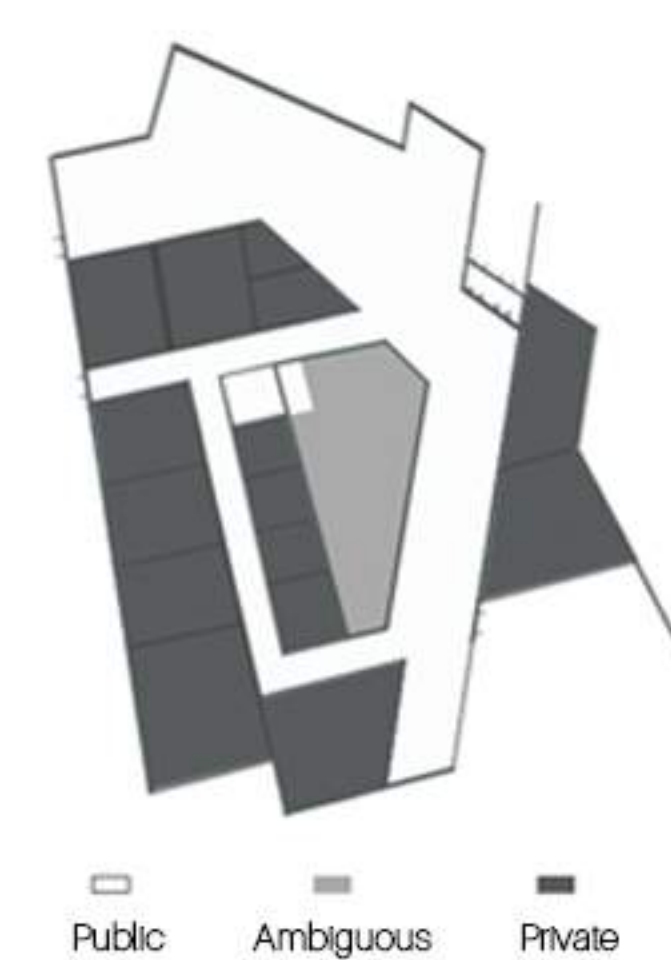
- | Disabilities | Citizenship |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. KY Dept. for the Blind | 1. Preparation Course |
| 2. Independent Living | |
| 3. Center for Deaf | English |
| 4. Caveland Ed. Support Center | 1. Private Tutors |
| 5. Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs | 2. ESL classes |
| 6. Life Skills, INC | |
| 8. Camp Happy Days | |
| 9. Buddy Program | |

Process of Resettlement

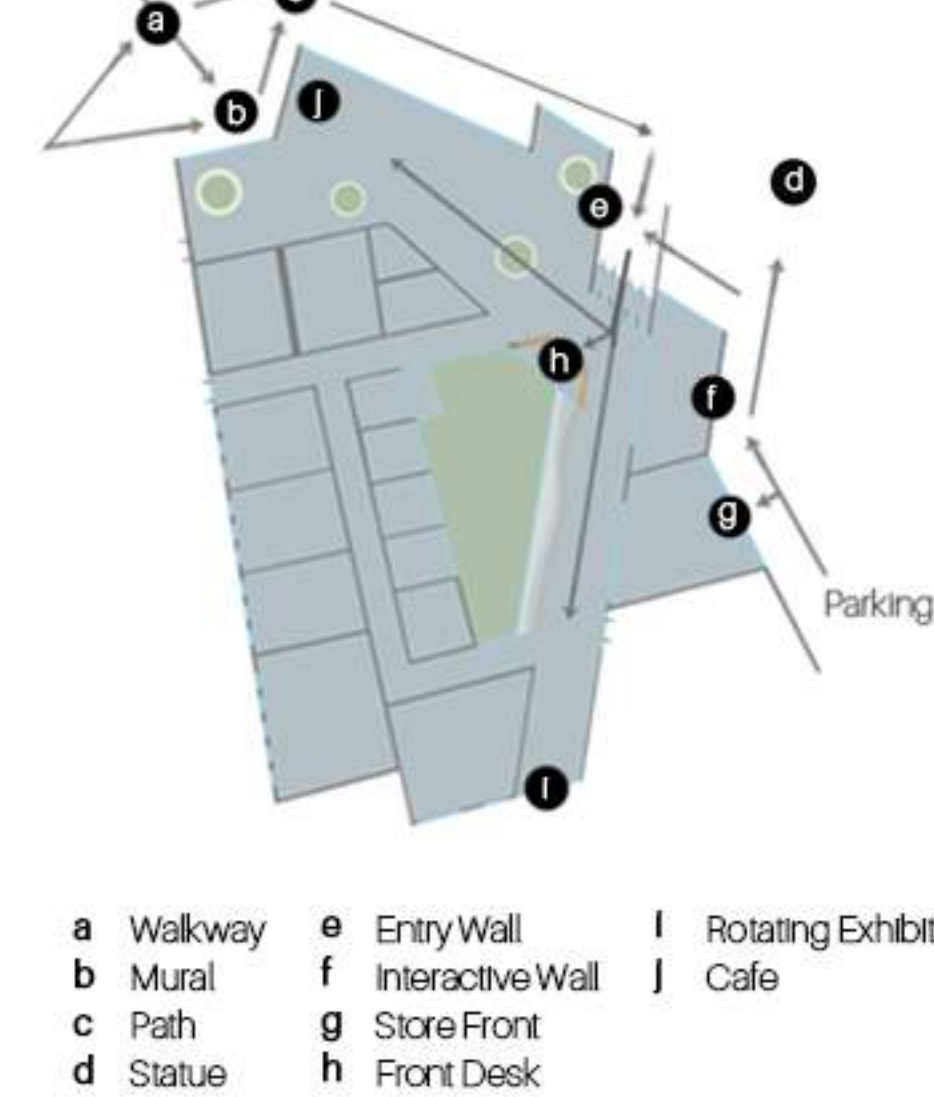


Building Diagrams

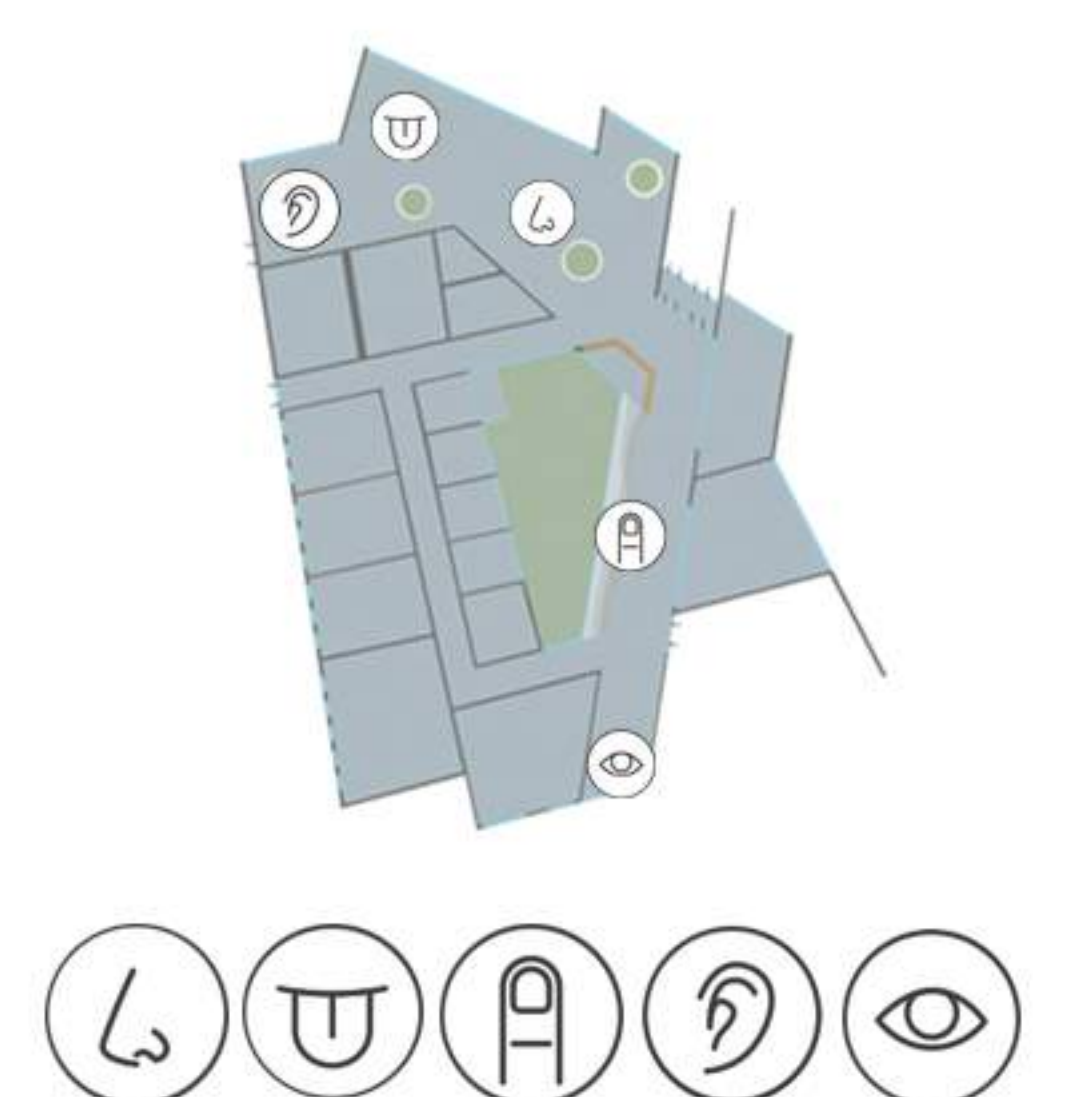
Public vs. Private



View Points



Senses



Community interactive spaces were the driving force behind design. This led to the creation of large public spaces in the front of the building while creating private spaces in the back. This is to keep foot traffic to a minimum in the classroom areas. This design helps to create a definition of space while allowing for movement throughout the building. The ambiguous space is the central atrium that is a defining barrier between spaces but also creates the illusion of open space.

Smell: Indoor plants and herbs that give off different fragrances for varying spaces
Taste: Foods and Drinks available from the Cafe located in the north western portion of the building.
Touch: Seating along the eastern atrium wall.
Sound: A lounge space located on the north western side of the building that dampens sound
Sight: A large window located on the south side of the building will have a Rotating Exhibit that is first seen when entering the space

Cultural Connections

- | Burmese |
|---|
| Religion: Buddhism, Islam, Christianity |
| Art: Ornamentation, Buildings, Statues |
| Materials: Wood (Bamboo), Stone, Concrete |
- | Syrians |
|-------------------------------|
| Religion: Islam |
| Art: Strong Geometric Designs |
| Materials: Concrete |
- | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
|---------------------------------------|
| Religion: Christianity, Islam, Native |
| Art: Theatrical, Oral, Experiential |
| Materials: Concrete, Clay, Bricks |

