

# Sustainable City Year Program

## 2022-23



### Design, Planning and Public Administration Projects

Project	Outcome
<b>A New Future for the Sisters Elementary School Site</b>	The city of Sisters, Sisters School District, and Sisters Parks and Recreation District partnered to evaluate the future of the existing Sisters Elementary School site. Graduate planning students envisioned site-specific and context-appropriate proposals that focused on: 1) Adaptive Reuse and Teacher Workforce Housing; 2) Age-Friendly Neighborhood; and 3) Recreation/Community Center and Outdoor Recreation. Student groups proposed on- and off-site transportation networks to facilitate mobility options; affordable housing options to support a local workforce; and green spaces to encourage a healthy lifestyle for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
<b>Sisters Affordable Housing Funding Options</b>	Students analyzed the city's affordable housing reserve fund and brainstormed additional potential fund contributions. Potential revenue sources were evaluated for 1) revenue generated and 2) non-monetary impacts to residents and the city. The highest ranking recommendations had revenue certainty, ease of implementation, and captured value from high-traffic industries. Recommendations that proposed mixing and matching options rather than a single option to create incentive structures ranked highly.
<b>Support for the New Explore Sisters Nonprofit</b>	Sisters' new nonprofit destination management organization, Explore Sisters, will lead a variety of economic development-related responsibilities in the region. Nonprofit management students assisted Explore Sisters and provided recommendations focused on: 1) Mission, vision, values; 2) Stakeholder engagement; and 3) Financial opportunities.
<b>Reimagining Housing Options for the Sisters Elementary School Site</b>	The Sisters School District sought ideas for adaptive reuse of its elementary school building and site. Architecture students designed workforce housing, a community center with indoor recreation opportunities, and outdoor recreation areas. Student proposals fell into four main categories: 1) Housing on top of the school; 2) Housing on the west side of the site; 3) Housing in groups of clusters; and 4) Housing as larger volumes. Proposed housing types included apartments, duplexes, and quadplexes. Different community recreational use and spaces anchored the designs.

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### Design, Planning and Public Administration Projects (cont.)

Project Outcome

#### Co-Living for Changing Families in Central Oregon

As the definition of “family” evolves and innovative design thinking is needed for new household types, students envisioned inclusive places where people can thrive through mutual support and sharing, and where architectural spaces adapt to changing needs. Students designed amenities and services for on-site residents and the public to the north with varied unit sized housing clusters to the south, buffered from Highway 20. Shared spaces for gardening, socializing, and recreation support community and natural organisms, while providing green reserves for future development. Maximizing natural ventilation, daylighting, passive solar and rainwater harvesting could make the site resilient and centralized management could make district energy resources such as photovoltaic panels and geothermal earth tubes effective.

#### Sparking Bicycling Joy in Sisters: Improving Transportation Options

Students examined a variety of challenges, perspectives, and possible solutions related to bicycle transportation in Sisters. Areas of study included multi-use paths and other ways to make auto-centric streets more bicycle-friendly; safe routes to school opportunities; local and regional bicycle tourism opportunities; and bicycling-centered marketing. Student recommendations support bicycle transportation opportunities that were safe, connected, and comfortable for all user types in Sisters.

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