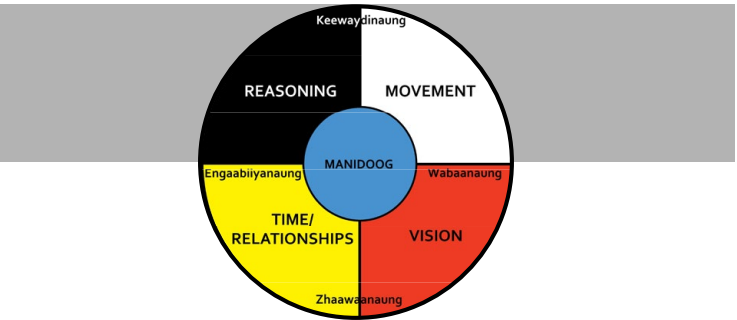
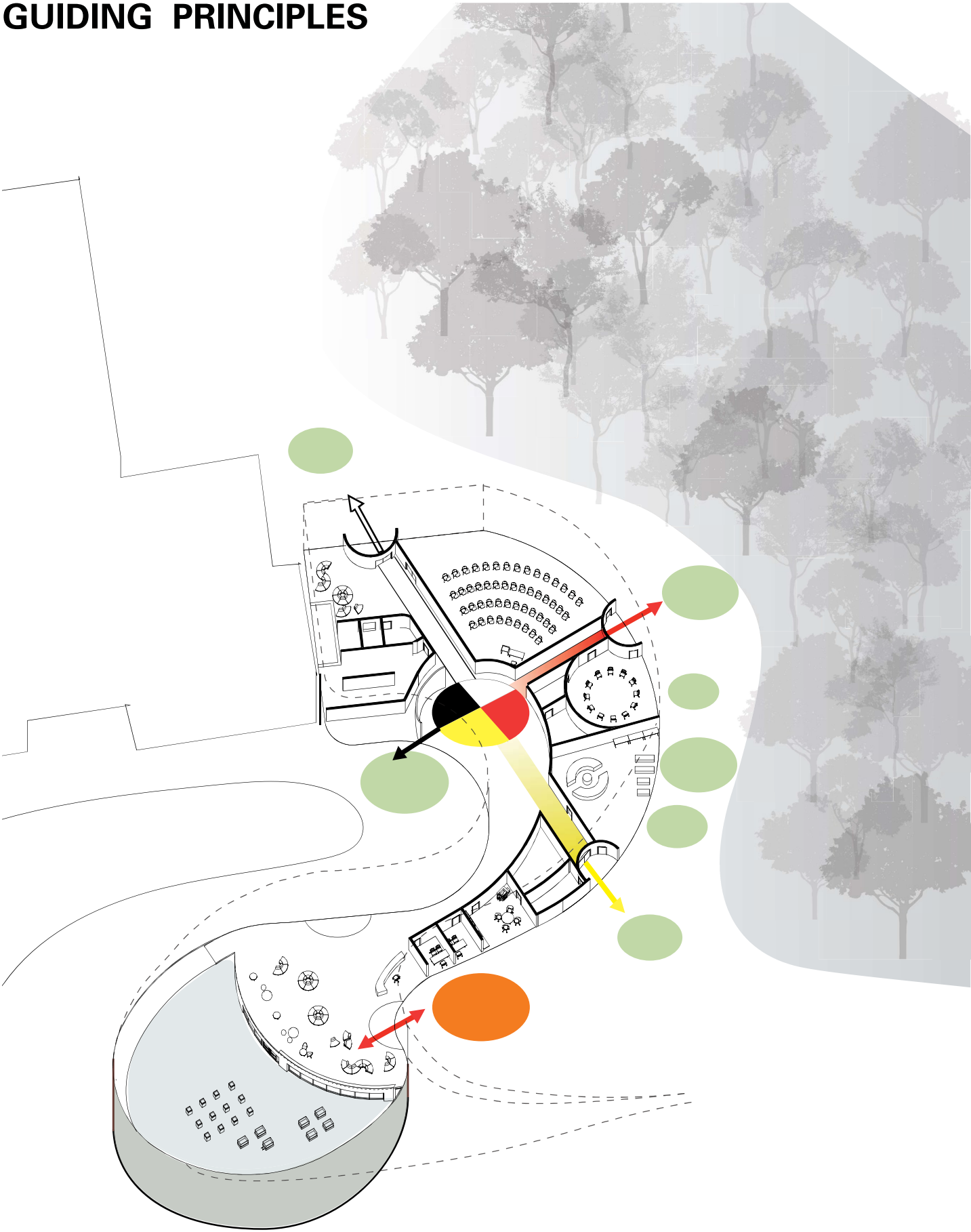


GUIDING PRINCIPLES



MEDICINE WHEEL

The Medicine Wheel holds spiritual symbolism throughout teachings in Anishinaabe culture. It presents a holistic understanding of the interconnectedness and cyclical nature of life, from the four seasons to the seven sacred directions. The programmatic organization of Mukwa Waakaa'igan is rooted in the sacred teachings of both the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Directions. Entrances are aligned with the cardinal axis.

On the ground floor, the Eastern entrance provides the spiritual access to the building, symbolizing renewal and rebirth from

the forest. Program in this area includes teaching spaces that connect to the outdoors, providing students with richer learning experiences rooted in nature.

Along the West, transition spaces are provided as a buffer between the former residential school, leading into indoor gathering and ceremonial spaces.

The exhibition and archival spaces will be home to Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre's (SRSC) Library and Archives and provide space for permanent collections related to residential school histories and rotating exhibitions highlighting Indigenous artists.

Meditation spaces are located on the second floor, with views outside towards the North, as well as student lounges, galleries, and common spaces, and the cafe. Research and academic units can be found on the third floor.

This connection to nature at every level engages the visitors' experiences with extensive views towards the lake and forest, and provides places for land-based learning and ceremony and the inclusion of plants, our relations for the indigenous peoples, in our everyday experiences.



SWEET GRASS BRAID

The three braids of sweet grass represent Present, Past, and Future. By weaving these three timelines - the essence of creation - we trace one's healing journey through the new building: with colonial history, empowering present, and a sustainable future.



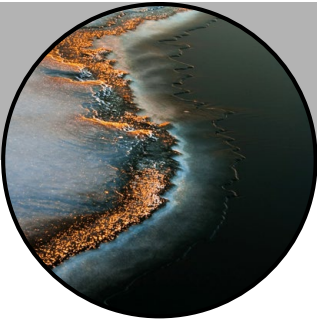
MUKWA | BEAR

Our four-legged brother, Mukwa (Anishinaabemowin language), is a medicine carrier, protector and healer of mind, body and spirit. Mukwa Waakaa'igan, translated to "Bear's Den," is the name given to this building in spiritual Ceremony.



TIKINAGAN | BABY CARRIER

The Tikinagan plays a fundamental role in child-rearing practices of Indigenous peoples, embodying family relationships and a sense of belonging. This tool represents the life in the womb for the infant: a place of warmth, comfort, and security.



WATER

Baawitigong, is the name of this place "the place of the rapids" where two great lakes join, Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Connection to water as the origin of life defines this place.