In November of 2022, voters in the David Douglas School District approved a $140 million construction bond measure to make repairs, improvements, remodels and new construction to K-12 school facilities. Of the approved projects, $46 million will go towards the design and construction of a Future Careers Center at David Douglas High School and another undisclosed amount will go to remodel the North Powellhurst Building on SE 135th Avenue for an expanded District Preschool Program. The Future careers center will offer state-of-the-art facilities to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. A CTE curriculum emphasizes business, technical, and industry workplace skills to prepare students for future careers in agriculture, arts and information, business management, health sciences, human resources, and Industrial and engineering systems. When surveyed nationally, students enrolled in CTE courses are up to 30% more likely to graduate high school and after graduation, CTE concentrators are more likely to be employed, earn higher quarterly average wages, and pursue additional vocational training through 2 or 4-year colleges.

Our studio will collaborate with BRIC Architecture, a Portland-based architecture firm that has been hired to design the Future Careers Center, which will emphasize career training for science, technology, and engineering careers of the future, and industrial arts careers for the present. Students will spend the winter term researching the 2022 Bond Measure and designing a project scope that includes the Future Careers Center and an additional opportunistic scope that may include retrofits to the existing high school or an expanded Preschool program. This first studio term will culminate in the programing, site, and schematic design for the future center. In the follow-up term to this studio, students will take a deep dive into the environmental and energy performance of their designs, utilizing cutting-edge software to design, evaluate, and optimize performance to align with the AIA COTE Top Ten Framework for Excellence. Students will be encouraged to submit their projects for consideration in the 2024 AIA COTE Top Ten for Students Competition.

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