

## **Project description**

The primary objective for developing the ESC site is to build a state-of-the-art arena that will serve as the long-term home of the NBA Sacramento Kings as well as prove a forum for cultural events year round. The ESC building will be located in the south quadrant of the project site, generally along L Street, between 5th Street and 6th Street. The iconic ESC building will be approximately 780,000 gross square feet and include the seating bowl with general and premium seating, suites, indoor standing viewing areas, practice court, and outdoor courtyard and terrace areas, designed to accommodate up to 17,500 seated attendees, with capability of increasing this number during special events. The performance venue would be configured for basketball, other sporting events, concerts, conferences and conventions, trade shows, circuses, and family oriented shows. Conjoined with the ESC building will be a practice facility that includes two basketball courts and retail space. The retail stores and restaurants on the ESC site will be accessible to the public from outside the facility and may operate during regular non-event business hours. The main plaza entrances to the ESC from the west and the east will be located generally in the north quadrant of the plaza, 5th Street and from 7th and K Streets. There will also be an entrance along L Street, with limited access for premium ticketholders.

## **Design Priorities**

### **CELEBRATING THE BEST OF SACRAMENTO**

Sacramento is a region with a rich historical legacy, and a vibrant and diverse community. The ESC will embody the best of Sacramento for residents, visitors and home viewers. This will include connections to the rich agricultural heritage in the food offerings and farm to fork menus. It also includes the connection between the indoors and outdoors, which is a special opportunity in the Sacramento climate. The venue is located within an active and spectacular outdoor event plaza that will enable a variety of outdoor programming during Kings' games as well as all other times of year. The design of the venue itself will also pick up on these themes, as described in further detail in following sections.

### **FRAMING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Developing the ESC will be the first step in revitalizing Sacramento's downtown. The arena must be seen in the context of the future of the downtown area – both the broader economic development, and the density and vibrancy that will characterize the area. The arena has been designed with an eye towards its future setting – a densely populated, economically vibrant downtown with a great variety of different live/work developments. It will become the anchor for a new entertainment and mixed used district within the city of Sacramento.

### **BUILDING ICONIC CIVIC SPACE**

The new arena will be a presence in the downtown area and will activate the plaza and the neighborhood. On game days it will be a vibrant center of the city. On non-game days it will be a compelling place to visit where a wide range activities will take place. This will be accomplished through design that transforms the façade and its presence in the plaza, and

through events that activate the plaza on nongame days. The site will be an iconic civic space that works 365 days a year.

#### DESIGNING THE EXPERIENCE

The ESC will become a premier experience for the fans. Their overall experience begins once they leave their home and continues throughout the event. The ESC will feature thoughtful details that transition the visitor to the entertainment space. Purple lights may signify a game night, or subtle technology effects will signal something special and specific is happening on site. The new arena will also create a home court advantage by offering great seats for games, family shows and other sporting events. The desire to make this arena most exciting environment possible has driven the physical design of the arena, but it will also influence the technology experience at the arena, which will be sophisticated, interactive and exciting. The building will facilitate participation by fans and visitors and deepen the connection between visitors and the place.

#### **Design narrative**

The design team has from the start done everything it can to insure that the ESC reflects the unique qualities of Sacramento: a vibrant city which is continuing to evolve.

After listening to the community in various forums, immersing ourselves into the history of the city, and hearing from longtime residents as well as new enthusiasts, a few different themes have emerged. These range from the incredible local climate to unique physical characteristics of the city and surrounding region. These factors have been the driving force behind the design of the ESC from the plaza to the arena façade, from the seating bowl to the front door.

#### ACTIVITY/CITY

One of the most important aspects of Sacramento and its surrounding area is what an amazing environment it provides year round. This has sponsored a very active lifestyle which the plaza and arena have been designed to celebrate. The plaza has been configured to welcome people of all abilities, on foot or bicycle, young or old. The arena and its practice courts will celebrate the excitement of sport, and support indoor and outdoor uses throughout. An event hill directly opposite the front door will evoke the seating within the arena and bring the theatrical energy of active civic life to the plaza.

#### BUILDING

The arena exterior has been designed to celebrate the unique quality of light inherent to the Sacramento Valley. This will be a very fresh and crisp, white and silver building. This vibrant tonality will reflect, but not copy the many fine, light colored buildings downtown. The vertical striations of the façade will create inside/outside views which are rare for arenas that typically tend to be of an introverted nature. These undulations will play off the sun's light brilliantly, but also create shadows and a sense of depth to the façade.

On a more fundamental level the building evokes the drama of the landscape surrounding Sacramento. From the Delta to the Sierra Nevada's, the arena will reflect California's world-famous natural backdrop. The building arises from a landscaped base, as do the Sierras. The vertical wall panels were inspired by the famous rock formations of Yosemite as well as the grace, strength and power of the Sierras; California's signature golden hills inspired the design of the Foothill Terrace sloping gently up to overlook L Street; The ten-foot high vertical base of the building reflect the green horizons defined by California's numerous forests and parks. Patterns on the glass and metal and railings are abstracted from "One Million Trees" of Sacramento. The experience of being on the Riverview Terrace will be as if one is looking through a tree canopy out to the Sacramento River.

The final, and perhaps most dramatic element of the ESC design, will be the incredibly spacious opening entryway. Spanning below the Riverview Terrace will be a series of large, transparent doors that will fold upwards to actually open the arena up to the city during good weather. These have been designed so that arena is always seen to be open even when it is closed.

#### MATERIALS

The building will be made of sustainable materials which are recyclable and sourced locally: Precast concrete with sand from San Benito and rocks of Sierra grey limestone--these will be light in color and sparkle in the sun; aluminum panels with ceramic frit that will complement the stone and glass; finally, there will be accents of fine Sierra granite located in key public areas.

#### PLAZA

The open space around the arena forms a key part of the scheme, not only accommodating crowds during events but acting as a new focus of social activity during non-event times. The program zoning is structured around two axes; the 'entertainment axis' running through the arena and extending out into open space to form an Event Plaza, and the 'relaxation axis' running perpendicularly to this, forming two distinct zones on either side of the event plaza. The use of these two spaces is driven by both climate and adjacencies. The space to the east is the Dining Court, benefitting from the shade of the arena, plus surrounded by active frontage retail and concessions located in the arena and adjacent developments. To the west are the Terraced Gardens, this area receiving a lot of sun making it ideal for growing plants but receiving less direct activation from surrounding buildings. This area will play an important additional role; forming a key part of the ADA ramp access from L Street and Macy's to the Event Plaza. Two additional spaces complete the plaza's overarching framework. To the north, the mixed-use terrace complements the dining court, this stretching the full width of the plaza. The event terrace overlooking the main pedestrian entry from L Street forms a sizable area that can be used either for large arena events or for smaller scale indoor/outdoor functions when the arena is not hosting large events.

The plaza will be landscaped with native species and an accent on agriculture as a life force of the Delta. These may include fruit trees, almond trees, farm to fork gardens, vertical

hydroponic micro farms, and other examples of the agricultural heritage and innovation represented within the greater Sacramento region.