City of Aurora

Thrive Collaborative Center

Location

The City of Aurora owns 712 S. River, formerly the Fox Valley Park District Administration building. It is currently vacant, yet in good structural condition. Its 7,400 square feet of space, is ADA compliant and contains 2 floors, with several individual offices, large gathering spaces, a working elevator, private parking lot and patio area to the east of the building.

Concept

In shared spaces, the potential for Collaborative is more dynamic. The COA aims to foster a culture of Sharing, Community and Connections by opening the Thrive Collaborative Center (TCC). The TCC will offer nonprofit organizations private and shared workspaces at economical price points along with amenities that not only let agencies focus on their programs, but also learn how to enhance them through organizational development and collaborative strategic partnerships.

Rationale

In a recent assessment of COA funded agencies, it was revealed that many organizations operated at small scales, with limited funding sources, offering duplicative services. To improve service delivery among area agencies, an intentional investment in their growth and stability is necessary. The TCC will aid in this reality via its stated goals.

Goals

1. Increase capacity of small to stagnant nonprofits to where programming is scaled appropriately, evaluations are conducted regularly, organizational management meets industry standards and diverse funding sources are secured.
2. To promote nonprofit Collaborative.
3. To provide affordable office space to nonprofits and decrease tenant occupancy costs.

Operation

The first floor will be the Youth Services Wing where we can offer 3 private offices to potentially 3 different tenants along with five shared spaces: reception area, storage, coat closet, large multipurpose space, and a library/reading nook. The first floor has an access door that leads to the outdoor patio area. This space, along with the kitchen/breakroom will be shared spaces for all building tenants.

The second floor will be the <u>Client Services Wing</u> where we can offer 5 private office spaces (two will be assigned to the future City of Aurora Financial Empowerment Center). This floor also has an open floor area that will allow for 4 "hot desk" options. There is also a shared reception/waiting area, coat closet and storage. The large boardroom/training room is located on this floor and will be available for use by all building tenants via a scheduling system.

Shared space detail

- Reception area
- Conference room/event space (A/V incl)
- Training space
- Library/reading nook
- Kitchen/breakroom
- Storage
- Outdoor patio
- Parking

Amenities

- Free workshops & training
- Fast and secure Wi-Fi
- Affordable "Geek Squad"

- Paid Utilities (water, gas, electric)
- Security system
- Light cleaning

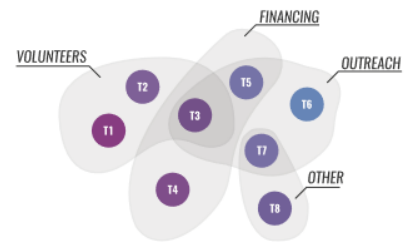## **Unique Features**

Collaborative

The development of a TCC Collaborative Plan will detail its goals, the level of Collaborative desired among tenants, and how the TCC will achieve Collaborative. Also, the TCC will provide a platform for measurement of the types of Collaborative desired and the outcomes that result.

Spectrum of Collaboration

Level of Engagement:	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	Networking	Coordinating & Cooperating	Collective Impact & Risk Sharing
What it Looks Like:	Make Introductions	Make Modest Behavior Changes such as Sharing Resources or Joint Programming	Measure Outcomes of Joint Effort with Shared Risks & Rewards while Enhancing Another's Capacity
By Center Type:			
One-Stop	Community Lunch	Cross-Referrals	Measure Impact in a Single Community/ Population/Issue area
Theme	Happy Hours	ED Topic Roundtables	Collaboration Fund Metrics
Multi-Sector	Gallery Openings	Joint Volunteer Recruitment	Measurable Capacity Building of Community Resources

Capacity Building

The TCC will offer tenants free access to curated workshops and trainings designed to improve organizational function as well as foster Collaborative among building tenants and beyond. Other area nonprofits will be invited to participate in available workshops and trainings for a small fee. An example of workshops to be offered include:

- Resource Development
- Program Evaluation and Outcome Measurement
- Financial Administration
- Strategy & Planning

- Organizational Development
- Collaborative & Collective Impact
- Program/Project Management
- Marketing & Social Media

ROI

1. A stronger, more capable nonprofit sector in the area providing effective services delivered in a more cost efficient fashion.
2. Less dependency on sole source funders.
3. Improved partnerships that result in lower operational costs.

Support needed

- Cosmetic improvements (paint, carpet, wall repair)
- Technology (15 laptops, projector, microphone)
- Furniture (desks, chairs/stools, waiting room furniture, whiteboard; key card access terminals; refrigerator, bookshelves, couches, decor)
- Patio area renovation (remove grass, purchase and install benches and other patio furniture)