

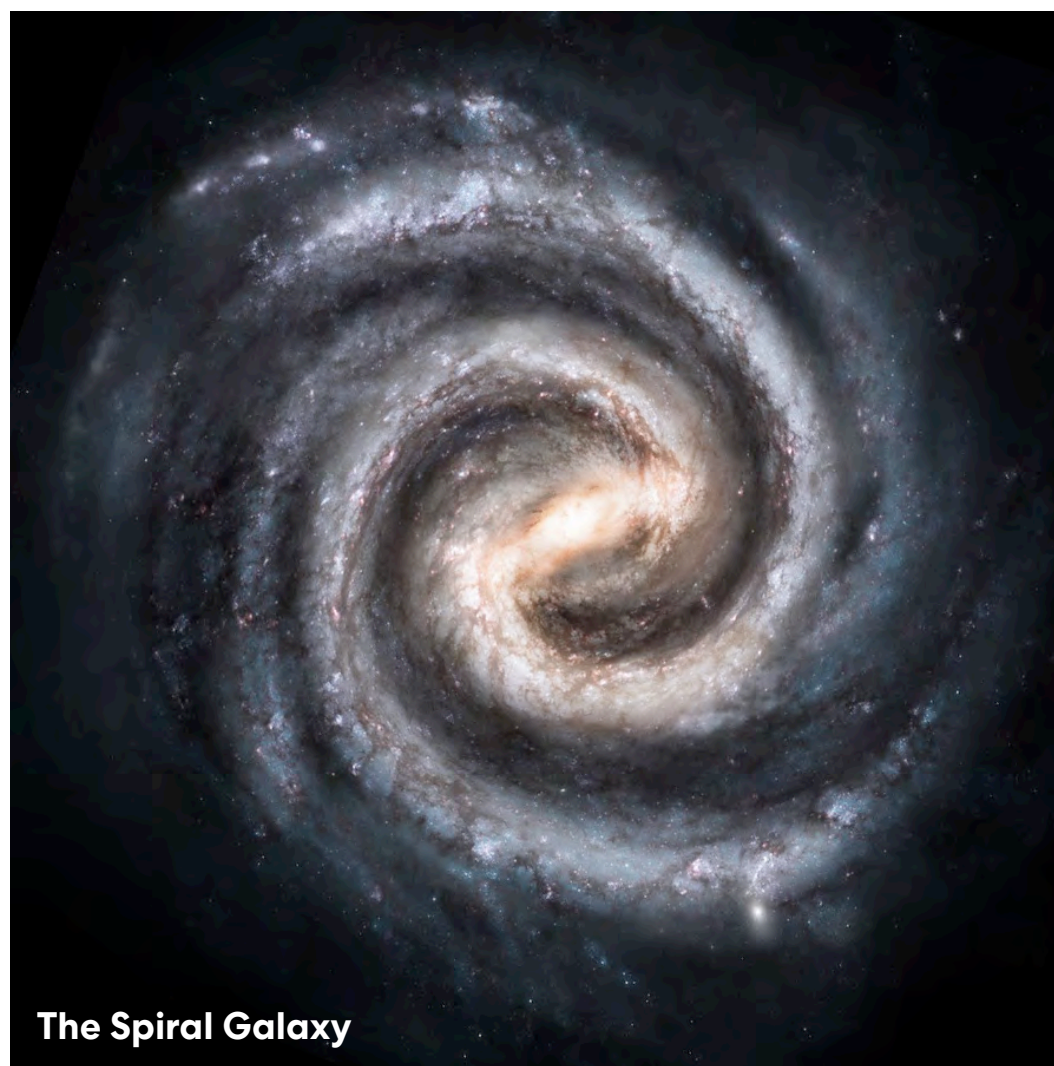
# Smithsonian Institution's Bezos Learning Center



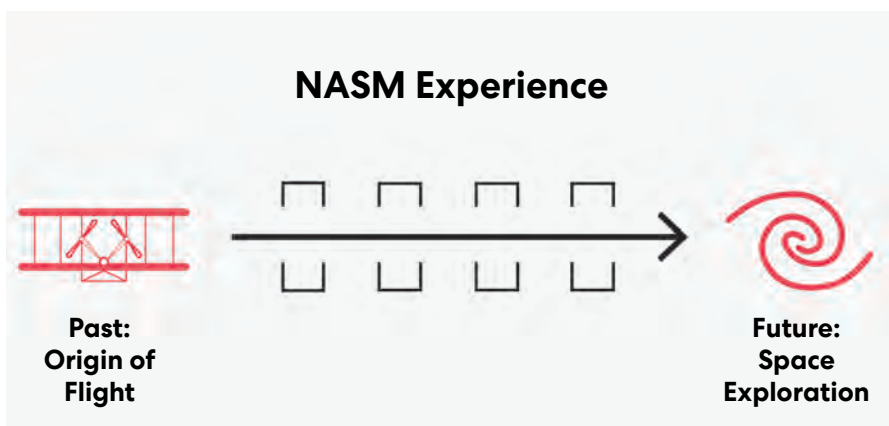
Northeast Aerial

The galaxy that is home to our solar system, the Milky Way, was once thought to be the entire universe. Today, we know our galaxy is just one of billions. As the universe continues to expand ever outward, the mysteries to be explored and solved by scientists, astronomers, and students is equally vast. The Smithsonian Institution's Bezos Learning Center provides a profound opportunity to re-imagine STEAM learning in the service of these planetary puzzles. Students and teachers from inside the Beltway and across the country will immerse themselves in a creative learning environment where discovery awaits.

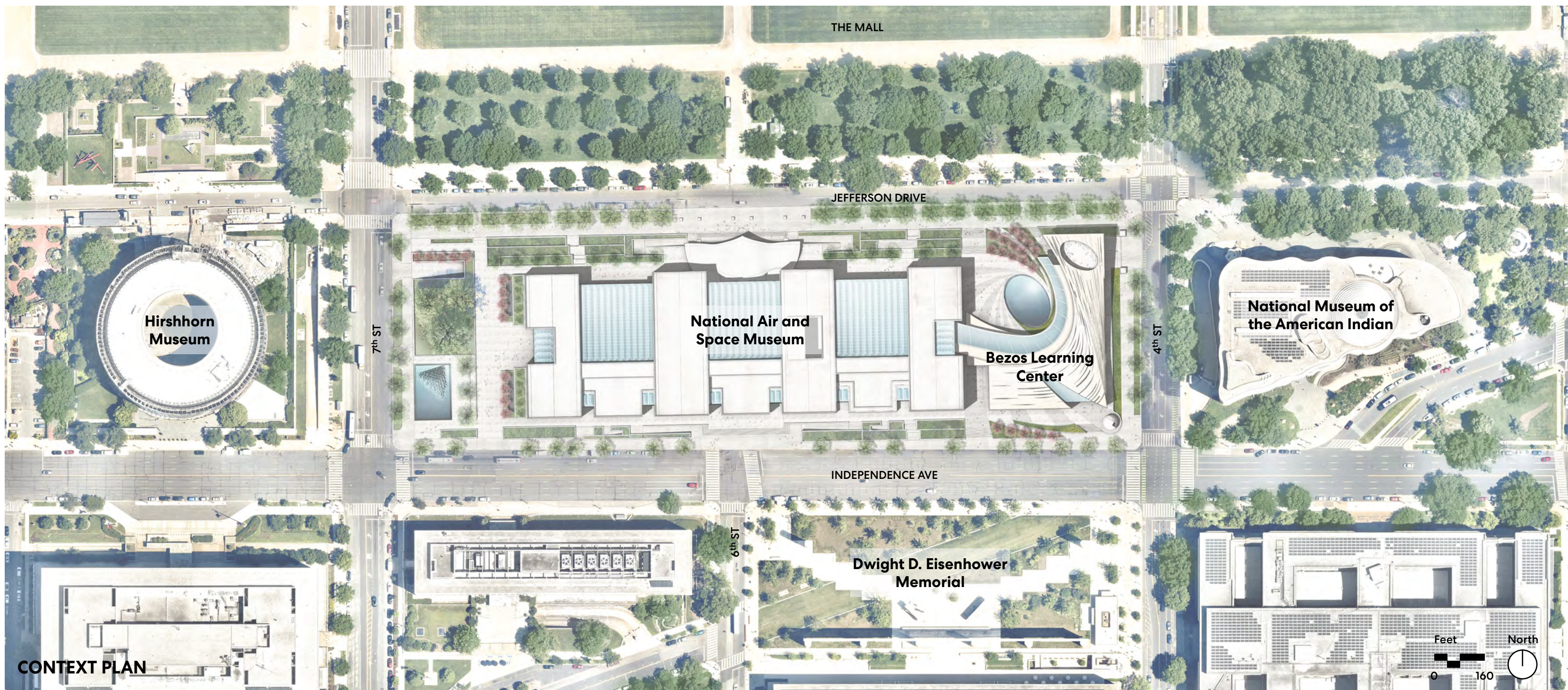
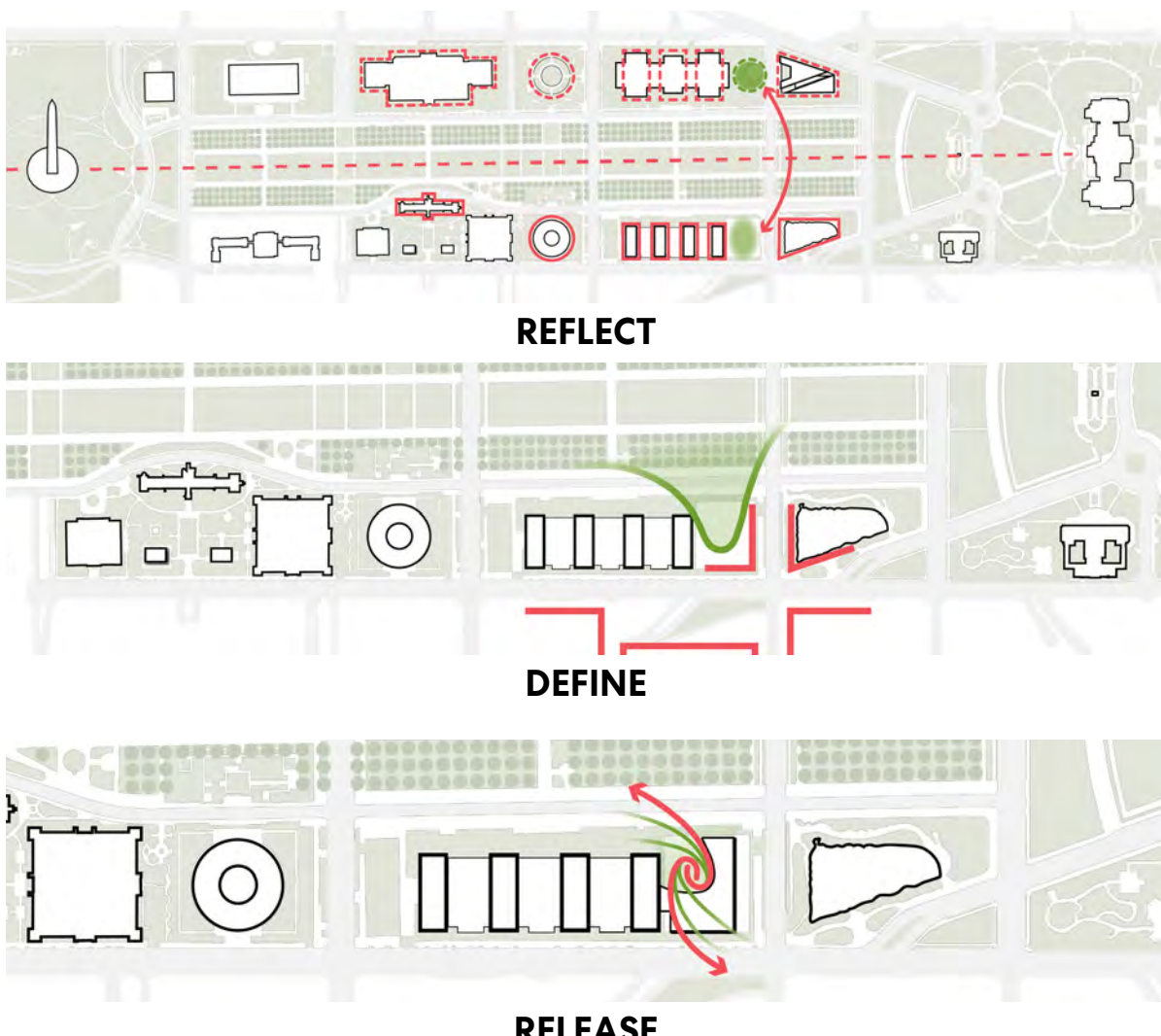
The inspiration for the Bezos Learning Center is a spiral galaxy, whose form reflects two-thirds of the known galaxies, including our own Milky Way. The building's architecture metaphorically places the individual student, educator, and visitor at the core of the galaxy, surrounded by educational experiences and paths of discovery that lead to infinite possibilities for their future in science, innovation, and leadership.



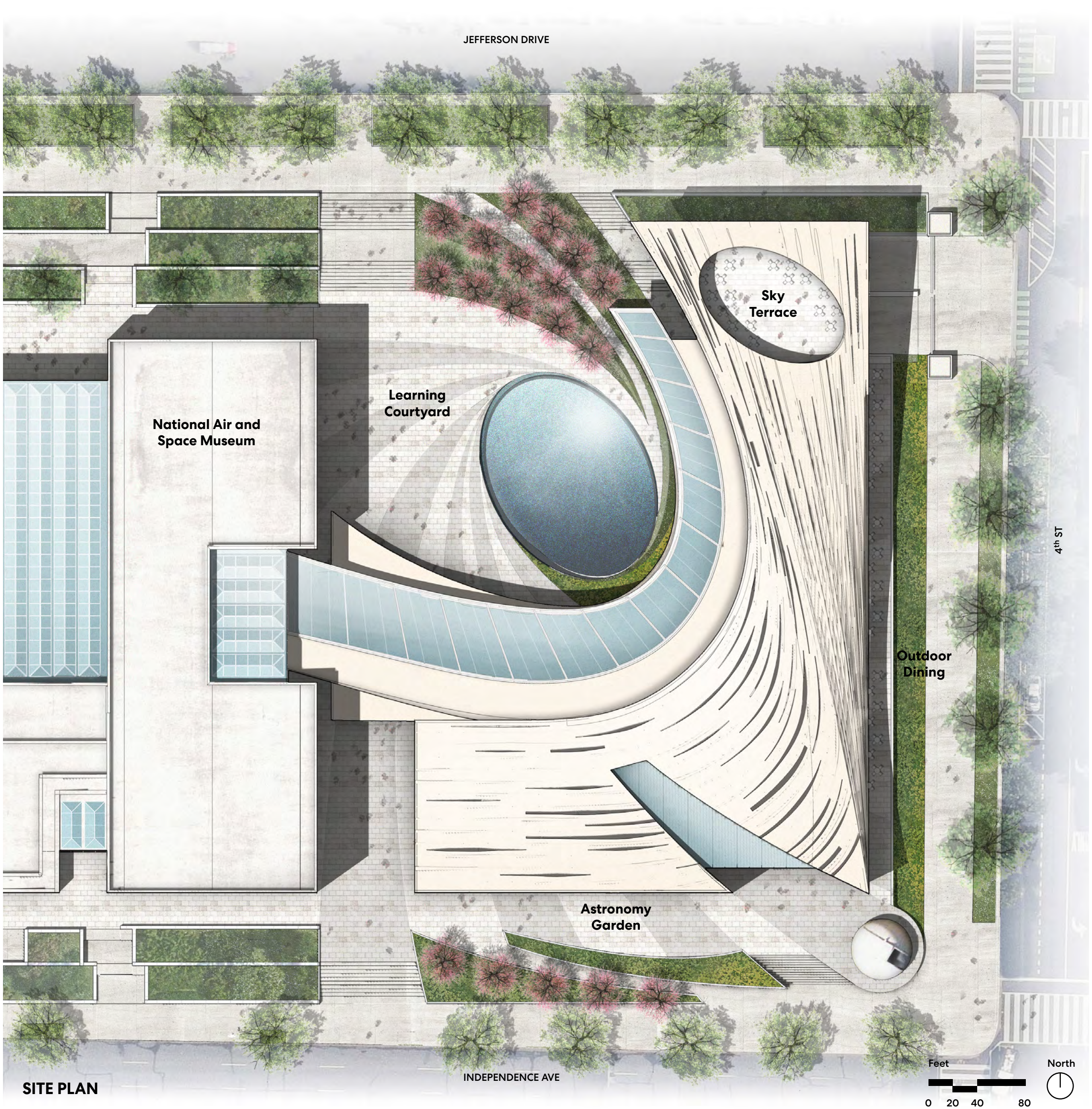
The Spiral Galaxy



Gravitational Pull



CONTEXT PLAN



SITE PLAN



Southeast Aerial



Learning Courtyard



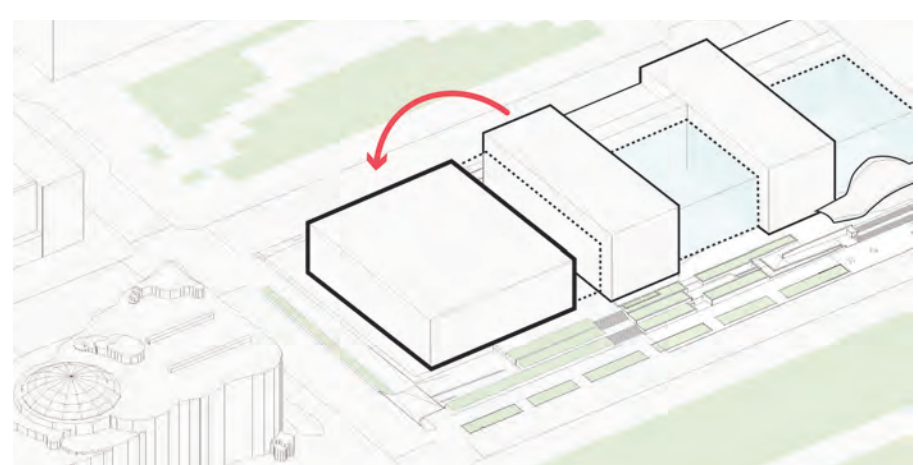
National Mall





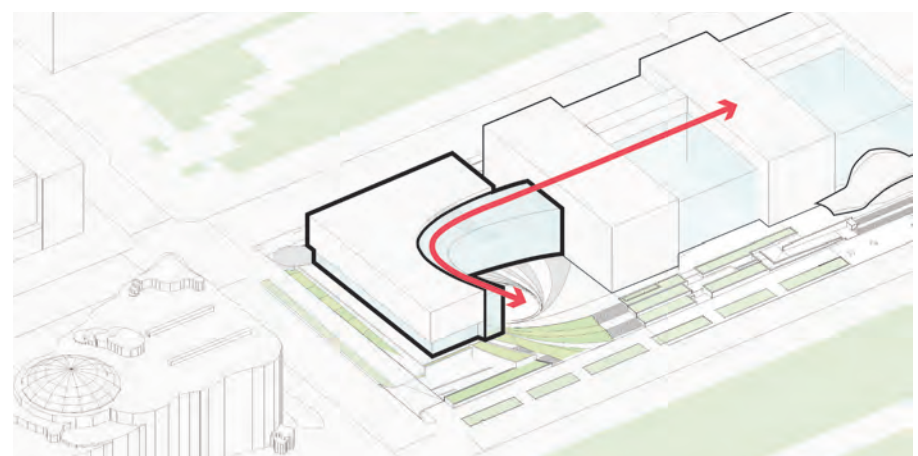


North Aerial



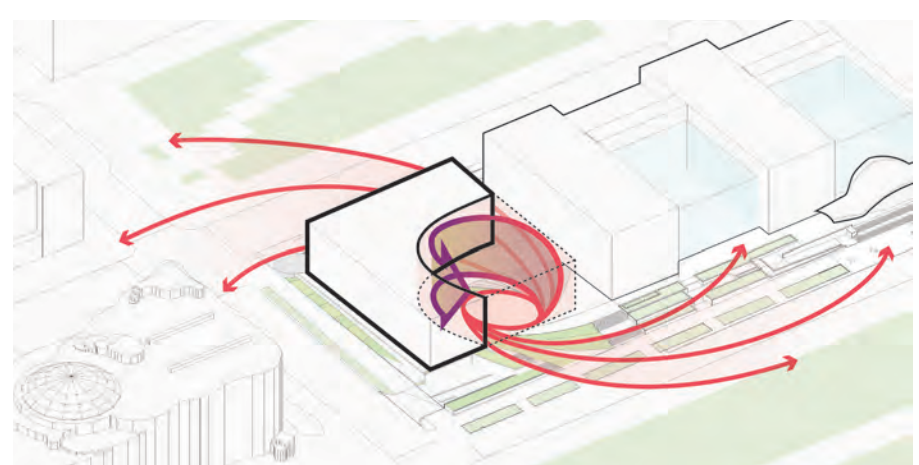
**EXTEND**

Extend NASM to form a mass for the Bezos Learning Center and hold the street edges.



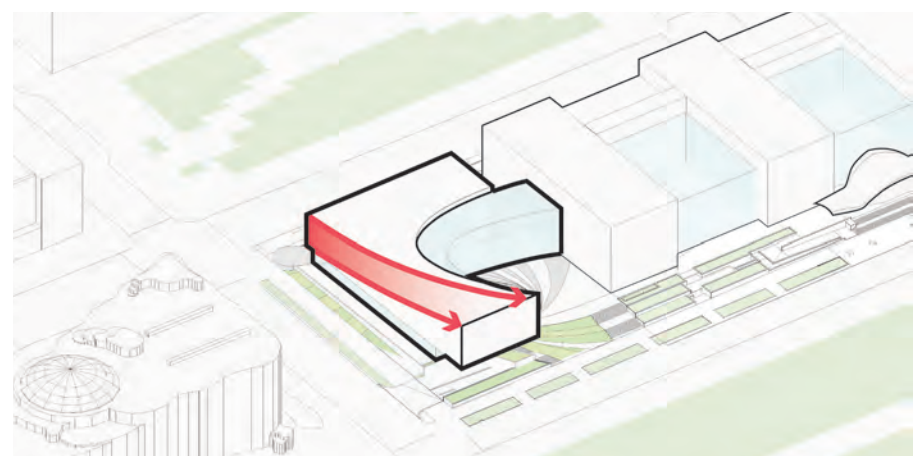
**CONNECT**

Frame the courtyard with a curving, glazed volume which connects to the NASM spine.



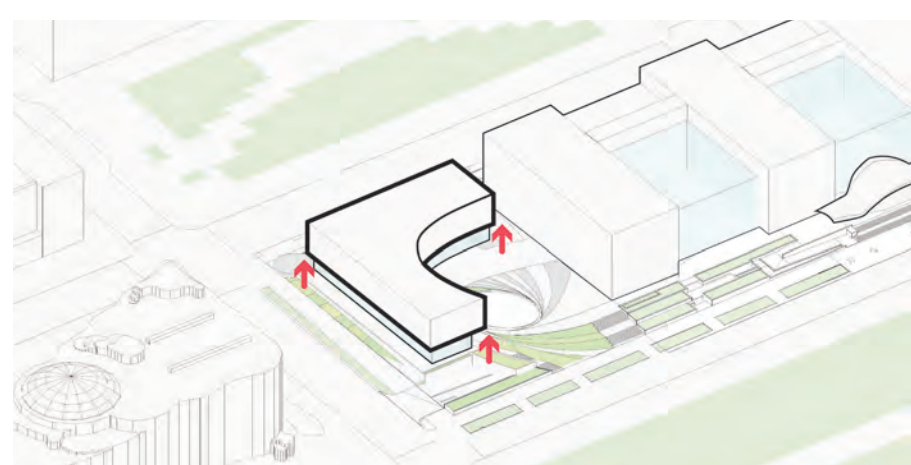
**CARVE**

Carve the mass with the Spiral Galaxy to form a courtyard facing the Mall.



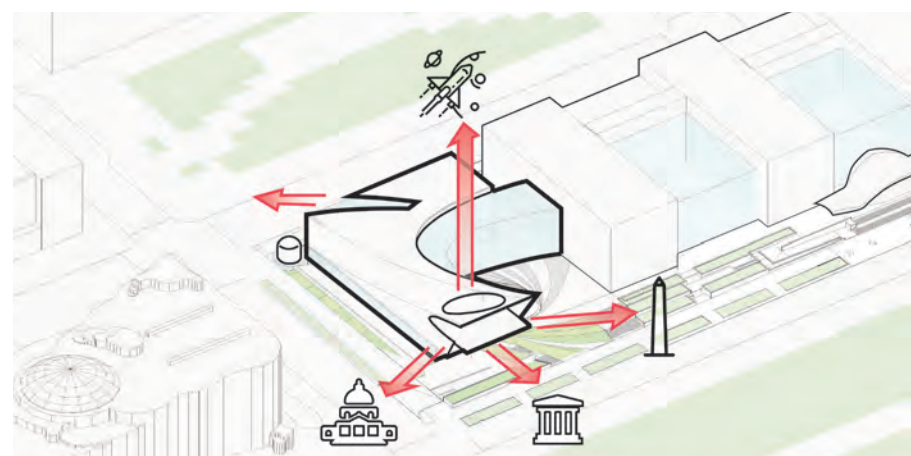
**TWIST / PROJECT**

Twist the mass with the gravitational pull of the Spiral Galaxy and project toward the Mall.



**LIFT**

Raise the mass above the Dining program to house the Bezos Learning Center.

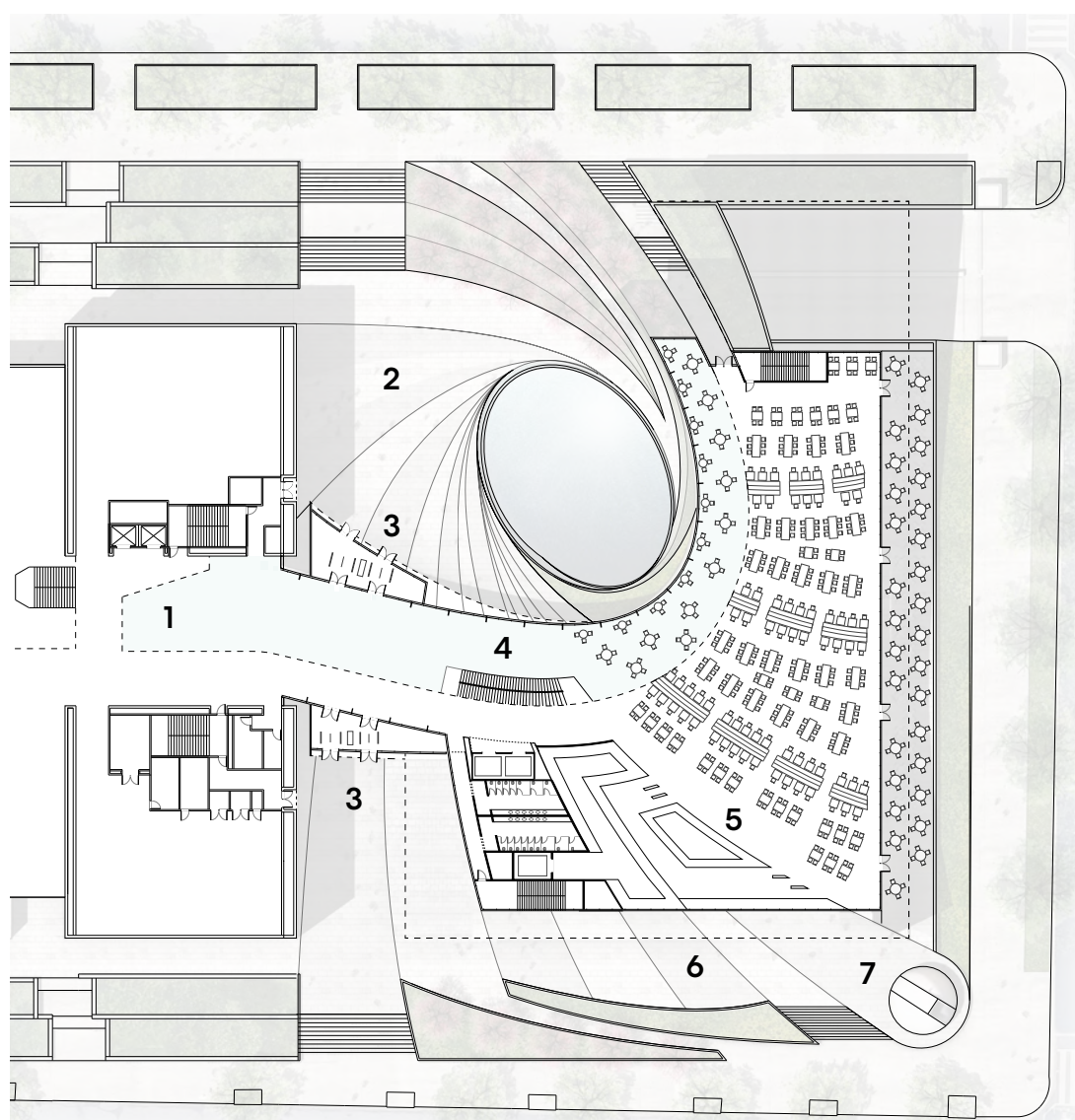


**VIEW**

Cut the massing to visually connect the Astronomy Park and open views to the Sky, Capitol, Monument, and Mall.

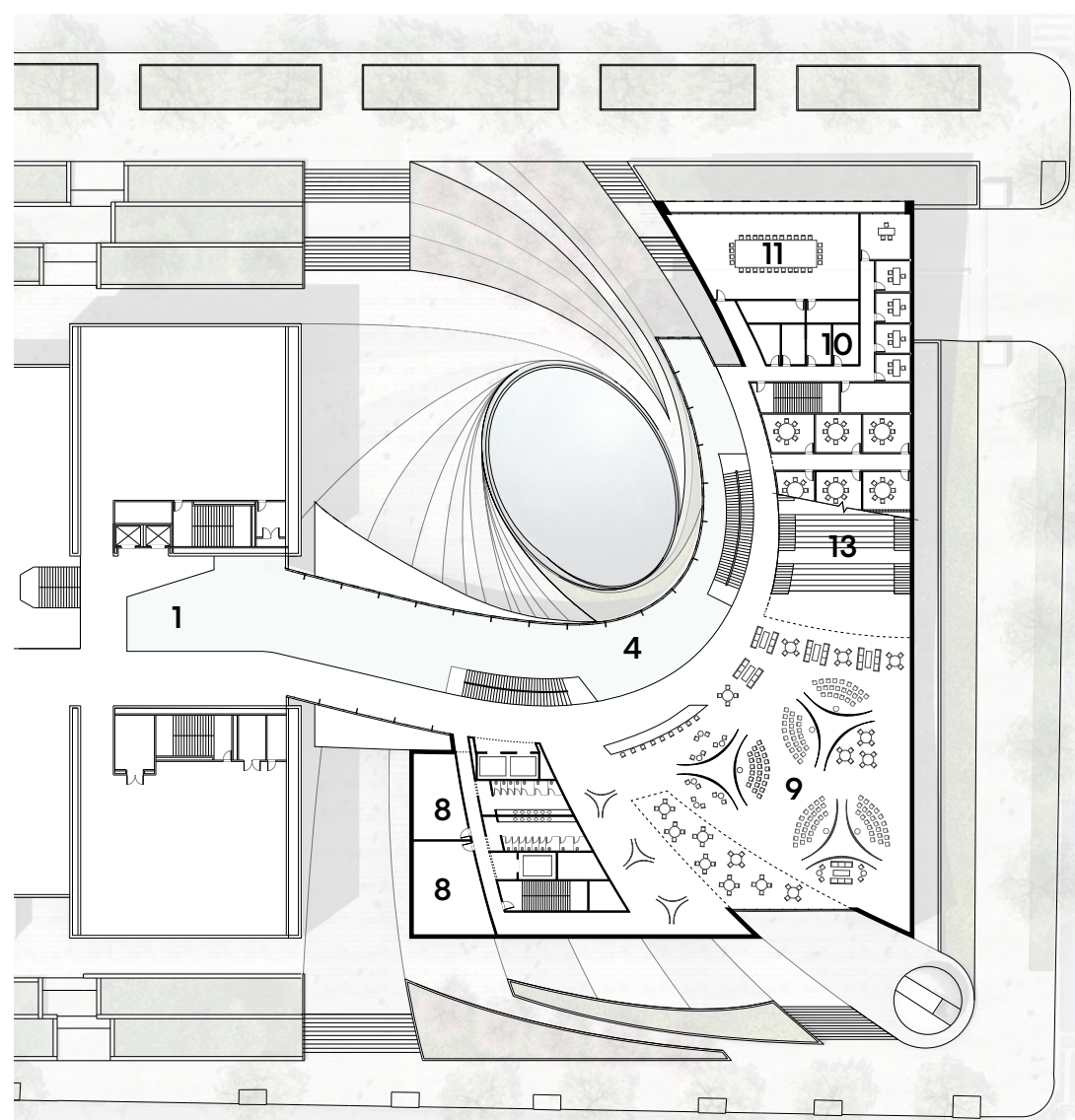


Spiral Gallery

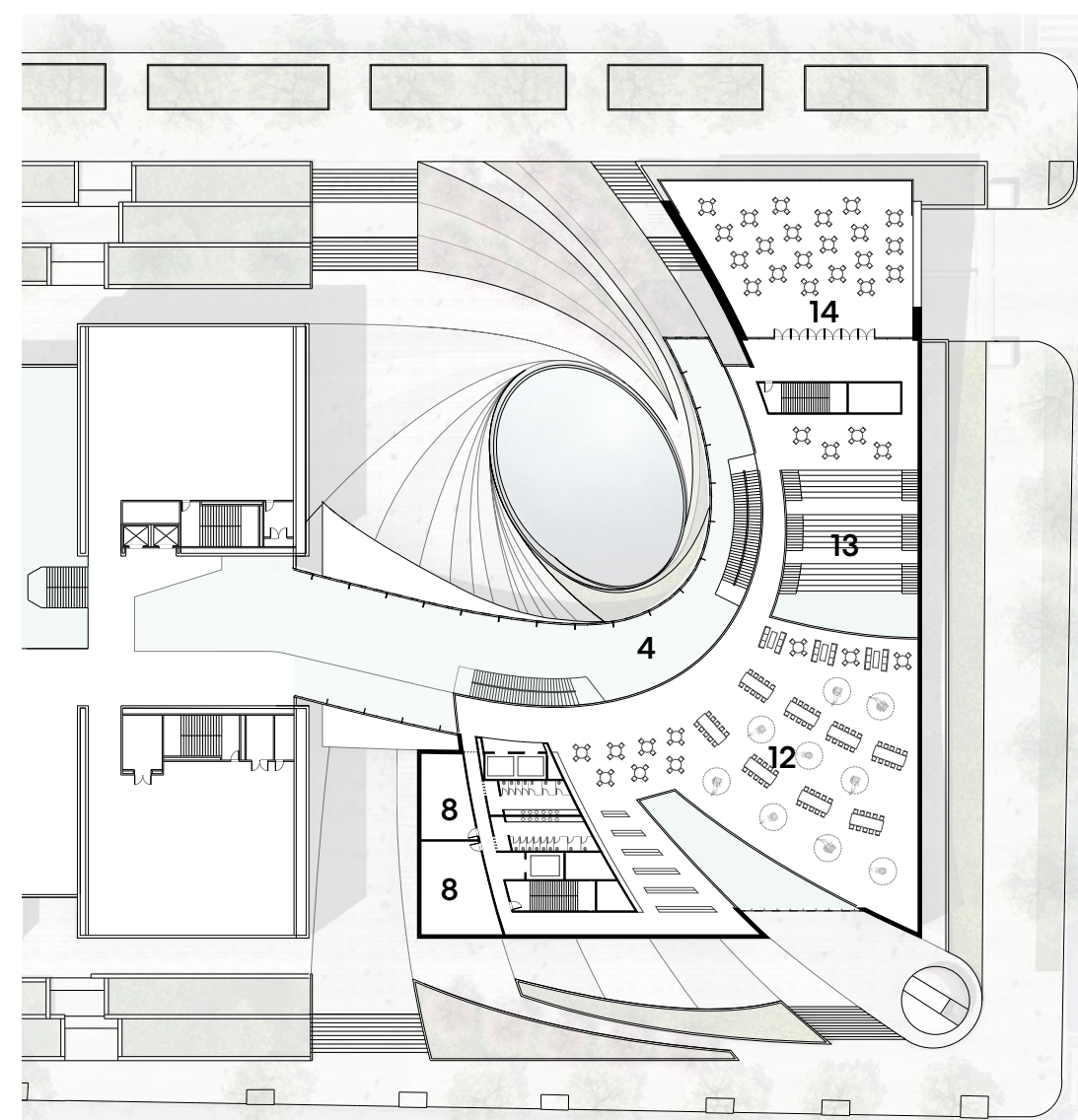


**LEVEL 01**

1 - NASM 2 - Learning Courtyard 3 - Entry 4 - Spiral Gallery 5 - Dining 6 - Astronomy Park 7 - Observatory 8 - Support 9 - Bezos Learning Center 10 - Office Suite 11 - Meeting Space 12 - Maker Space 13 - Convening Hub 14 - Sky Terrace



**LEVEL 02**



**LEVEL 03**

Feet  
0 20 40 80  
North



Convening Hub



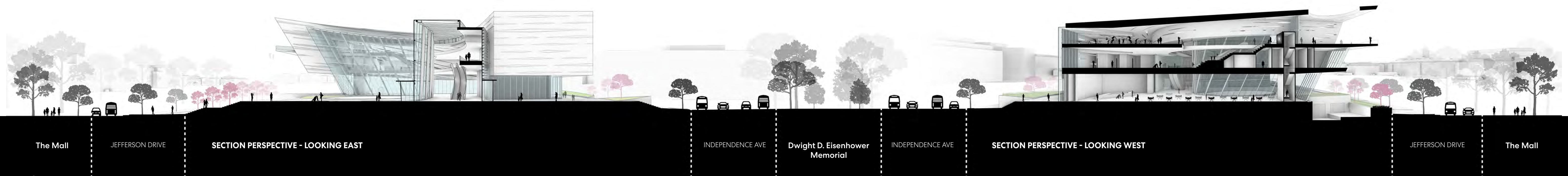
Learning Courtyard



Astronomy Park



Sky Terrace



The Mall

JEFFERSON DRIVE

SECTION PERSPECTIVE - LOOKING EAST

INDEPENDENCE AVE

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial

INDEPENDENCE AVE

SECTION PERSPECTIVE - LOOKING WEST

JEFFERSON DRIVE

The Mall