BEZOS LEARNING CENTER

SOARING, LIFTING, AND TEACHING

The Bezos Learning Center soars toward the sky, uplifting learners of all ages with curiosity and wonder for the universe.

Whether watching the clouds, following the trail of a meteor, or gazing at the stars, looking up at the sky connects us all with a shared sense of wonder and possibility. This powerful metaphor is our design principle for the Bezos Learning Center. It shapes the interior and exterior of the building, creating interiors with design features that continually draw visitors’ gaze upwards, framing science on display, views into teaching spaces, and glimpses of the sky. Our proposal connects back to the National Air and Space Museum, where visitors are continuously looking up at exhibits suspended in the air.

The design integrates harmoniously to the masses, height, and balcony openings of the National Air and Space Museum, while its sweeping form connects to the curvilinear shape of the neighboring National Museum of the American Indian. Bonded openings in the facade draw gazes upwards, bringing light and revealing the interior. Bringing learning out of the building, the surrounding landscape is transformed into a living laboratory. A multi-purpose observatory lined with photovoltaic panels and a forest of solar energy trees inspiring curiosity and connections between planets, building, and sustainable energy systems.