MICHIGAN TALENT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE





THE GRANT PROGRAM WAS TARGETED AT SELECT UNIVERSITY COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC ACT 121 OF 2024

There were four specific downstate cities named in the grant and then "Two cities in the Upper Peninsula and two cities in the Lower Peninsula with four-year public universities have also been identified to apply."

Their goal was to do one grant in the upper and one grant in the lower.

What the application considered a “talent district”

Last year the City was awarded a $3,855,000 grant from MEDC to improve Houghton’s ability to attract and maintain talent and to help grow small business.

Three projects were funded:

- 509 Shelden Avenue Pocket Park ($300K)
- Technical assistance for MDOT TAP grant for waterfront trail extension ($55K)
- 326 Shelden Avenue acquisition and renovation into the Houghton Business and Creative Incubator ($3.5M)



MEDC awarded a grant for 3 of 4 projects

Why those projects?

Looking at the Master Plan, those other projects we wished we could do, and then there was the thought about what could be an attractive project that could solve some current issues, create more opportunities, and be transformative – all in the spirit of what the stated goals of the program were.

Match Name	Match Amount
L&Z Rentals Mixed-use 109 Shelden Redevelopment	$2,154,515.00
Gateway Mixed-use Commercial/Residential Development	$17,000,000.00
The Den Restaurant	$53,500.00
Cork & Beans LLC/Beviamo Vino	$245,000.00
Julien Properties 418 Shelden Renovations	$148,000.00
City of Houghton Bridgeview Park Improvements	$232,000.00
City Match to Waterfront Walkway Conn. & Enhance.	$200,000.00
Total Match	**$19,833,015.00**

WE WERE ABLE TO COUNT THE ONGOING INVESTMENT, MOST OF IT PRIVATE, IN OUR DOWNTOWN AS MATCHING FUNDS

509 SHELDEN POCKET PARK



THE BUILDING AT 509 SHELDEN BURNED IN 2017. THE LOT HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE THEN.

The City purchased the lot from the property owner.

Pocket Park

The park will create a third space on the east end of downtown.

It will include four-season accessible restrooms, seating areas, a small stage, and plantings.

Wall spaces will have room for art installations.

CONCEPT RENDERING FROM APPLICATION



THE PARK IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION NOW AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED THIS WINTER.

MDOT TAP GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MEDC granted funds to design a trail connector from the East Lakeshore Drive to the main entrance to the MTU campus – and funding an application to MDOT under their Transportation Alternatives Program for grant assistance for a project.



THE PLAN IS TO CONSTRUCT A MORE ACCESSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE WATERFRONT TRAIL AND CAMPUS.

AN APPLICATION TO MDOT IS UNDER REVIEW.

326 SHELDEN – HOUGHTON BUSINESS AND CREATIVE INCUBATOR

MEDC provided grant funds for the City to acquire the former Hellman Transportation Center and rehabilitate it into a facility where low- and no-tech businesses can enter the downtown market and help them eventually grow out of the space.

THE CITY PURCHASED THE BUILDING





The building is in a state of partial demolition after a rehabilitation and expansion project did not materialize.

WE PROPOSED THIS TO MEDC





Divide the building into small incubator spaces on both floors

Create a universally accessible route with an elevator for people to move back and forth from Lakeshore and Shelden in any weather

Reactivate year-round restroom facilities on both levels

INCUBATOR SPACE

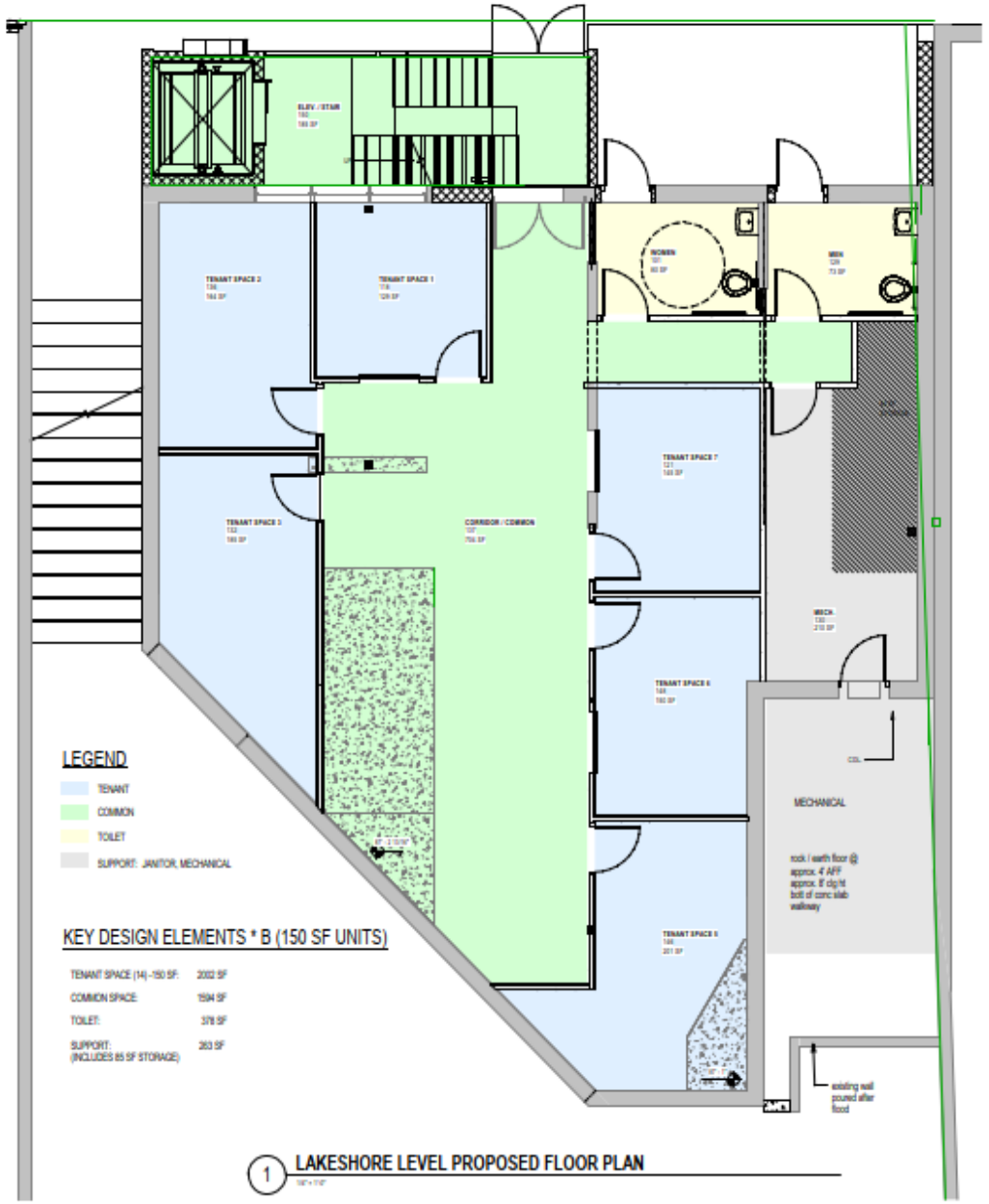
TWO FLOORS OF SPACE.

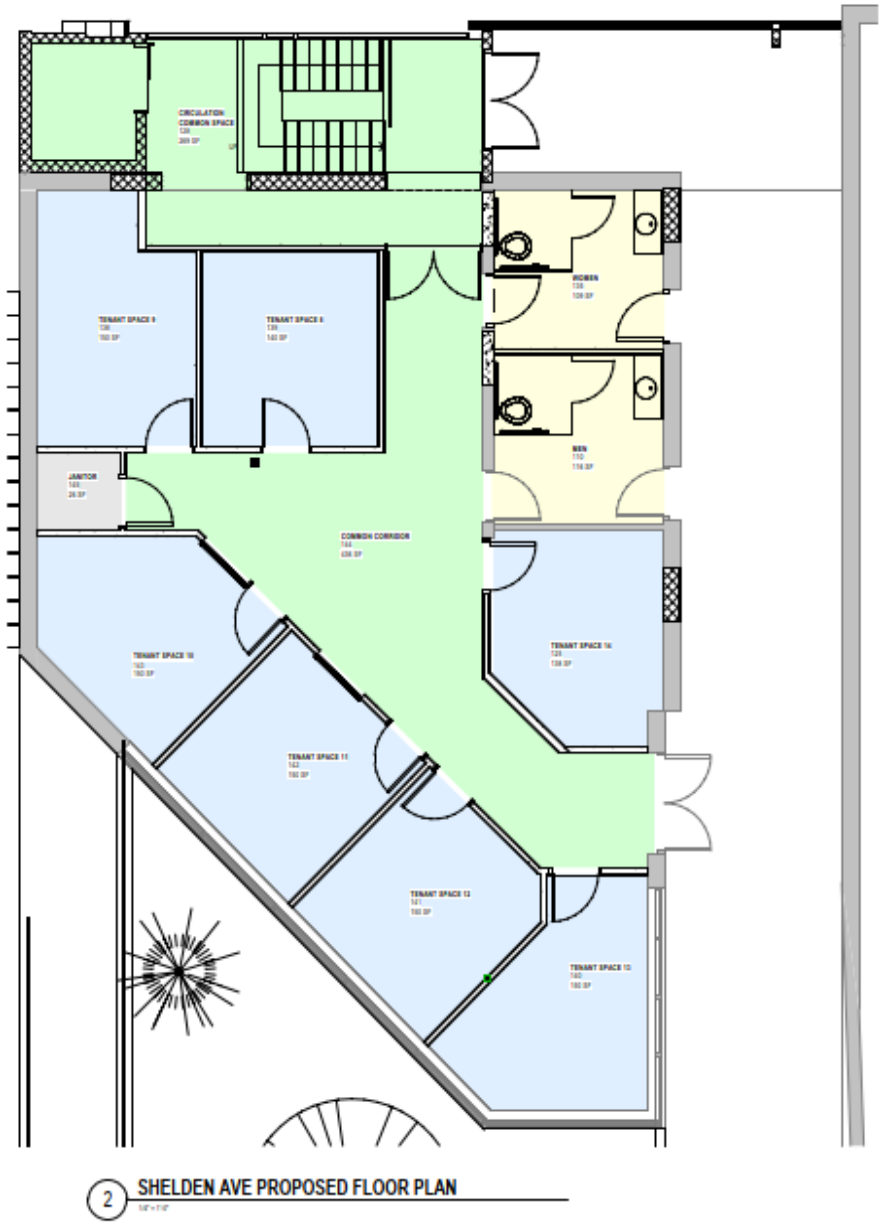
PUBLIC RESTROOMS ON BOTH FLOORS.

PUBLIC ELEVATOR AND STAIRS ON LAKESHORE FACE.

HALLWAY ACCESS ALONG EAST SIDE.

FRONT COURTYARD WITH NEW STORM SEWER/DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE.





CITY OF HOUGHTON

HOUGHTON BUSINESS & CREATIVE INCUBATOR

CONCEPT B - 150 SF

UPEA ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS

The Houghton Business + Creative Incubator

The space will be available and affordable for makers, creatives, artists, and others who want to start a small business or move their small business to our downtown market – without the expense or risk of going it alone.

A place where it is safe to fail.

- Small business services – to lease space the tenant must avail themselves of all the services out there to help them be successful like KEDA, SBDC, MEDC, SZ, SBAM, Banks, etc.
- The City is benchmarking similar organizations to produce programming that will give every tenant the bast chance for growth and success.
- The project is in design and will be ready to go out for bids later this winter.
- Completion is expected in early 2028 to welcome the first cohort of new downtown businesses.



QUESTIONS?