



Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT)

As buzz developed around the activities in the Center for Innovative Teaching in the fall of 2018, parents became more interested in the unique and innovative teaching approaches that were available to students and the possibility of a centrally-located community space.

Superintendent Dr. Chris McMichael received an email from a parent asking if he and other community members could get involved and help transform the old Russell Middle School campus into a Barrow Community Destination for all families to enjoy.

That outreach initiated a series of brainstorming and planning meetings that has evolved into the Campus Development Project, which is led by the **Barrow Community Foundation**, in partnership with ArtsNow Learning and the Barrow County School System.



Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan is designed around three core groups. On the following pages, please read through the exciting plans for each of these groups based on our vision to create a place where community and learning play together.

- ▶ **Our Community - Spaces & Programs**
- ▶ **Our Children**
- ▶ **Our Educators**

Where Arts come into play
Where Learning comes into play
Where Innovation comes into play
Where Community comes into play
Where **YOU** come into play



For Our Community: Spaces

The following is a proposed feature list for the exterior grounds at the Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT). This list has been composed by community members.



1 Destination Playground. Unique grand centerpiece that could be a symbol for the park. Elements that are all-inclusive (age, disabilities). Educational elements for music, arts, sciences, tech.



2 Water Play Area. Destination in size and scope. Fountains of all sizes for all ages with customization and lighting. Embedded into pavement/brick patio to provide multi-use: turn off fountains and use patio for open air market. Access to field house for changing rooms, covered areas for adults.



3 Walking Path. Paved to handle strollers. Surrounds the entire park grounds connecting all campus elements. Marked with trees, benches & shade. Idea to have stops along the path with historical signs. The path begins and ends near the new field house or "Innovation Station".



4 Open Field Area. Multi-use green space for playing soccer, throwing frisbee, movies on the green. A stage at one end of the green near the entrance of CFIT could be used for concerts, community gatherings, etc. Lighting for night activities.



5 Half-Court Basketball and Volleyball Court. Fulfills a need in the county as well as groups that currently use the CFIT green space for volleyball. Colorful court that stands out and matches the creativity, arts and innovative feel of CFIT.



6 Field House. Rebuilt to house bathrooms, changing rooms, water fountains for splash pad, with covered awnings possibly. Food prep area with locking windows to open/close for events. Idea to design around a train theme and call Innovation Station.



7 Outdoor Reading Nooks. Several outdoor spaces under trees near library and along walking path for reading, relaxing and watching the park. A way to connect the library with the rest of the complex.



8 Bioswale. Handle water runoff while providing another learning and play opportunity for children. Terminates near tree house (#12) with a natural retention pond or rock area that could be used for play.



9 Woodland Amphitheater/Outdoor Classroom. Woodland amphitheater built into the hillside near the corner of the current turf field and an environmental classroom built under the trees near the library. Include outdoor classroom for students and community groups to use.



For Our Community: More Spaces

10



Open Air Market. Patio in and around field house and water feature can be used as an area for an open air market.

11



Sculpture and Art Garden. Brings the Arts and Innovation feel to the grounds, provides a space to showcase student and community works, and place to rest and play.

12



Tree House. A wood patio or actual tree house around the central large tree at the far end of the CFIT green could provide a resting, learning, and play area.

13



Picnic Pavilions. Provide multiple covered picnic areas for shade near playground, water feature, and sports areas. CFIT is an open area with few trees to provide shade for adults and children during the summer months.

14



Dog Park. A small dog park could fit another unmet need in the community. Water fountain for dogs.

15



Historical Signs. Introduce visitors to the history of Barrow County and the Old Russell grounds as they walk the path around CFIT. The Barrow Historical Society could create the signs. The signs could be “train stops” along a path of progress for Barrow County.

16



Provide plenty of sustainable, permeable parking. In addition to ample parking near the playground and park for all, specialized parking spaces near the venue will be provided with “Food Truck” friendly amenities for special events.

17



Free WiFi. We all liked to be connected. Free WiFi plus small tables can make the perfect spot to telework outside or collaborate on a project with a classmate.

18



Bike racks and sidewalks. Cruise between downtown Winder and the CFIT campus on your bike. Sidewalks easily connect CFIT to downtown stores and restaurants. Bike racks will be available to park your bike while you play and explore.



For Our Community: Programs

How spaces at the Center for Innovative Teaching are used for our community is just as important as the spaces themselves. Below is a list of proposed programming that will be developed at CFIT.



Art Classes for Adults. Utilize classroom spaces after school hours and during the summer for local artists to provide various art classes for the community. Also provides gallery and studio space for local artists to work.



Health and Wellness Classes. In partnership with the local healthcare providers, health and wellness classes can help the community improve their health in a non-medical and relaxed setting.



Classes for Families. Support families by providing classes to children and their parents on important topics that they learn about together, from reading to new math concepts.



Parenting Classes. Since children don't come with a user manual, parenting classes can be offered to support parents as they deal with various stages of their children's lives.



Reading Rooms & Work Spaces. With an increase in people working remotely, CFIT can provide additional spaces for reading, studying, and quiet work spaces. No coffee purchase required.



Spaces to Reserve. To coordinate events, conferences and spaces, a property manager will manage and plan all campus events, inside and out. Community groups, family reunions, and worship groups can also have a space to reserve for gatherings.



For Our Children

The Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT) is a teaching and learning destination unique to Barrow County that provides innovative learning experiences to children through multiple programs and partnerships including:

- Arts & Innovation Magnet Program (grades 6-7)
- After School Art & STEAM Camps
- Makerspace and Robotics Lab
- Barrow 4H

The below are additional programs and spaces that will be developed to support children of all ages and students from our entire community.

1



Creative Learning Experiences. CFIT programs will inspire children in the indoor and outdoor classroom, studio, and lab spaces with opportunities that integrate visual arts, music, dance, theater, STEAM and media arts.

2



Innovative Learning Experiences. Utilizing reimagined classroom, studio, and lab spaces, CFIT programs will provide children with opportunities that feature advanced digital tools and technologies.

3



Authentic Learning Experiences. Through existing and expanding partnerships, programs at CFIT will connect students with project based learning that will engage them in real world problem solving.

4



Nontraditional Learning Formats. CFIT programs will provide children with access to creative, innovative, and authentic learning experiences through after school and summer programs that leverage online, virtual, and distance learning.

5



Performance Areas & Exhibit Halls. Renovations will transform CFIT from a traditional school building into a more flexible location for all children to present, perform, respond to, and connect with their learning through showcases, galleries, conventions, and competitions.

6



Reading Rooms & Study Spaces. With an increase in digital learning, CFIT can provide additional spaces for reading, studying, and quiet work spaces for students to connect in-person with teachers.

Learn more about what's currently happening on the CFIT campus. Visit our website at



www.barrow.k12.ga.us/schools/cfit



For Our Educators

The Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT) is a teaching and learning destination unique to Barrow County that provides professional learning opportunities to educators through multiple programs and partnerships including:

- ArtsNow Professional Learning Residency
- University of Georgia Grow It Know It (GIKI) Program
- South Korea Daegu University Innovation Partnership

The below are additional programs and places that will be developed to support educators.



Expanded Instructional Environment. Educators throughout the school system will gain access to the unique and flexible indoor and outdoor classrooms, studios, and lab spaces of the CFIT campus that will expand their instructional environment beyond the barriers of the traditional classroom providing BOLD opportunities for creative, innovative, and authentic teaching and learning.



Job-embedded Professional Learning. CFIT's professional learning programs for educators will leverage its distinctive combination of spaces, equipment, human resources to provide teachers with unparalleled opportunities for professional growth through residencies, workshops, and personalized coaching.



Professional Conferencing & Networking. Renovations to the CFIT Campus will transform it from a traditional school building into a more flexible location where educators can connect with and learn from one another in expanded regional conferences and summit-type events.



Educational Research Facility. By expanding the existing partnerships and programs with various industries, institutes of higher education, and nonprofit organizations, the CFIT Campus will enhance the school system's current capabilities as a K12 research district, providing more opportunities for teachers to engage in action research developing new creative, innovative, and authentic teaching practices.

We need our community's support and your involvement to bring this amazing vision to life. Let's connect.



BarrowCommunityFoundation.org



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