

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD  
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

---

---

Property Address:	<b>1929 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE</b>	<b>X</b>	Agenda
Landmark/District:	<b>Anacostia Historic District</b>		Consent Calendar
Meeting Date:	<b>January 27, 2022</b>	<b>X</b>	New Construction
H.P.A. Number:	<b>21-422</b>		Concept Review
			Alteration
			Subdivision

---

---

The District of Columbia Department of General Services (DGS), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), with the design team led by DLR Group, returns for conceptual design review for a proposed community recreation center building and activity fields at 1929 15th Street, SE, adjacent to Ketcham Elementary School in the Anacostia Historic District.

**Property Description**

The project site is a vacant lot fronting 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE, adjacent to the Ketcham Elementary School parking lot. Ketcham was originally designed as a model for city schools by municipal architect Snowden Ashford in 1908. The surrounding neighborhood exhibits the unique, mixed character of the historic district, with modest frame and brick dwellings—freestanding, semi-detached, or part of a row—with pitched, gabled, and flat roofs, and many with front porches.

**Proposal**

The project has been designed with one-story building elements organized along 15th Street with the taller gym behind to create a scale progression from small to large. The façade features extensive glazing along the east, single story portion of the building to connect to 15th Street and is also employed on the north façade. Cladding is proposed to be brick that is similar in color to the Ketcham School and the brick clad residential structures to the east, south and west of the site. The design proposes two major gathering spaces between the building and the promenade. The first occurs at the main entrance and is defined by a prominent entrance canopy. The second is a plaza/seating area north of the gym that is shaded by an overhead trellis structure.

**Evaluation**

The project team has improved the design to lower the entry porch roof and scale at the building’s entrance adjacent to the pedestrian promenade and eliminated the horizontal support bar above the gate.

**Recommendation**

*HPO recommends that the Board approve the project as consistent with the purposes of the preservation law and approve the concept and delegate permit review to staff.*

*Staff Contact: Imania Price*