

Kathleen McCartney Hall

Where career development and leadership
come together





Kathleen McCartney Hall will be home to career and leadership programming that places Smith at the forefront of liberal arts colleges.

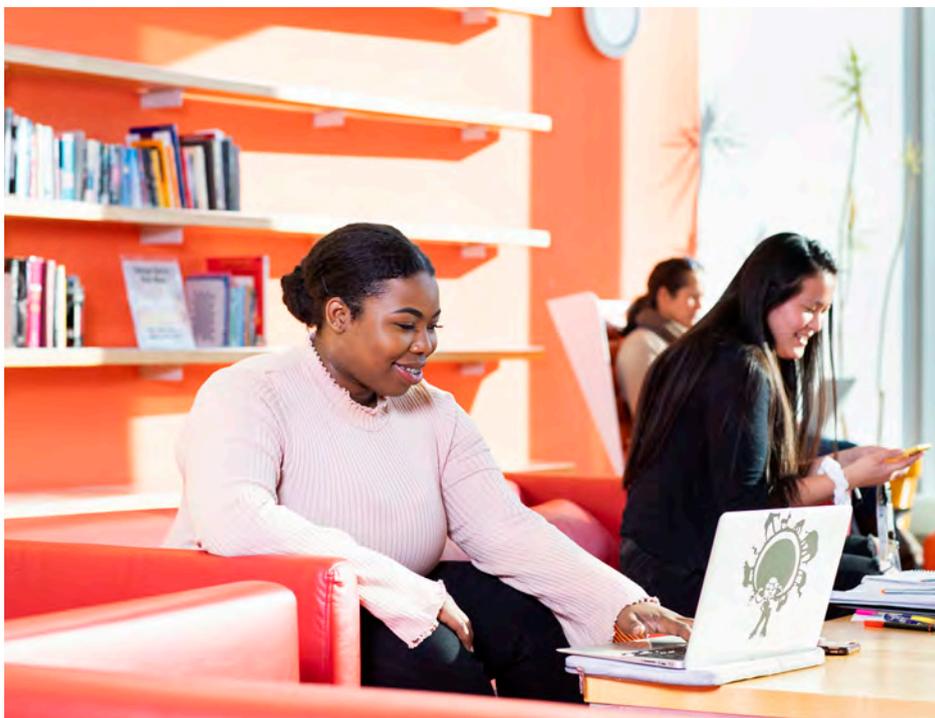
Innovative and Transformative

A new Smith College building will bring the Lazarus Center for Career Development and the Wurtele Center for Leadership together under one roof, advancing career development, women's leadership, and equitable outcomes for all students at Smith.

Kathleen McCartney Hall is purpose-built to realize the vision, originally articulated by former president McCartney and more essential every day, to reimagine career preparation at Smith so that all students have access to leadership and career education that integrates liberal arts learning with applied experiences.

“At Smith, we are unequivocally embracing innovation — leaning into scaled strategy, technology, and training for the future. If we don’t innovate, we fall short of our fundamental promise to ensure equitable opportunity to all of our students. If we don’t innovate, our students won’t benefit from exercises to imagine, or invent, the myriad new career pathways that will exist in the future.”

—Sarah Willie-LeBreton, Smith College President



Kathleen McCartney Hall will feature flexible multiuse spaces designed for individual and group learning, networking, peer connection, and collaboration.

“All the advisers at the Lazarus Center are so kind and genuinely invested in Smith students and have helped me so much. Being involved with the career center has helped me improve my follow-up skills, my writing and enabled me to make solid connections via networking.”

—Nellie Ayala '23

Purpose-Built for Student Goals

More than 70% of incoming first-year students at Smith report that their career aspirations are a central and compelling reason for attending college.

At 15,000 square feet and three levels, Kathleen McCartney Hall will stand at the center of campus, across College Lane from the Office of Admission, becoming an integral part of student daily life and welcoming visitors, recruiters, and prospective Smith students. Large windows will expose the exciting work happening in the building, an ongoing invitation to enter.

From their first days on campus, students will be drawn to the building to explore careers, starting with early engagement activities such as strengths assessments and network training, and moving on to industry-specific career communities (composed of student peers and industry-knowledgeable coaches), individualized coaching, targeted internships, and networking with alums and employers.

Students had a hand in the building design, prioritizing accessibility, inclusion, comfort, and spaces for peer connection.



A new network of paths wends through the site, providing universal access through the steeply sloped topography, better connecting beloved Paradise Pond to the heart of campus.

Project Goals

- Invite and attract students to explore the centers.
- Support programs focused on student outcomes.
- Advance and make evident campus sustainability.
- Realize the potential of this exceptional site.
- Enhance campus accessibility and improve the landscape ecosystem.

Project Impacts

- Generate belonging and engagement.
- Ensure equitable career outcomes for all Smith students.
- Redefine the conversation around gender and race in the workplace and leadership.
- Increase competitiveness of Smithies in the job market.
- Attract students seeking best-in-class liberal arts career and leadership development.
- Strengthen the Smith community through intergenerational networking and connections.

By the Numbers

1,012

Student interactions with the Wurtele Center

31%

Increase in number of students who engaged with the Wurtele Center since 2020

84%

Of Smith students complete one or more internships before graduation

107,816

Jobs and internships posted to Handshake, Smith's student job posting platform

700+

Smith alum employer partners

81%

Of alums report, two years after graduation, that their current job is part of their intended career path



The Lazarus Center for Career Development

The Lazarus Center prepares students for life and work, supporting them in recognizing and developing their strengths. The center champions work-integrated learning through partnerships with faculty, staff, alums, and employers. Focus is on early engagement of students, with support throughout their career preparation journeys through individualized programming. A central goal: promoting equitable career outcomes by broadening the resources accessible to first-generation and low-income students who may lack established networks. Smith's alum community plays a vital role in building these networks.

Recent center activities include: equity-focused programming including workshops for first-gen students and panel discussions on diversity in the workplace, implementation of six career communities, development of a student peer advising team that logged more than 700 one-on-one meetings during the academic year, and implementation of Smith Career Connect (a networking tool for Smith students and alums).

The Lazarus Center is named after former Smith College Trustee Rochelle "Shelly" Braff Lazarus '68.

The Wurtele Center for Leadership

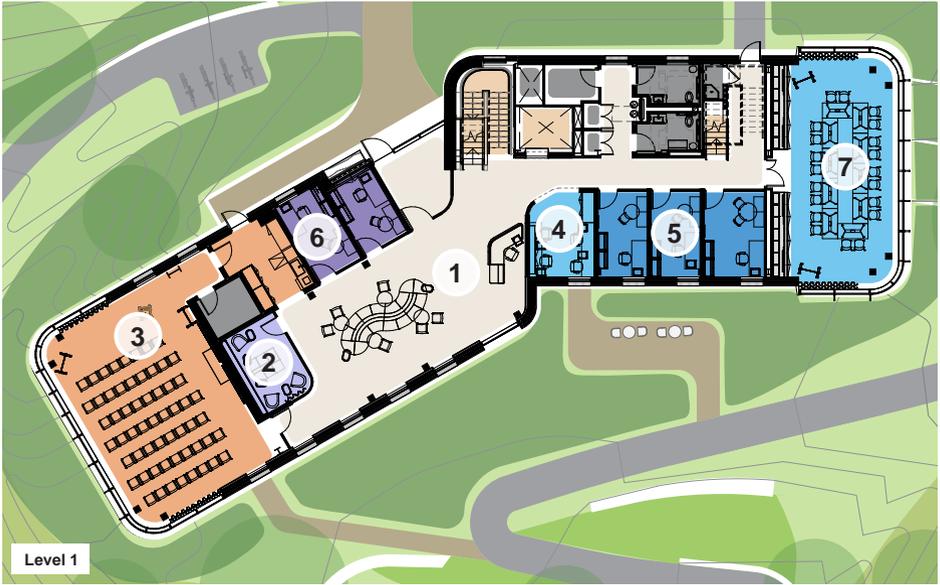
The Wurtele Center advocates for a collaborative approach to leadership. It strives to empower all members of the Smith community with an understanding that they can lead from any vantage point, whether they hold positional power or not. With a goal to dismantle power structures that produce inequities in leadership, the center designs programs, partnerships, and experiences that encourage participants to apply their knowledge and lead change.

Center activities include: the new collaborative innovation concentration; the popular Design Your Path course; the Leaders for Equity-Centered and Action-Based Scholars program; and recent workshops on navigating conflict, public speaking, and art activism (led by the Guerrilla Girls).

The Wurtele Center is named after former Smith College Trustee Margaret Wurtele '67, who saw the value of a new, inclusive space for career development and leadership and provided a lead gift that ignited the Kathleen McCartney Hall project.

Interior Layout

The two intersecting wings allow the Lazarus and Wurtele centers, to preserve their distinct identities while fully embracing their shared mission.



1. Entrance Lobby and Peer Advising Space
2. Peer Advising Room
3. Large Workshop Room
4. Warming Pantry
5. Office
6. Intern Space
7. Collaborative Meeting Room

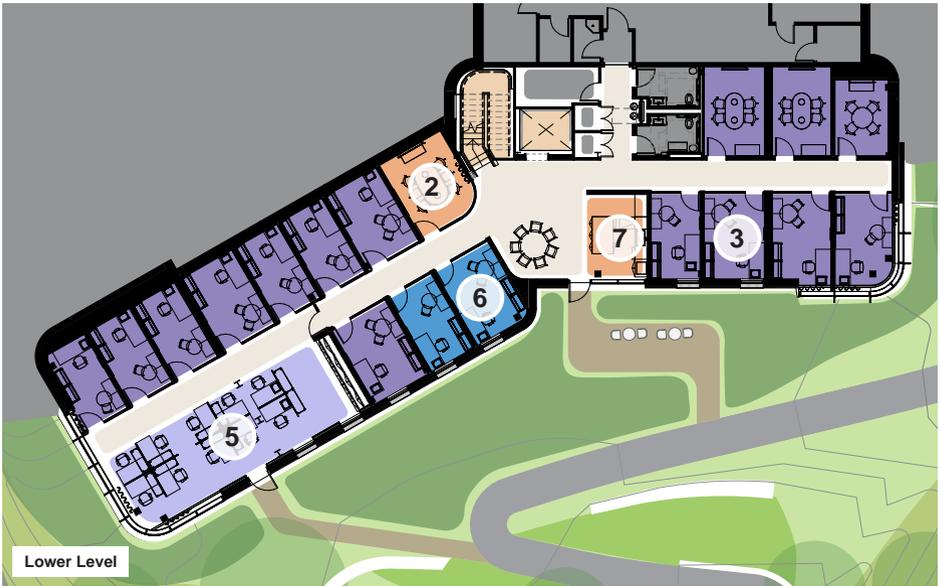
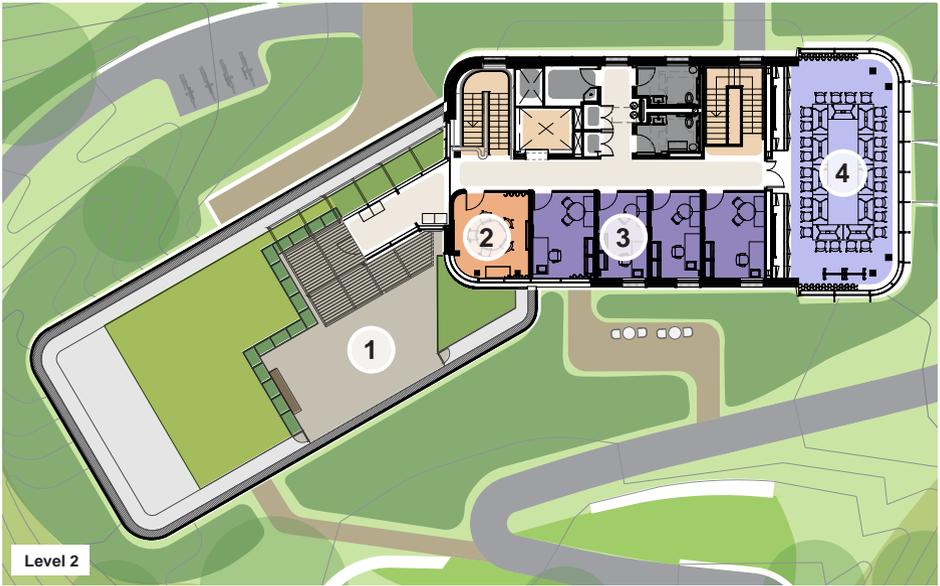


Large Workshop Room



Collaborative Meeting Room

Interior Layout



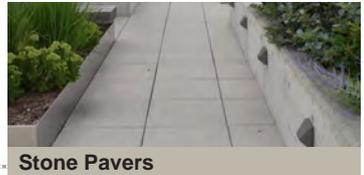
- 1. Roof Terrace
- 2. Small Meeting Room
- 3. Office
- 4. Collaborative Meeting Room

- 5. Open Work Area
- 6. Interview Room
- 7. Staff Pantry

Roof Terrace



Perennial Extensive Green Roof



Stone Pavers



Planters with Intensive Planting



Sedum Extensive Green Roof



The year-round roof terrace and large windows of the collaborative spaces provide spectacular views to Paradise Pond.



Inviting Students to Drop By

A building tucked into the steep slope of the site, it is designed to at once fit in and stand out. The textured brick facade nods to the masonry of its campus context. The underlying handicraft invites passersby to come close. The design carves away space for outdoor rooms, both within the landscape and on the low roof, creating new shared campus places with precious views to the pond. Inside, the natural world is brought into the visitor experience through the use of large windows with expansive views, extensive natural light, and other features.



1. Warm and textured brick
2. Mass timber, a sustainable wood composite material
3. Glass and metal
4. Landscape stone



The entrance of the building from Chapin Way.



A place to sit and wait for a friend beneath a warmly lit brick screen.

A Sustainable Building Tucked into a Regenerative Landscape

Kathleen McCartney Hall will connect to Smith's geothermal system and will be one of the most energy-efficient buildings on campus. Other sustainability features include the use of low carbon building materials and a living roof.

Universal access is a keystone of the building and landscape design.

Site design follows the principles of Smith's Landscape Master Plan by creating inclusive, multiuse outdoor environments that are universally accessible, democratic in spirit, welcoming to visitors, and conducive to sociability and community. Outdoor rooms are nestled into the crisscrossing of pathways. Universally accessible pathways make it easy to get from Chapin Way to College Lane and Paradise Pond.

Extending Smith's campus as classroom model, the site provides learning opportunities for students to engage with the project's comprehensive hydrology system, which will improve water quality of the surrounding Mill River by maximizing stormwater retention and decreasing runoff.



Outdoor rooms with views of Paradise Pond, including this amphitheater-like space with curved walls for seating, are perfect for classes or informal meetings.



Low Mow Turf



Botanic Garden



Meadow



Bioswale

About TenBerke

Architect of Kathleen McCartney Hall

TenBerke is a women-led architecture studio united by values. The practice is bound by the promise that architecture must build toward dignity and decency, that the truest measure of good design is the good that it does the world. And that it must be good in these ways: imaginatively, sustainably, delightfully.

[TenBerke.com](https://tenberke.com)

TenBerke

For more information

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SMITH COLLEGE

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Artwork courtesy of TenBerke

Giving Opportunities: Kathleen McCartney Hall

Kathleen McCartney Hall will place Smith as a leader in career and leadership development among liberal arts colleges and will advance Smith's commitment to equity.

Former Smith College Trustee Margaret Wurtele '67, who funded the leadership center that bears her name, saw the value of a new, inclusive space for career development and leadership and provided a generous lead gift.

Smith is seeking an additional \$5 million in funds to ensure that this exciting new building will spark collaboration, equalize career outcomes, and strengthen the Smith community for years to come.

Philanthropic naming opportunities include:

LARGE WORKSHOP ROOM: \$1,000,000 With large windows overlooking Paradise Pond and the Office of Admission, this fully technology enabled, flexible space accommodates up to 64 people in lecture, panel, or small-group breakout formats. Level 1

COLLABORATIVE MEETING ROOMS: \$750,000 each (2) Designed for classes and meetings, the fully technology enabled room accommodates up to approximately 20 people. Large windows offer expansive views. Level 1 to be used by the Wurtele Center, Level 2 by the Lazarus Center.

ENTRANCE LOBBY AND PEER ADVISING SPACE: \$500,000 Dramatic views of Paradise Pond and exposed mass timber anchor the building in nature and highlight sustainable building practices. Comfortable seating facilitates peer interactions. The space can supplement events held in the adjacent Large Workshop Room. Level 1

ROOF TERRACE: \$500,000 Year-round gathering space for the Smith community, the paved terrace offers views of Paradise Pond. An outdoor trellis spreads shade in summer and an enclosed vestibule is heated during cold weather. A living green roof abuts the terrace.

OUTDOOR ROOMS AND PLANTINGS: \$500,000 An inviting landscape traversed by a curving, accessible path, with views of Paradise Pond. The path creates outdoor rooms, including an amphitheater-like space with stone walls for seating, perfect for classes or informal meetings.

PEER ADVISING ROOM: \$250,000 Designed for small groups, this room also serves as networking space for events held in the adjacent Large Workshop Room. Level 1

SMALL MEETING ROOMS: \$250,000 each (2) A flexible space that supports small, in-person and hybrid meetings. Level 2 offers dramatic views of Paradise Pond and the adjacent Roof Terrace; Lower Level admits natural light through glass walls.

Giving Opportunities: Career Development Programming

Smith's reimagined career development programming will strengthen the college by equalizing the student experience and increasing career success for every alum. Endowed gifts are one of the most powerful ways to show your support for the Smithies of today, particularly those gifted students from less-advantaged backgrounds, and will sustain this commitment for generations to come.

Priority philanthropic areas include:

FOUNDATIONAL ENDOWED FUND FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT: starting at \$250,000 Robust and dependable funding is required to expand programming so that every Smith student engages with career development starting from day one and continuing through their career launch. An anonymous alum has already given \$10 million toward this fund, but Smith continues to seek \$10 million to meet our \$20 million goal.

NAMED ENDOWED PROGRAM FUND: starting at \$250,000 This fund provides the greatest flexibility to the program and will allow it to use funds where they are most needed.

NAMED ENDOWED CAREER COMMUNITIES FUND: starting at \$250,000 Endowed funds are needed to expand the career communities that power the new programming.

NAMED ENDOWED TECHNOLOGY FUND: starting at \$250,000 Endowed funds will support leading edge technology to explore strengths, provide access to content experts, and connect employers, alums, faculty, and students.

NAMED ENDOWED INTERNSHIP FUND: starting at \$150,000 Internship funding offers students the opportunity to receive a stipend for unpaid internships and supports experiential learning.



Contact

For more information and to make a gift, please contact Betsy Carpenter '93, associate vice president for development, at ewcarpen@smith.edu or by phone at 413-585-2052.