

Project Belay

Puget Sound Regional Council—September 25, 2026

920





Agenda

- Overview:
 - Problem and Idea
 - Inspiration
 - 2024 Charrette
- Current Status
 - Mission and Partners
- Status & Next Steps





Problem

- Need to have more reliable and consistent locations for mountain training and education and a shared community center.
- Popularity of climbing and scrambling means traditional outdoor climbing areas such as Little Si, Exit 38, and other locations are increasingly crowded.
- US Forest Service is limiting the number of permits for larger groups to reduce impact to natural areas.
- North Bend needs a community center to support a growing multi-cultural population and strengthen its outdoor adventure brand.

Idea

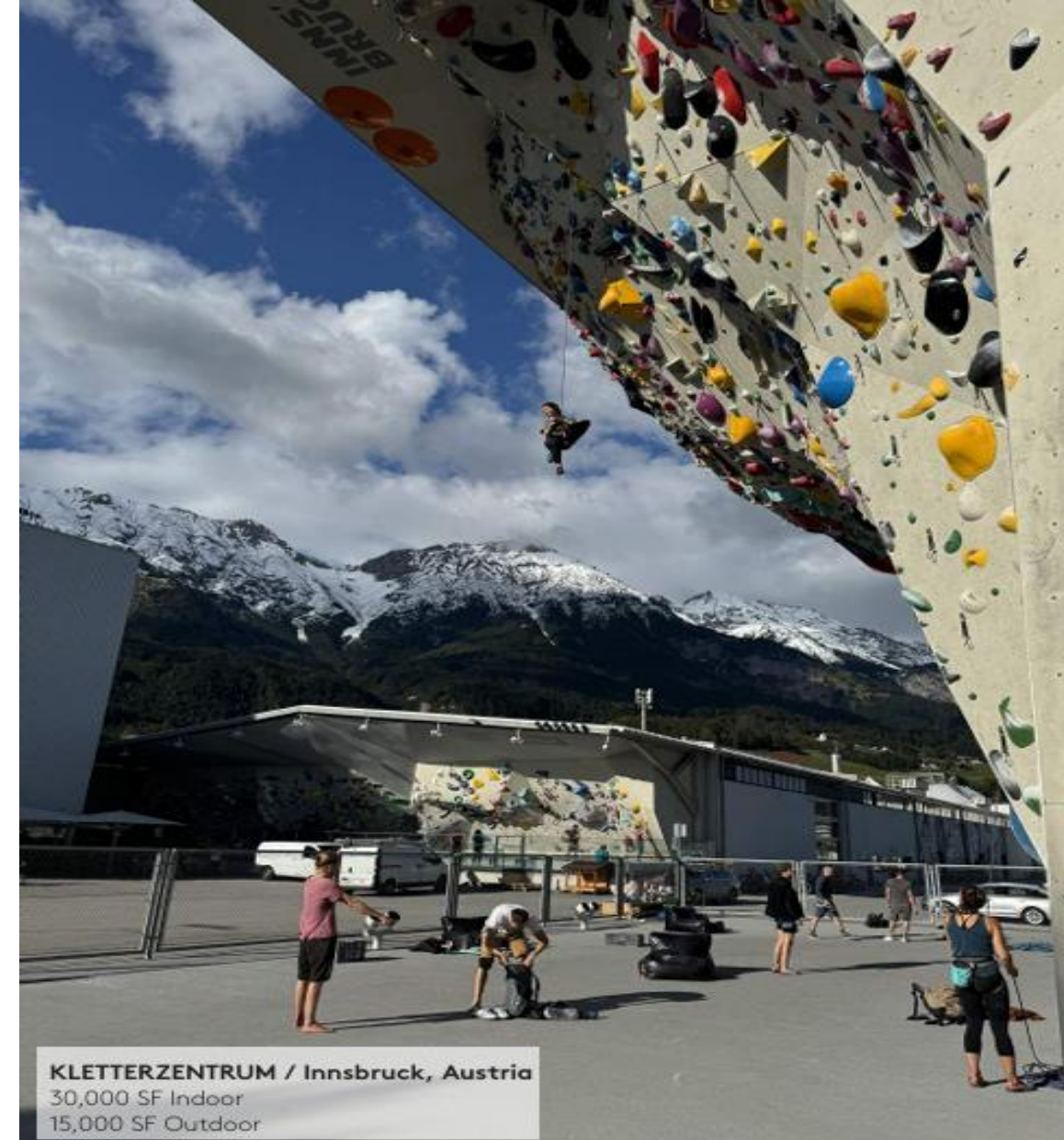
- Develop an indoor climbing and training facility and community center to support mission of Seattle Mountain Rescue, The Mountaineers, and the City of North Bend.





Inspiration

- Innsbruck's Kletterzentrum serves as the inspiration for Project Belay: [Das Ki - Kletterzentrum Innsbruck](#)
 - Climbing gym
 - Headquarter for Innsbruck Mountain Rescue
- Develop a public-private partnership
 - For-profit climbing gym partner
 - Public partner: City of North Bend
 - Non-profit partners: The Mountaineers and Seattle Mountain Rescue

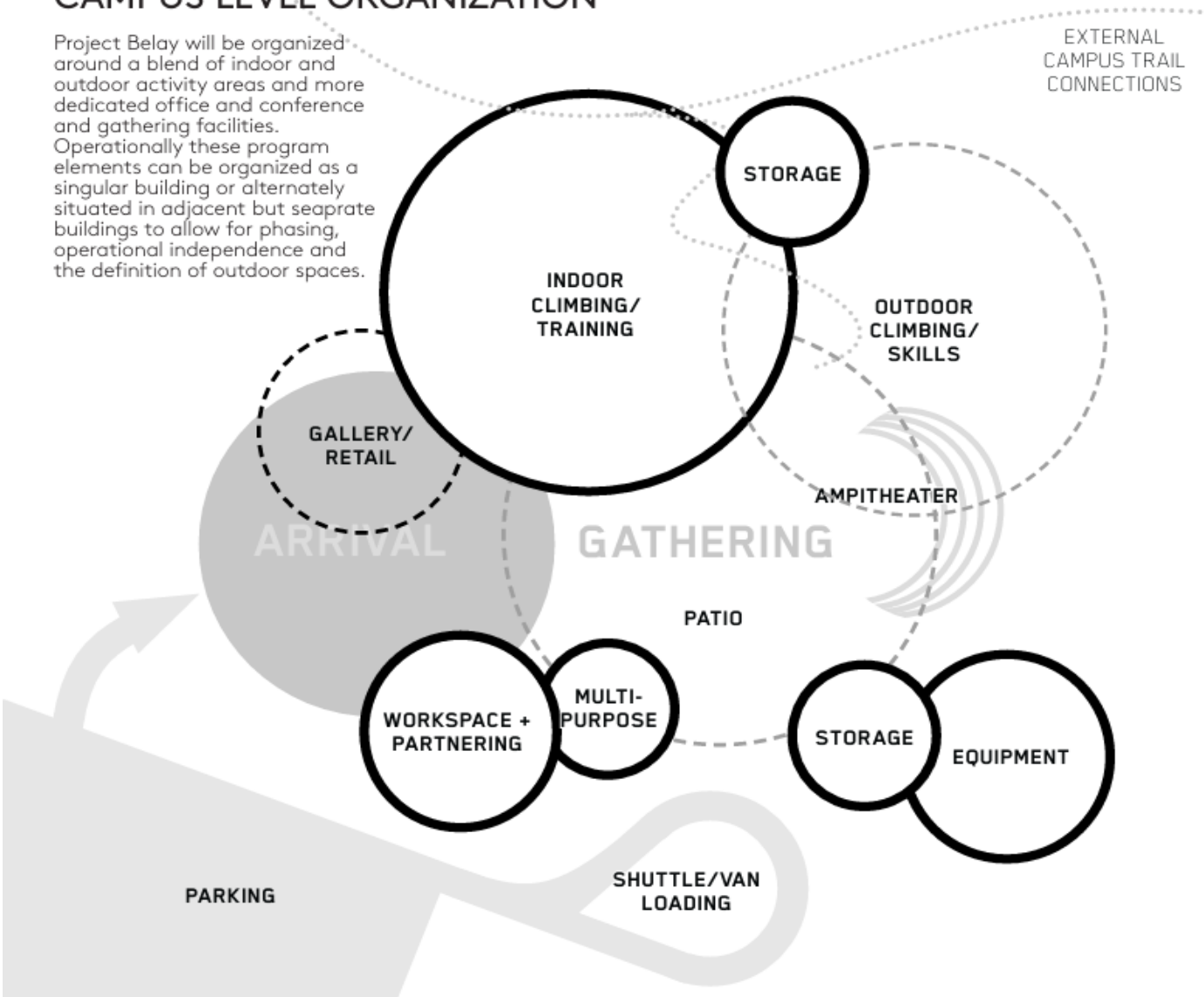




- Included the main partners—Seattle Mountain Rescue, The Mountaineers and City of North Bend.
- Mithun Architects facilitated the discussion.
- Included businesses and non-profits who could support the vision.
 - Outdoor businesses and associations
 - Creative art non-profits
- Goal: A “blue-sky” vision of the main components to support Project Belay.

CAMPUS LEVEL ORGANIZATION

Project Belay will be organized around a blend of indoor and outdoor activity areas and more dedicated office and conference and gathering facilities. Operationally these program elements can be organized as a singular building or alternately situated in adjacent but separate buildings to allow for phasing, operational independence and the definition of outdoor spaces.





Project Belay

- **Mission**: To develop a world class outdoor adventure and community center to provide a growing mountain community with a gathering and launch point for adventure in the central cascades.
- **Public-Private Partners**: The Mountaineers, Seattle Mountain Rescue, Vertical World, Mithun, and City of North Bend.
- **Key Elements**: Climbing gym, community center (outdoor training and creative arts), complementary retail businesses.

Shared Spaces & Community Benefits



Retail & Complementary Adjacencies





Status & Next Steps

- Block Party 2026 survey (220 respondents): 97% supported the project.
- Completed rescoping charrette to include potential complementary retailers.
- Project Belay was included in the Parks and Capital Facilities Element for future city funding.
- North Bend Basecamp, 501c(3), incorporated for fundraising and master plan development.
- Update site plan to include retail component and potential workforce housing.
- Identify and request state funding for project in 2027/28 with support from the city's lobbyist.
- Undertake feasibility study of potential sites.



Questions?

