

EQUITY AT THE CENTER

Missoula's Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity (aka Missoula Community Center)

Equity strives for fair and just opportunities. We recognize that systemic inequities have created very different life experiences, including the social benefits of quality recreational and creative experiences. Our community center should serve as the bedrock for a system based on equity, with open doors for all, and affordable community-centric programs.



Inequality is objective measurable differences in the experience and outcomes of different population groups according to socioeconomic status, geographical area, age, disability, gender or ethnic group.

Inequity is differences in opportunity for different population groups which result in unequal life chances and inadequate access. These differences, some of which are measurable, are perceived as being unfair and unjust.

Themes for building an equitable community experience:

As we build up equity-centered outcomes, we also work to dismantle the barriers to equity. Putting equity at the center of our work means we are committed to constantly learning, creating supportive and co-beneficial partnerships, and sharing our failures and successes. Some themes begin to develop as we explore what our community center can bring to the equity challenge:

- Functions as a coordinating hub that supports neighborhoods and are responsive to local needs. The community center at McCormick Park would meet a community wide

need for events, information, learning, active participation, health, climate resiliency, and wellness that can support neighborhood programs.

- Creates an affordable year-around opportunity space that supports all-aged, all-abilities, and inter-generational programming with more open hours.
- Engages local community members and organizations in providing their time and expertise in achieving program objectives.
- Connects programming to social justice programs and create pathways into jobs and leadership.
- Provides community members with an opportunity to recommend programming and funding priorities including multicultural, multi-lingual, and multigenerational programming. Programming to connect differing age groups, cultures, social backgrounds, and family structures.
- Establishes a cultural and community gathering place that is accessible to everyone.