Curtis School

THINK FORWARD

Build a Home for
Connection and Creativity

At Curtis School, we share an overriding purpose to build our children's foundation and set them up to be the empathetic collaborators our world needs.

To amplify our legacy of thinking forward about elementary education, we've embarked on a multi-phased initiative that begins with the Collaborative Learning and Innovation Center: a hub for collaborative excellence—co-designed by Curtis teachers—where teaching and learning will intertwine between the scientific, artistic, and physical.

With your support of our *Think Forward* campaign, Curtis students will develop unmatched dexterity of thought, and each mind, body, and heart will joyfully connect at every turn.

Collaboration is the New Currency.

But if it's not taught, it's not practiced.

One of the greatest benefits of collaboration is identifying and solving unknown problems. It's now well understood that elementary school learners have the capacity to learn collaboration, but schools aren't teaching it.

A survey by the Association of American Colleges and Universities found that more than 80 percent of midsize or larger employers look for collaboration skills in new hires–but fewer than 40 percent of them considered new graduates prepared to work in teams.

We at Curtis have been thinking forward about elementary education by reimagining how to engrain principles of collaboration throughout the Curtis experience.

We have an answer.
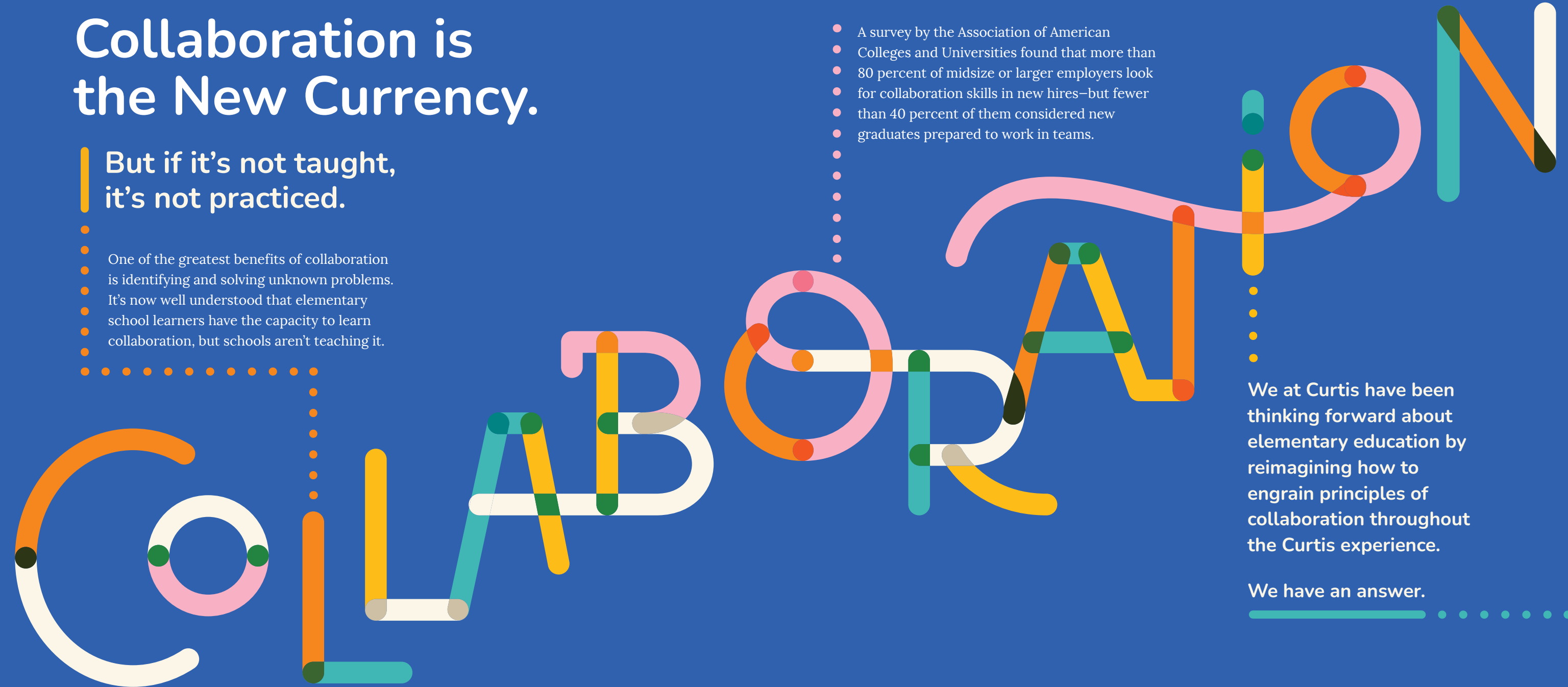
COLLABORATION

Introducing the

Collaborative Learning and Innovation Center

Whether between classrooms, subjects, grade levels, or the outside, **the Collaborative Learning and Innovation Center* will allow students to seamlessly follow their passions—wherever they lead.**

*Because everything at Curtis begins with the child, the Collaborative Learning and Innovation Center has been given a child-friendly nickname: **CLIC!**

Inside the CLIC

This new 21,000 ft² 3-story building houses all our arts, science, and technology classrooms under one roof. Here's just a slice of what the new learning environment looks like:

1 Maker Space, Engineering, Digital Lab

When elementary school students are provided learning facilities—the kind typically only available in secondary education—there's no limit to what they'll create. These age-appropriate spaces provide all the tools imaginable for collaborative, project-based learning.

2 Movement Studio

The Movement Studio is a flexible space for reflection and mindfulness, which are needed for true collaboration and creativity to freely flow.
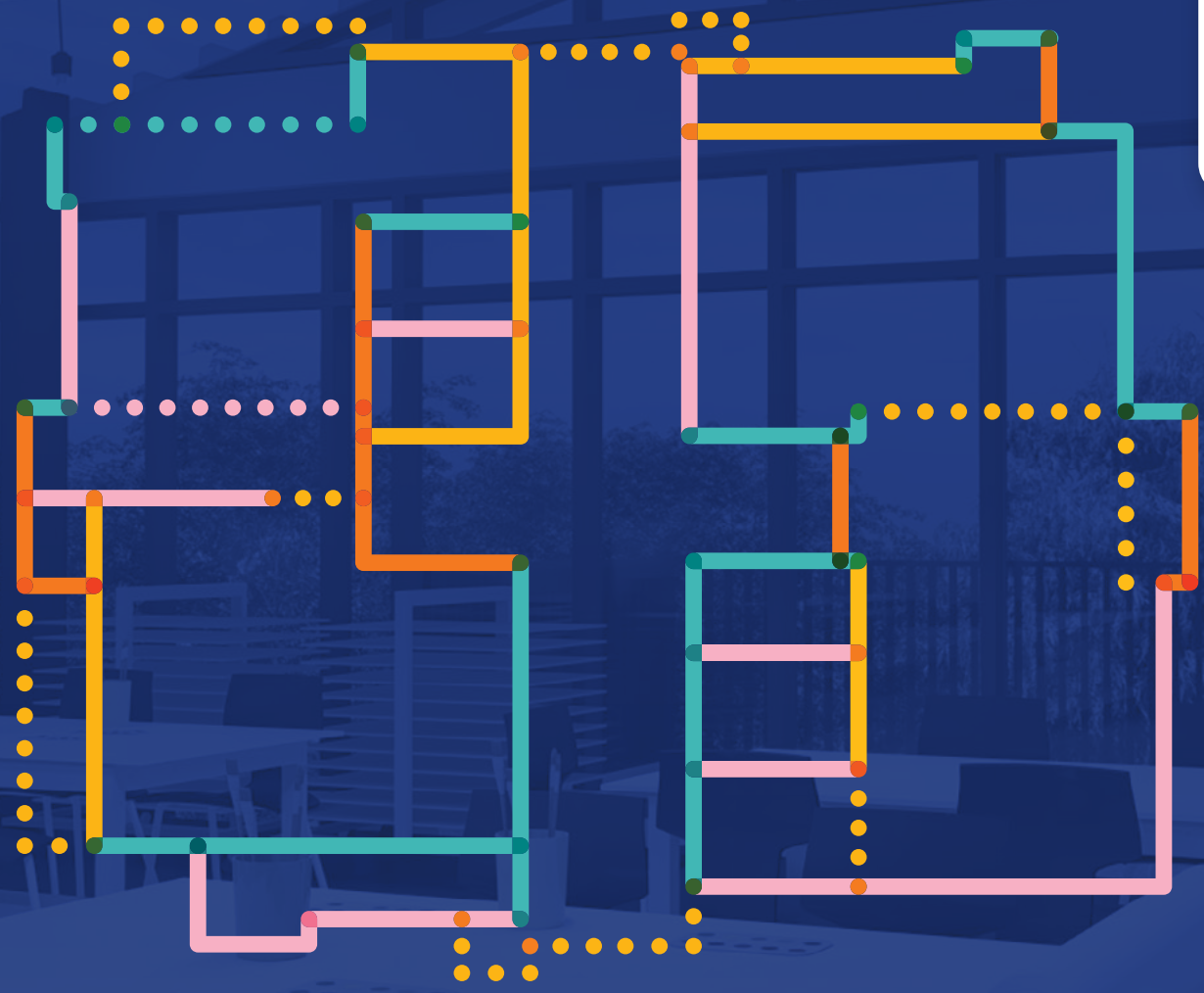
3 Maker & Collab Courts

When we take down the walls between classrooms and nature—in this case literally—students develop into curious and dexterous problem solvers. The Maker and Collab Courts provide extended outdoor learning space on both the north and south sides of the building.

4 Robotics Lab

With a dedicated space to expand our robotics program, students can dream bigger with forward thinking technology.

5 Ceramics Studio

Ceramics provides the opportunity for students to unplug from technology and use their minds, bodies, and hearts in a physical and tactile way.

Designed for Students, by Teachers

Our teachers were the first to be consulted when imagining what might be possible, and played a pivotal role as visionaries and architects for CLIC. No decision was too big or too small to consult our teachers, who know what's best for our students.
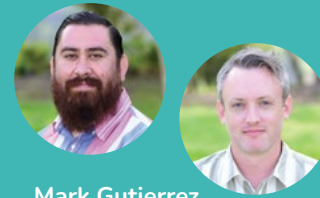
"

We're already inspired by this building, thinking about great projects that are in the future.

Autumn Brannon and Justin McInnes

The intertwining of art and science will simultaneously enrich how our students learn about anatomy and the principles of sculpting. Using clay and other materials, students will imagine and construct unique, human-like creatures. As they build their models, they'll learn to speak the language of anatomy, identify the various regions of the body, and demonstrate how muscles, bones, and organs interconnect. And because clay modeling is an additive process, their enhanced understanding of anatomy will empower them to improve their creature's "scientific" accuracy through the addition of fillers and textures. Young sculptors will emerge with a deep understanding of how bodies work through this doubly memorable learning experience!

Mark Gutierrez and Andrew Beckmeyer

"

Our students are going to have opportunities to seamlessly flow back and forth between rooms, integrating science, art, and technology. That opens up all sorts of new avenues in our curriculum.

One of the projects that we imagine students doing is building a semi-functioning model of an amusement park. The kids would create a massive blueprint with integrated pathways and rides and shops drawn on paper. They'd then use CAD design software to make it come to life, using technology to see it in scale and in 3D and from different views. With a much clearer idea of what they want to build, they will cut wood, use cardboard, and cut shapes to perfectly match up to the more advanced map they created in CAD. The kids can even go further, designing more advanced rides that could be 3D printed, so they could go down to the 3D printing area, print those out, bring them back, and put those moving 3D printed rides or attractions into their amusement park model.

Hear more about our dreams for the CLIC.

> ## Excitement is an understatement!
> ## The CLIC is the most anticipated building project in Curtis School's recent history, and we are thrilled about the opportunities it will provide for our students and community!

Minds, bodies, and hearts will be engaged at Curtis School like never before, in inspiring spaces infused with curiosity and the joy of learning. The Curtis community has so much to celebrate as we approach our 100th year—including expressing our sincere gratitude to all those who came before us to make this wonderful school possible. We have an opportunity to honor and pay forward their vision and investment for ourselves and future families by continuing to amplify and embody our mission. We hope you will partner with us in this endeavor to "think forward" about Curtis School—and elementary education.

Meera Ratnesar
Head of School

Curtis School

15871 Mulholland Drive · Los Angeles CA 90049
310-889-3740
thinkforward@curtisschool.org