

A Learning Centre for Abaco



Architectural rendering by Link Lab

As Abaco continues to recover from Hurricane Dorian, so does Friends of the Environment (FRIENDS). FRIENDS' Education Centre was destroyed in the hurricane, but we are now happy to announce that we are joining the rebuild effort to raise a new and improved Learning Centre! Purpose built, The Learning Centre will be a site for inspiration - playing an important role in environmental education and island sustainability. Community members and visitors will gather to enjoy the outdoors and ignite curiosities about Abaco's environment in an interactive Exploratorium, and the expanded classroom will again be alive with the excited chatter of students as they discover wonders of the Bahamian environment. Building pride in our environment and empowering community members to be change makers are essential to a sustainable future for Abaco.

Preserving Abaco's environment through education, conservation, and research facilitation is our mission.

Founded in 1988, FRIENDS' history in community conservation and awareness demonstrates our determination to continue our work in environmental education and conservation. Our successful track record includes over 23,000 environmental education experiences for local youths, restoration of 180 acres of mangrove wetland, removal of 10,000 invasive lion fish from our waters, and the implementation of the Size Matters Campaign which led to successful adoption of sustainable fishing practices in the spiny lobster fishery. FRIENDS staff have been instrumental in partnerships leading to the designation of five protected areas and logistically facilitating research with the opening of the Frank Kenyon Research Centre in 2015. We have adapted programming and partnerships in response to Hurricane Dorian and COVID- 19 and are committed to moving forward in support of our mission.



FRIENDS is both a registered Bahamian Charity and a US 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



Contact: Cha Boyce, Executive Director
cha@friendsoftheenvironment.org
242-801-0235

Join the Journey

The Details:

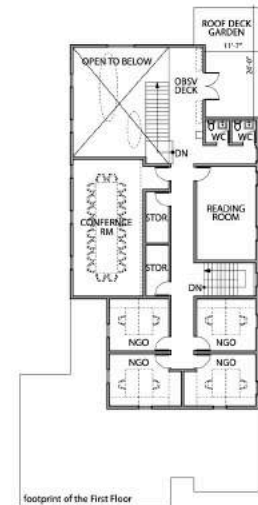
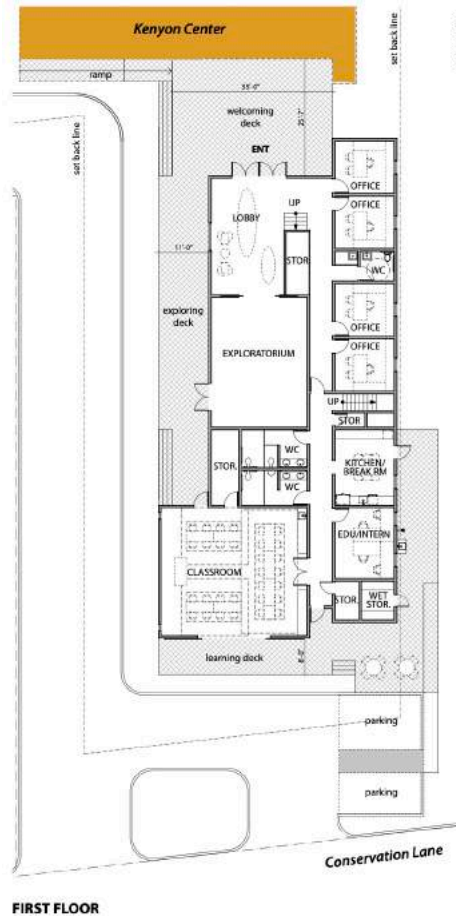
- Estimated cost to completion - \$1,700,000
- Funding already secured - \$800,000 (individual donors, foundations, grants)
- Proposed completion timeline - First quarter of 2022. Primarily funding dependent.
- Homebound project management, track record for success, services offered at zero margin.
- High building standard equipped for use as a command centre for relief organizations and enable site usage as a shelter if necessary.

Building for Resilience:

- Elevated foundation and site grading to account for flooding
- Integrated Concrete Form (ICF) construction for insulation and storm protection
- Water catchment and storage
- Solar integration
- Space available for storm relief/response

Planning for the Future:

- Multiple program areas
- Expanded office space for FRIENDS and partner NGOs
- Designated meeting room
- Exploratorium to share discoveries and inspire environmental ambassadorship



SECOND FLOOR

FLOOR AREA

First Floor	: 4,528 SF
Second Floor	: 2,288 SF
Total	: 6,816 SF

LINK lab

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Name the Building	\$500,000	FRIENDS Offices x 5	\$25,000
Classroom	\$250,000	NGO Offices x 4	\$25,000
Classroom outdoor area	\$50,000	Kitchen/Staff Room	\$100,000
Exploratorium	\$250,000	Bathrooms x 4	\$25,000
Exploratorium Den	\$50,000	Storage Rooms x 2	\$5,000
Founders Lobby and whale skeleton exhibit	\$250,000	Conference Room	\$125,000
Exploring Deck	\$15,000	Learning Deck	\$15,000

Please join this journey by helping us rebuild and bring back this important institution that will cultivate environmental education and conservation for the preservation of Abaco.

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