Building Community

FOR AGES: 12-18
MATERIALS: Paper, pencil, and markers, crayons, or colored pencils.

When oil heiress Aline Barnsdall commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design Hollyhock House, the residence was the centerpiece of an arts complex envisioned as a community. The original project occupied an entire city block and included theaters for live performances and film, housing for directors and actors, galleries, a school, and shops.

Look closely at Frank Lloyd Wright’s overhead plan for the property and the colorful drawing of some of the structures. Which buildings can you identify? What other spatial elements were integral to the overall design?

Imagine an ideal space for your community. What kinds of buildings and other features would you include? How is the space to be used? How large will it be? Where will the different structures be located? How will the space between the buildings be used?

Draw an overhead plan for a community center where people could meet to enjoy activities together.