

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

# Project Data Sheet

Revised February 6, 2025

(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to [AARB@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:AARB@dgs.virginia.gov))

Date Submitted: **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Agency Name: **Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Project Name, Number, and Location:**

*Project Name: Cabell Library Roof Replacement*

*Project Number: 2026-03153*

*MR Number: 236-12708-00864*

*DEB Number: 236-B5236-036*

*Location – James Branch Cabell Library - 901 Park Ave, Richmond, VA 23284*

**Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer**

*(Include names, titles, phone numbers, email addresses, and physical addresses—including contact information for the day of the meeting)*

**Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule** [*\* must select one of the following*]

- Preliminary Design Submission:
- Final Design Submission:

*(Status/Phase = Maintenance Reserve Project in Working Drawings)*

**Request for Consent Agenda:** Yes:  No:

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| <p><i>* Please refer to the <a href="#">AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines</a> – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.</i></p> |
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**PLEASE NOTE:** If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

**Project Description:**

This project includes the full roof replacement of the original roof of VCU Cabell Library as well as the addition of overflow drains and their associated downspouts. The proposed project scope calls for replacing the entire roofing system on the original portion of the building that was completed in the early 1970s. VCU completed an addition to the library in 2016.

The project will resolve two issues we have with the building. One, the existing roof has reached the end of its useful life as we have had to repair multiple leaks on an annual basis. Two, VCU is planning to expand the Special Collections and Archives high density storage area on the 4th floor so that we may safely store our large array of historically valuable artifacts and manuscripts. The current Special Collections & Archives storage area is directly under the original roof where moisture intrusion can be detrimental for these types of materials.

The original roof of the library was built without any overflow roof drains which are now required by code. VCU's plan is to add overflow drains to not only comply with current building codes but also to provide a necessary safeguard to protect our priceless historical artifacts against future roof leaks.

**Architectural Aesthetic:**

The proposed strategy to accommodate the new overflow drains is to add stainless steel downspouts to the exterior of the building which would remove the water from the roof and building interior in the event we have a primary drain failure. The design objective is to honor the mid-century precast fin facade by

introducing the downspouts between the fins, locate them on a regular pattern, while still using an ex material that is already used on the facades and looks intentional. The proposed design calls for (10) total downspout locations with (6) on the west elevation and with (4) on the east elevation.

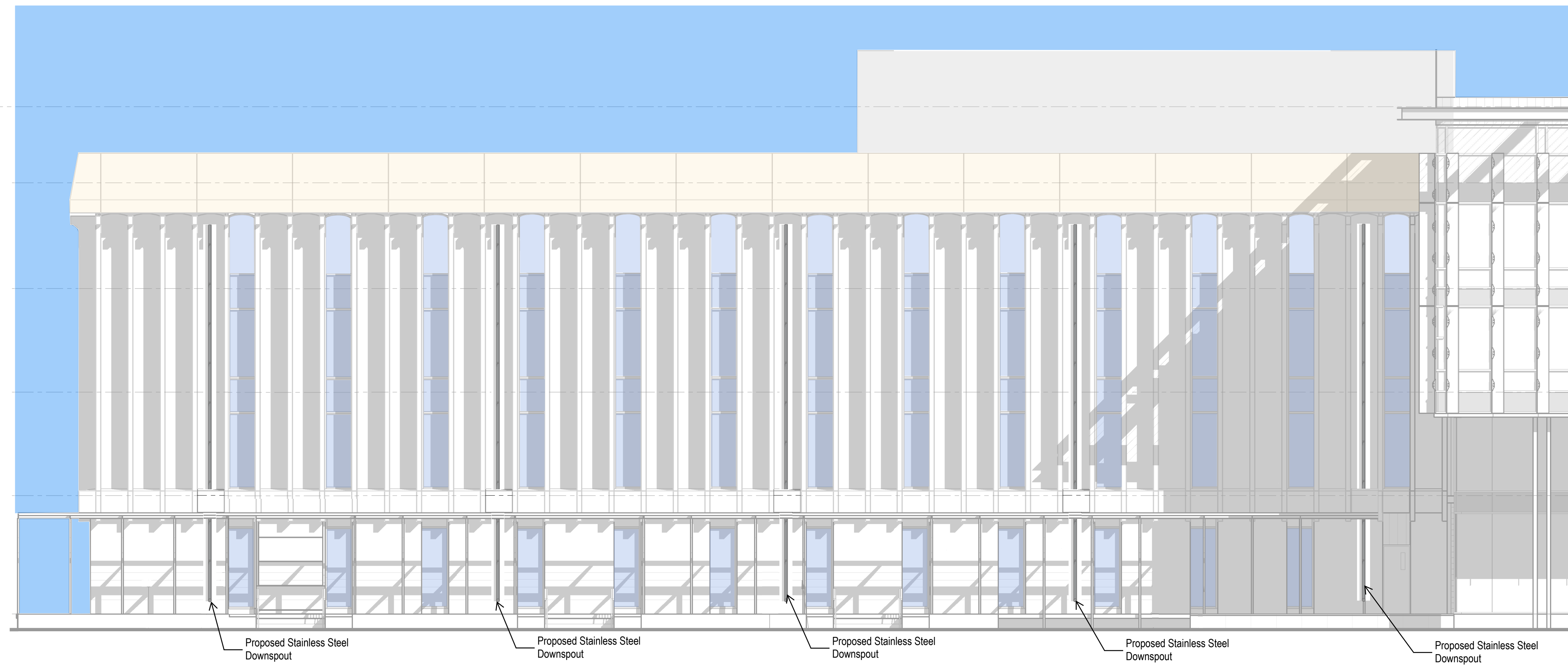
**Relationship to Approved Master Plan**

VCU's current masterplan was adopted in the spring of 2019. This project aligns with the current campus masterplan by maintaining the existing library facility which is planned to remain in use for the foreseeable future.

**Existing Architectural Context**

The James Branch Cabell Library sits in the center of VCU's Monroe Park Campus. The library is located adjacent to the University Student Commons, Academic Learning Commons, Hibbs Hall and the Shafer Court Dining Center. The original James Branch Cabell Library was completed in 1973. An addition was implemented in 2016.

**AARB History (for return presentations on the same project):** NA



ELEVATION - EAST

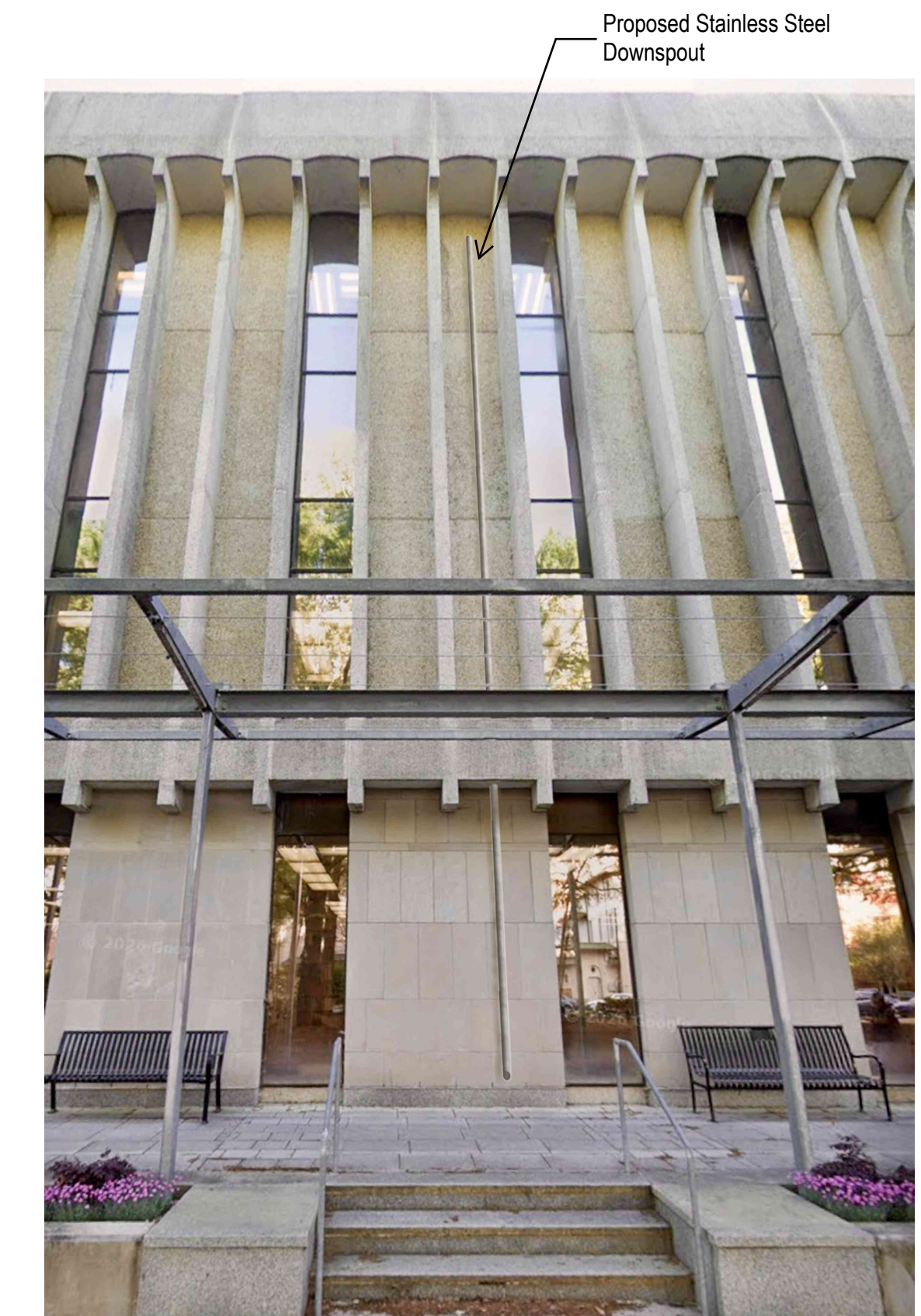
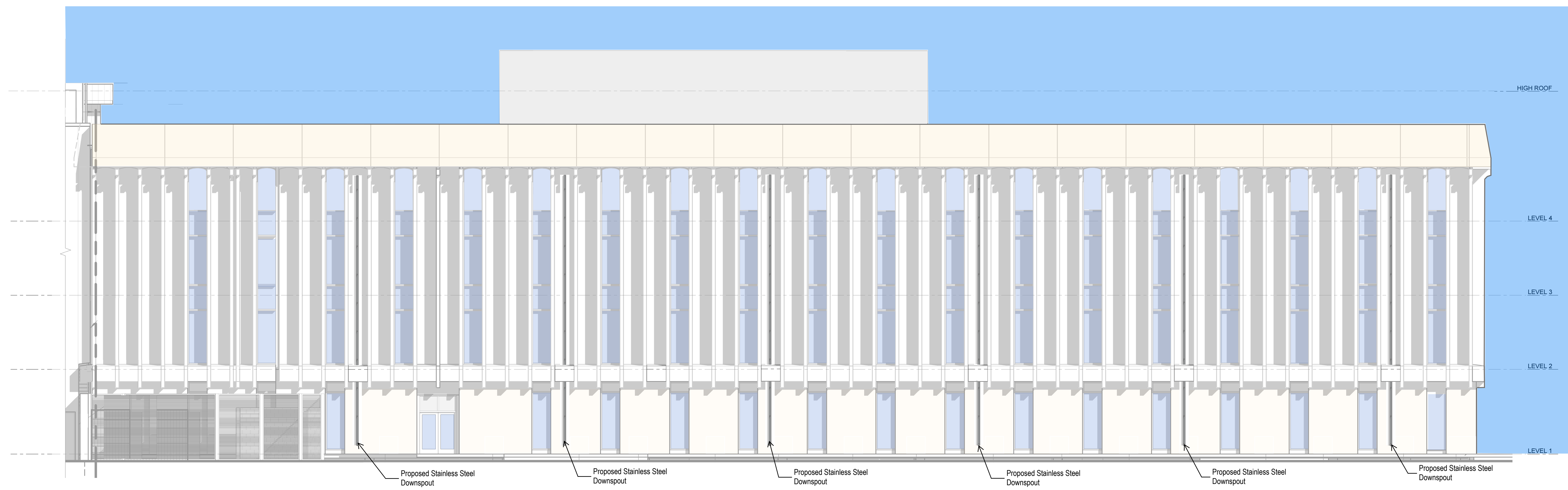


PHOTO RENDER



ELEVATION - WEST

