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*Good luck is the result of good planning.*  
– A fortune cookie

The setting of a great university – cumulatively its buildings, landscapes and community connections – provides the physical framework for education, research, discovery, learning and culture, and helps shape the university experience for the entire community. The University of Washington’s campus setting is the result of good planning and stewardship, alike in their attention to both the big picture and the details, while also anticipating and adapting to change.

Current UW planning initiatives have impacts ranging from campus- and community-wide to very local. Caretakers and stakeholders are enlisted to ensure that both history and hopes guide future goals and shape proposed designs of projects, places, policies and programs. Information and dialog across the university and U District community are essential to promoting a shared understanding of and expectations for the opportunities created and impacts delivered by change. This brief is intended to provide campus and community partners with information about specific planning efforts led by the Office of the University Architect (OUA), which fall into a series of categories: campus and community planning efforts; campus-wide planning; and campus master planning. More information on each of these, and other projects, is available on the [OUA website](#).

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**CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PLANNING**

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*Construction of the Rainier Vista gateway to UW will be complete in 2015.*



*Rainier Vista during the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition.*

**Transportation Infrastructure Planning**

Well-coordinated and multi-agency-funded land use, transportation and landscape planning made it possible to replace barriers with connections that benefit the entire community. Examples of these collaborative efforts include Sound Transit's UW Station, the Rainier Vista, and improvements to the Burke Gilman Trail. The UW will gain an accessible and grand new entry from Montlake Triangle with the completion of Sound Transit's UW Station and the new Rainier Vista (to be completed in 2015). The Burke Gilman Trail widening and mode-split project (separate paths for pedestrians and bikes) increases capacity and enhances safety for intense use by pedestrians and cyclists, while preserving the unique experience of the valued campus landscape. GGN was landscape architect for the Rainier Vista project; PLACE designed the Burke Gilman Trail improvements.

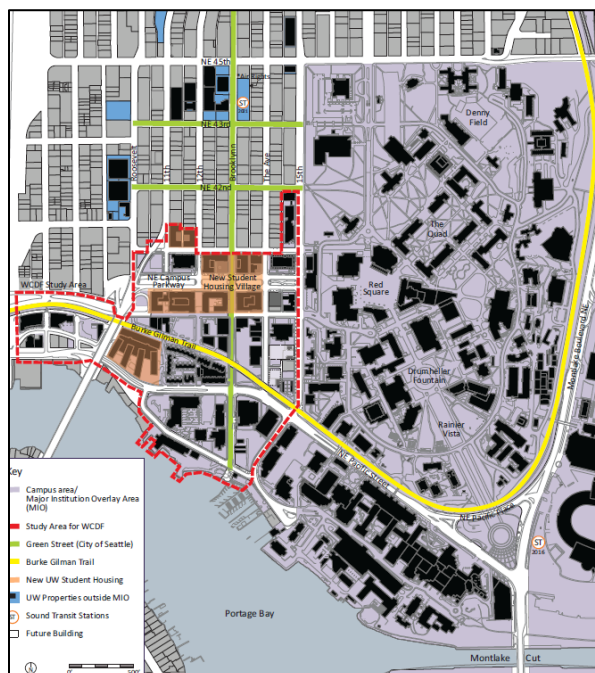
**University District Partnership**

For nearly two years the University District community, the City of Seattle and UW have collaborated on the creation of a [strategic plan](#) for community and business development and an urban design framework to guide new zoning for the U District (between Ravenna Boulevard and Portage Bay, I-5 and the UW Campus). This partnership was formalized in early 2014 as the U District Partnership (UDP), a non-profit community organization. UDP is structured and funded to lead the transformation of the U District as it gains regional transit connections (Sound Transit will open the U District Station at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Brooklyn in 2021); as it welcomes tech entrepreneurs (UW's Condon Hall will be home to Start-up Hall as of mid-2014); and as it is refreshed with investments in new housing and open space (from Green Streets on Brooklyn, 43<sup>rd</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup>, to a waterfront park at the foot of Brooklyn at Boat Street, replacing the current UW Police Department).

Going forward, the UDP will address and monitor public safety and cleanliness, marketing and business development, zoning and urban design, public open space and other issues relevant to the livability and health of the U District.

## West Campus Development Framework

The West Campus Development Framework (WCDF) began in 2014 as a means to understand the growing demands and expectations of this district. The study will engage campus and community leadership in evaluating priorities for its long-term character, functionality and phasing. A series of scenarios will be constructed in order to better understand the West Campus' potential to become as unique and essential to UW Seattle in its own way as are the more fully-developed Central, South and East Campuses, and to identify policies, infrastructure and other investments required to achieve this.



*UW's West Campus (outlined in red) is the focus of UW's future growth.*



*West Campus Housing Master Plan serves the whole "village."*

Until recently, West Campus was widely viewed as remote from the "main campus." In the past few years, West Campus gained its own center of gravity. Critical to this transformation was the replacement of 1960s student dormitories with a contemporary student housing village serving nearly 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students, including services that address community needs. A full-service grocery, coffee shops, a sit-down restaurant, conference and meeting spaces, study facilities, and fitness and recreational facilities have been developed by UW Housing & Food Services in a sophisticated, artfully landscaped urban setting. Buildings have been configured to allow the historic grid of streets to re-connect through pedestrian and green streets; entries and storefronts are located for visibility and accessibility. Streetscapes provide more generous sidewalks, plantings and bike facilities.

New West Campus amenities, landscapes and spaces reflect innovative ideas about how students learn, focusing particularly on interaction and problem-solving. New ideas about the conduct, funding and application of research focus more on inter-disciplinary and academic/industry collaboration. Educators, researchers and students value connections with the world beyond the university. In this changing educational context, West Campus has a special role to play, in providing an opportunity to first envision and then to build a new definition of contemporary urban campus, well-connected to the local and global social and economic cultures, well-endowed with suitable facilities, infrastructure and amenities.

This plan is designed to coordinate and resolve future facilities' needs – some of which have been identified in recent academic facilities precinct planning for Engineering, Health Sciences, Arts & Sciences – and others that soon will be completed (which will include general purpose classrooms and the College of the Environment). Interest in locating activities and new facilities within West Campus over the next twenty years has been expressed uniquely in each of these. Combining these visions with an analysis of UW's historic growth patterns, and comparing growth projections with existing growth allowances of the Campus Master Plan, will enable the university to understand whether and how the next Campus Master Plan might reflect a unique West Campus vision.

The WCDF will be completed in 2014, in the same timeframe as the City of Seattle's Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EIS will contain possible changes in zoning and urban design requirements for the surrounding University District. The WCDF will be informed by public dialog about the EIS, just as it will be shaped to some extent by the University District Partnership's strategic plan goals for a lively, diverse and innovative community, growing in jobs and mixed-income housing types, better served by regional transit and local open space.

At least three scenarios will be defined and analyzed to portray choices ahead – including choices about the mix of university uses, both academic and non-academic; about the nature of the landscape and open space in this part of the campus and how it might shape the building layout; about the need for energy infrastructure, its nature and location; about the integration and mix of non-university functions; about how much growth should be focused in West Campus, how dense it needs to be and with what supports that render it a vital, special district that is both an excellent educational setting and an attractive urban destination for neighbors and visitors, science and arts entrepreneurs, students and faculty, shopping, outdoor recreation and nightlife.

A consultant team led by Mahlum Architects with GGN landscape architects assists OUA in this planning and communications effort. Campus colleagues, including faculty, staff and students, as well as local community leaders, will be actively engaged in developing and reviewing this work to establish a vision for the future of this part of the campus and University District. Recommendations are anticipated by the end of 2014.

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## **CAMPUS-WIDE PLANNING**

### **Campus Landscape Framework**

The campus is the setting for the UW experience. Campus stewardship – its ongoing development and maintenance – influences perceptions of the university's quality, identity and reputation. Ongoing care of the campus landscape enriches a legacy of investment in its beauty, functionality and health. UW's campus is shaped by a mix of big landscape moves – the Olmsted Brothers' Rainier Vista, the Fine Arts Quad, Memorial Drive's WWI memorial trees, Campus Parkway, as well as by more intimate gestures – the Sylvan Grove, Grieg Garden, Medicinal Herb Garden, and small horticultural interventions. From cherry trees to native undergrowth, and a full range of architectural installations at a range of scales, the buildings and their landscape form a unique identity. The ongoing Campus Landscape Framework (CLF) process provides a unique opportunity to ask critical questions, which include:

1. How do we best understand the composition of the campus setting to ensure its continued health, functionality and beauty?
2. What tools are needed?

3. What prioritization and balancing is required?
4. What adaptations are needed and what opportunities can be exploited to ensure its functionality through technological, intellectual, economic and social changes?

The CLF provides a rare opportunity to take a comprehensive look at land use and transportation, energy and infrastructure, open space and ecosystems, architecture and landscape, wayfinding and communications. The CLF takes stock of the campus landscape as a relatively mature construction, composed of a veritable “mosaic” of many landscape types and forms. These forms are diverse and include an immense range from East Campus’ athletic fields to South Campus’ medical complex, Central Campus’ iconic open spaces to West Campus’ urban grid. Each has been carefully installed and interconnected in a composition that suggests having been carved from the forest, filled in a wetland, reclaimed an industrial area and residential neighborhood, and repurposed from a world fair site.

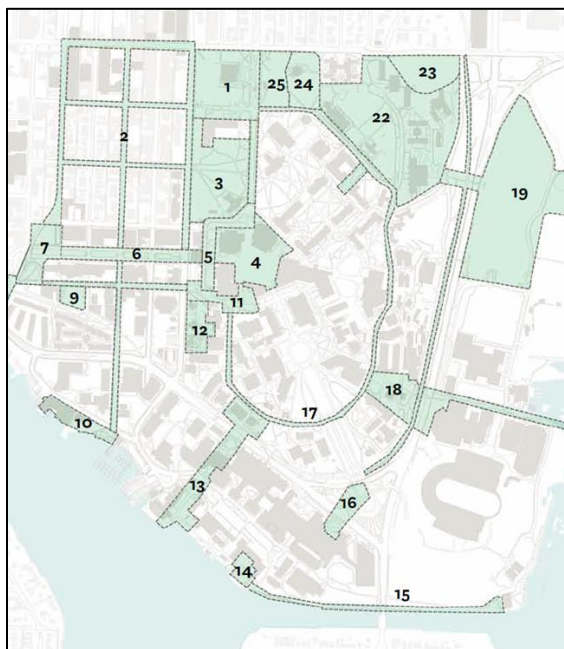
Why do this now? The present moment is marked by significant financial constraints and equally significant recognition of the campus landscape as a rich resource for the UW. This time is also one of great change for the university in its relationship with the community and the city, as it evolves into a truly great urban center in its nature and development, connected within a larger regional context by the introduction of light rail, and as its University District host community realizes its own regional niche as an innovation hub as well as a mixed use neighborhood.

Moments of significant and positive change such as this one require careful navigation. The CLF will provide the UW with a chart, a course and tools to use along the way, and perhaps at its most functional level, a prioritized list of major and minor improvements. It seeks to integrate the campus and community, provide greater accessibility throughout the campus, better mark and more generously welcome visitors at entries, clarify convenient circulation, and establish best practices in care and maintenance, funding and design.

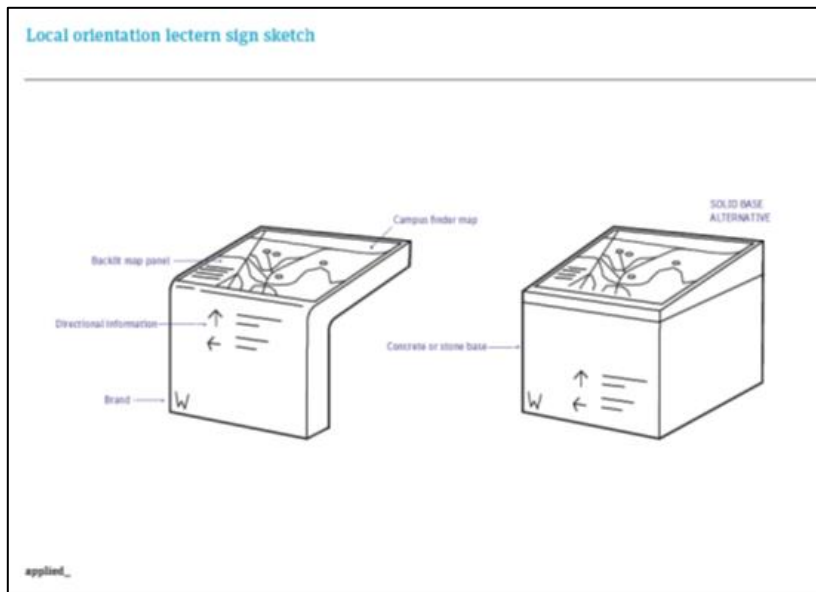
The CLF has involved extensive research into historic and current conditions and use, as well as future goals. Data collection has been conducted through individual interviews with staff, faculty and students across the university, group discussions and an interactive on-line survey. The survey provided rich data from 2,000 respondents evaluating the campus landscape, identifying their favorite aspects, breadth of use, and opportunities for improvement. The resulting graphic and verbal database grounds CLF’s analyses and recommendations. Information provided by more than two dozen university peers about how they fund landscape improvements on their campuses suggests a range of approaches for consideration at UW – from a landscape fund created by establishing a fee on capital building projects, to a centrally-funded 10-year capital program of landscape projects, to single and multiple donor funding of multiple or individual projects, to landscape budgets held-harmless within building projects.

The UW has teamed with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA) to conduct and provide initial recommendations in the spring of 2014. Recommendations will be followed by broad discussion and publication late in 2014 of a range of new policy approaches, a prioritized project list, planning principles for moving forward campus-wide and specific recommendations for current projects of significance. Creating the Campus Landscape Framework provides a moment for focusing on what can be, and for heading that way reinforced with knowledge of our university’s assets and the value the campus landscape holds for the community.





*CLF has investigated more than 20 improvement projects.*



*Wayfinding welcomes and supports journeys with strategically located information*

## Campus Wayfinding

UW's Seattle campus hosts thousands of visits and journeys every day, both by people who know it well and by first-timers. People approach and navigate the campus with little in the way of a dependable system of information, and the landscape itself – the configuration of entries, paths and roadways, open spaces and vistas – is not easily enough comprehended to instill confidence in one's route.

Signage and directions come in many styles and from mostly uncoordinated sources. To rectify this unhelpful condition, the Applied and Alta consulting team has assessed the current state of wayfinding, confirming the need for improvements for a full range of users. Their forthcoming recommendations for approaching the design of a new system that makes traveling to, within and through the UW Seattle campus convenient, easy and pleasant, are based on extensive observation and discussion with a full complement of staff, students, faculty and visitors. Seeing the campus through their eyes, breaking it down into "stepping stones" of local areas identified by key landmarks and principal functions, and incorporating coordinated and consistent map-based materials in kiosks, signs and digital media, will provide the basis for designing the architecture of the system components. The architectural design will occur in a subsequent step in 2014.

## UW's Urban Forest Management Plan

Funded in part by the Campus Sustainability Fund and developed in partnership with the Grounds Shop, the Urban Forest Management Plan is a resource created to provide an on-line campus-wide inventory database of over 9,000 trees, each GPS-located with information relative to the species, condition and significance. This educational resource supports a more robust program of tree management and informs project planning as well as ongoing stewardship of UW's urban forest.

### Learning Space Assessment

This analysis of the current stock of classroom and lecture facilities at UW Seattle examines physical characteristics and technology supports, hours and intensity of utilization, and location and demand. The assessment will determine what is required to meet the ongoing demand for a range of facility types. Data and discussion have been used to develop a detailed picture of both the need for and use of learning spaces on campus. The assessment will reflect on contemporary trends toward interactive and group-based work in classrooms and the practice of “flipping” classrooms that depends on students accessing lectures on-line. This work is being conducted with Rickes Associates and ZGF; it will result in recommendations regarding a range of possible responses by UW, including such policy changes as lengthening the day and week of classroom use, right-sizing supply based on geographic and academic requirements, culture change management, and additional facilities. Recommendations will be considered for implementation by a cross-campus team later in 2014.

## ON-CAMPUS PLANNING

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*In 1926, UW's stadium was located where Denny Field is now.*



*Denny Field currently is surrounded by 1960s North Campus housing.*

### North Campus Housing Site Area Study

With the completion of new West Campus student housing, the Housing Master Plan turns its focus to North Campus student housing. Built largely in the 1960s (with the exception of Hansee Hall), these towers are perched at the top of the slope above the Kincaid Ravine, just south of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. and northeast of the Fine Arts Quad, nestled in a peaceful woodland setting, but disconnected from the life of the central campus in spite of its proximity.

Though initial intentions were to renovate and/or replace the existing buildings on their current sites, new thinking has focused on re-orienting student housing around Denny Field. This change has generated great excitement over the possibility of creating a greater sense of community for students living here, while strengthening connections to the academic campus without losing the woodland character. To that end, Denny Field would be renovated as an active open space serving this community and possibly to free one or more major building sites in this sector of the campus.

This change would integrate a new mix of academic and/or other functions in this special part of campus. Kieran Timberlake with OLIN landscape architects is working with UW to explore this potential, with analysis and recommendations expected in mid-2014.

### **Academic Facilities Precinct Planning**

An essential foundation of the UW's One Capital Plan – a biennial prioritized list of anticipated and desired capital facilities approved by the Board of Regents – is the academic precinct plans developed by schools and other parts of the university by looking ahead twenty years to project a vision of their futures. These academic facilities precinct plans are based on ideas about the growth and evolution of their fields, the ambitions of their faculties, demand from students, and other trends in higher education. Recent academic facilities precinct plans have been produced in collaboration with OPB by the College of Engineering, the College of Arts & Sciences and Health Sciences in South Campus. Similarly, the Learning Spaces Assessment described in this brief is a functional precinct plan. This year, the College of the Environment will undertake its first long-term facilities planning since its birth in 2008, and the South Campus Precinct Plan will take one step further toward understanding options for implementing its growth vision with a special focus on a future School of Public Health building. Individually, all these efforts look to West Campus to carry out some or all of their future visions. The West Campus Development Framework, also described in this brief, will assess options for addressing the collective as well as unique goals of these schools.

## **CAMPUS MASTER PLAN**

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### **UW's Campus Master Plan**

UW's Campus Master Plan is approved by both the Seattle City Council and the Board of Regents. The current Campus Master Plan was approved in 2003; it allows UW to grow by a net addition of three million gross built square feet, within specified parameters. Shaped by the university's vision of its future physically and operationally, a new Campus Master Plan will define ground rules and programs for land use, transportation, and development, while supporting and conditioning UW's growth. OPB will lead an effort to update this vision and plan, working closely with UW's offices of External Affairs, Capital Projects, Transportation and Facilities, and engaging in dialog many UW units, UW leadership, and the U District community. The campus planning work described in this brief provides background work and helps to set the stage for the next UW Campus Master Plan.

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