

**Date:** April 15, 2013

**Subject:** University of Washington Update on Current Seattle Campus Planning Initiatives

*This Brief provides an update on physical planning efforts underway at the UW. Look for future updates with progress reports on the initiatives described here.*

Planning for its future enables the University of Washington to successfully navigate a context of continual change on many fronts. Physical planning of the campus landscape and facilities is managed within the Office of Planning & Budgeting (OPB), by the Office of the University Architect (OUA). Planning is conducted and coordinated at several scales, with a wide complement of faculty, staff, student and community constituents. Plans identify strategic paths to desirable outcomes which align and integrate many views and values. The range is broad, including comprehensive campus and specific subarea plans, development frameworks and project plans, academic visions and space plans, protocols for collaboration of several units, and more. Multi-disciplinary staff teams focus on Capital Planning & Management, Space Planning & Management, Campus Planning & Management, and Design Oversight. Current initiatives range widely -- from managing the UW's One Capital Plan and developing its capital budget, to solving space needs campus-wide, stewarding the design excellence of the campuses, preparing for the next Campus Master Plan, and participating in U District community planning.



*Aerial view of UW Seattle campus with university building footprints highlighted.*

**The U District Livability Partnership (UDLP)**, a new forward-looking collaborative planning effort of the University, the City and the University District community, published a Strategic Plan in February 2013, and participated in the development of the Seattle Department of Planning & Development's U District Urban Design Framework (UDF),

published in the Spring of 2013. In 2013-14, the UDLP will focus on key goals of the strategic plan, including specific actions such as an alley activation plan, a retail improvement action plan, a safe and clean plan, and participation in the public process associated with the UDF Environmental Impact Statement for new zoning for the District. An overarching effort will shape and fund a new broad-based community/UW/City non-profit organization to provide the leadership, advocacy and follow-through needed to realize the vision of a vital, attractive, diverse, welcoming and growing University District.



*The UDLP collaborative planning process brings community, City and UW together around shared goals for the greater U District.*

**A Campus Landscape Framework** will produce and communicate over the next two years a set of policies, programs and capital improvements that will facilitate a widespread understanding of the roles of the UW Seattle campus landscape – from ecology and pedagogy to circulation, maintenance and aesthetics – and enable appropriate stewardship practices to ensure the campus landscape endures while it also flexes and expands to meet the needs of campus growth and change. A survey will map the meaning and value of campus areas to a wide range of constituent groups. The work will be assisted by a professional design team led by renowned landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, and consultation throughout with students, faculty, staff, community and peer reviewers in order to ground its recommendations in existing conditions and build a shared understanding of the campus landscape’s roles in developing meaning and value for individuals and the university.



*Improved Rainier Vista at Montlake triangle is a major feature of the campus landscape framework*

**A Tree Management Plan** for managing the campus tree canopy, funded in part by the Campus Sustainability Fund, is expected to conclude this year with a more robust program of tree management that will coordinate with the City of Seattle's tree protection program.



*Plans call for the Burke Gilman Trail to be widened with separate walking and bike paths, while retaining the beauty of the natural landscape.*

**A Wayfinding and Signage Plan**, and a **Historic Structures and Landscape Survey/Plan**, both coordinated with the Campus Landscape Framework, will be developed over the next year, led and coordinated by staff of the Office of the University Architect with broad participation of knowledgeable university staff.

**A Development Framework for West Campus** will engage campus and community members and leadership during 2013-14 in discussions creating a shared vision for the future of this area of campus that will be increasingly the focus of University growth and change. The effort is designed to coordinate and resolve facilities needs that emerged from precinct planning for Engineering, Health Sciences, Arts & Sciences and Environment, in each of which interest has been expressed in locating activities and new facilities within the West Campus. Going forward, scenarios and options evaluations will identify and describe the future character of the area – including definition of facilities supportive of contemporary teaching and learning, campus landscape and public realm, land use mix, density, height and adjacencies – and develop a sense of the sorts of changes in regulations, infrastructure and culture that may be necessary to prepare for the area's growth and development. A consultant team will assist OUA in this planning and communication effort. Colleagues across campus, including faculty, staff and students, will be actively engaged in developing and reviewing this work to establish a vision for the future of this part of the campus and U District.

**A new Parking & Land Use Policy/Plan** will be undertaken that anticipates and guides the continued conversion of existing surface parking facilities into research and academic building sites, and develops mechanisms adequate to support UW's transportation services, including future parking facilities that are likely to be structured and underground, replacing the historic surface parking model. This planning will be done collaboratively with university partners and will engage others across campus in establishing new policy appropriate to the limited land and financial resources as well as the University's goals for mobility and efficient and sustainable land use practices.



*The next Campus Master Plan will reflect campus and community goals for this growing urban center, anticipating the arrival of Sound Transit in 2016 at Husky Stadium and 2021 at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Brooklyn*

**Undertaking a new Campus Master Plan** will set the stage for UW’s next several million square feet of growth and development. The Campus Master Plan is shaped by the university’s vision of its future in several realms, both physically and operationally, and defines ground rules and programs to be approved by both City Council and the Board of Regents. The current [Campus Master Plan](#) was approved in 2003, allowing UW to grow by a net of three million gross square feet, within a number of specific parameters. OPB will lead the effort to update this vision, working closely with key staff in External Affairs, Capital Projects, Transportation and Facilities, and many other units and entities. All the campus planning work described above is groundwork for the next Campus Master Plan.

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