

Date: May 15, 2012

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

The Office of Planning and Budgeting (OPB) coordinates and oversees physical campus planning initiatives for UW's campuses. The focus ranges significantly, but current initiatives include projecting future needs (e.g. precinct planning), systems planning (e.g. wayfinding and signage), master plans for sub-areas and features (e.g. Pend Oreille entrance and North Campus housing), campus-wide plans (e.g. Campus Master Plan), as well as participating in local community planning (e.g. University District planning). OPB is engaging partners and experts across campuses in several new planning initiatives, which are highlighted here for information.

Planning Context

Unprecedented changes are underway in the University District, including UW's West and South Campus areas. In the South Campus area, plans for relocating the UW Police from Boat Street will facilitate the development of a Portage Bay park that significantly extends waterfront access for the public. In the West Campus area, UW is building housing, services, and urban amenities for an additional 2,500 students on and near Campus Parkway.

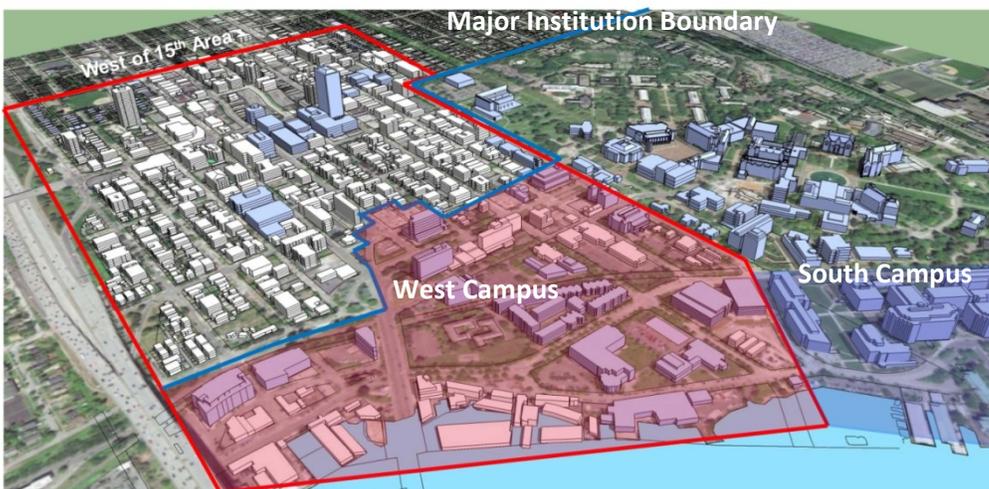
In conjunction with the South and West Campus development, changes in density and urban design of the University District are anticipated with the construction of a Sound Transit light-rail station (Brooklyn Station) across the street east of the UW Tower; already housing developers have proposed upwards of 1,000 new units within walking distance of the Brooklyn Station and main campus. Two blocks northwest from the Brooklyn Station, close to 200 new workforce-oriented apartments are being developed jointly by UW and Seattle Children's Hospital with a private developer. The University's involvement in these activities and others reflects the University's commitment to work in partnership with the community and City of Seattle to re-envision the neighborhood's bright future.

OPB recently worked with several academic units to complete their academic precinct plans to project their future space needs. In addition to identifying potential future facility needs, these plans articulate planning principles for upcoming sub-area and campus-wide planning. As precinct planning has made clear, faculty increasingly view engagement with the community as a key component of the University's future as a great teaching and research institution.

West of 15th Avenue Planning

President Michael Young has charged members of the [West of 15th Avenue Planning](#) Steering Committee, which will be chaired and staffed by OPB, to assist him and Provost Ana Mari Cauce in guiding the University's involvement within the

larger community planning process in the University District. The Steering Committee oversees the coordination of planning efforts between the UW and the greater community and makes recommendations regarding such topics as community partnerships and development opportunities that emerge during the planning process. The University expects that its next Campus Master Plan – still several years in the future – will be informed by, and



supportive of, the shared University District vision developed through this community planning dialogue.

University District Planning with the Community

The West of 15th Avenue Planning Steering Committee will focus on coordinating the UW’s engagement in the City of Seattle’s recent [University District Livability Partnership](#) initiative. The University District Livability Partnership is a City-led, broad-based community planning process designed to bring a full range of community interests together around a vision for the University District’s future. This work began this spring with a community planning grant from the Seattle Office of Economic Development that focuses on commercial district revitalization. The Partnership work will continue over the next couple years and include the Seattle Department of Planning & Development’s Urban Design Framework and Environmental Impact Statement. UW is actively engaged in the Livability Partnership including providing funding and leadership support to convene a community-sponsored series of events, “Community Conversations,” to draw on the knowledge, values, and good ideas of the community and invigorate the discussion regarding the future possibilities of the University District’s future. Additional information regarding “Community Conversations” will be forthcoming.

Campus Landscape Framework

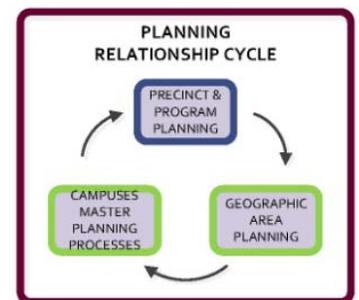
Concurrently, OPB is beginning the Campus Landscape Framework initiative focused on the campus environment that is aiming to develop a menu of policies, practices, and tools to assist the University’s stewardship of its campus, buildings, open spaces, plantings and infrastructure. The primary goal of the Framework is to preserve and enhance the overall health of the campus and the campus experience, shared by students, faculty, visitors, neighbors, and staff. This framework is one of several efforts that will facilitate future planning initiatives, including the Campus Master Plan.

Sub Area Geographic Plans

OPB will undertake a series of geographic planning studies which will assess a range of scenarios to shape a cohesive vision identifying and cultivating key priorities and choices about how the UW campus may evolve. These plans will incorporate the look and feel of the built environment that will characterize the University’s growth and expansion, especially in the West and South Campus areas. This planning will also contribute to a shared UW/community vision for the larger University District where West and South Campus areas, and their relationships to the core campus and to the wider community, are important ingredients.

Additional Precinct Planning

Several precinct plans have been completed with academic units; OPB intends to conduct additional precinct plans in the future. These needs assessments will provide further information and insight for developing the campus context. Concurrent with precinct planning, OPB is also developing assessments of UW’s energy future and UW’s seismic resilient future.



A Foundation for Future Planning Initiatives

Many of these planning initiatives build upon and inform one another. The accumulation of these planning initiatives will provide a strong foundation for the future development of the UW and the University District neighborhood. The collaborative approach described here, engaging community, City and University constituencies in articulating shared values, will be brought to bear as the UW begins a new campus master planning effort, inspired by the shared goal of ensuring a diverse, vibrant, attractive University District and UW campus that reflects the creativity, innovation and commitment of all involved.

For more information, contact: Rebecca Barnes at rgbarnes@uw.edu or Kateri Schlessman at kateris@uw.edu.