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Section 5

Appendices

- 5.1 HU Program Plans
 - HU Student Union
 - Apartment Style Residences

- 5.2 Howard University in the District of Columbia Report



5.1 Howard University Program Plans

Howard University Student Union

Howard University Housing

HOWARD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS RECREATION AND STUDENT UNION – FUSION BUILDING PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Date: February 12, 2020

Purpose: To provide an overview of the campus recreation and student union - fusion building concept and detail the key programmatic elements throughout the facility.

DESCRIPTION

The concept for the campus recreation and student union - fusion building will create a new epicenter for student engagement and activity on campus. The concept creates space for dedicated student recreation, health and wellness space, separated from athletics in the Burr Gymnasium, and comprehensively replaces the outdated Blackburn Center for administration space and student services. The proposed concept provides additional flexibility in student life facilities and academic support spaces across campus and creates a new iconic building along the campus green and McMillan Reservoir.

Spaces within the new building will seek to modernize and replace existing student life spaces, but will also create new and enhanced features for students. The amount of available recreation, health and wellness space for students will be appropriately sized based on demand, greatly enhancing the student life experience on campus. The new building with student activity zones, campus dining and support spaces will allow for more efficient student services and administrative operations, and accommodate the meeting and event space needs of a modern university.

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Campus Recreation

The campus recreation component of the fusion building will include the following spaces:

Administrative Office Suite

- Offices for all administrative staff
- Student employee workstations
- Building entry control
- Conference and meeting spaces

Health and Wellness Suite

- Fitness Assessment & Testing Lab

- Classroom / meeting room
- Instructional kitchen
- Clinic / Nurse's Office

Student Activity Zone

- Expanded and dedicated weight & fitness space
- Three-court gymnasium
- Center-court gymnasium
- Elevated jogging track
- 4 multipurpose rooms
- 2 Racquetball courts
- A competitive swimming pool

Support Zone

- Men's and women's locker rooms
- Family change rooms
- Equipment checkout
- Classroom spaces

Student Union

The new student union component of the fusion building will include the following spaces:

- Food service
- Ballroom / Large event space
- Conference and meeting rooms
- Theater / Auditorium
- Entertainment Space
- Lounge Areas
- Student organization and meeting space
- Administrative offices

HOWARD NEXUS HOUSING PROGRAM

The anticipated Nexus Housing project will deliver approximately 650 beds across two towers. The overall design will provide Howard students with a variety of living arrangements and amenities, including single rooms, double rooms, single-occupancy units, kitchenettes, common areas, and a myriad of amenity spaces. The detailed program components are outlined below.

Residential Units

- ◆ Two apartment towers with 650 apartment-style beds divided into 55 one-bedroom / one-bathroom single-occupancy units; 110 two-bedroom / two-bathroom single-occupancy units; and 80 four-bedroom / two-bathroom single-occupancy units. Additionally, 2 one-bedroom / 1.5-bathroom apartment units should be dedicated units to for the accommodation of residential life staff member(s) / resident director(s) who will support the residential community.

Residential Floors

The residential floors contain minimal outside-of-the-unit support space, but still enough study nooks and group study rooms for students to study, relax, and gather with one another. Each floor will also have mechanical, maintenance, and housekeeping spaces, including:

1. Custodial closets for housekeeping supplies and equipment.
2. A trash / recycling room for students to place their trash. (Housekeeping will be responsible for removing trash from the room and the building.)
3. Electrical and telecom rooms.

Building Common Spaces

Each building will have an entrance lobby to serve as the building's "living room" and as the first touch point of the residential experience. Lobbies should be welcoming, vibrant, and equipped with soft seating to encourage student engagement. The entrance lobbies should include unassignable square footage to permit a small central gathering space. Lobbies should be inclusive in nature and seen as a space for both residents and non-residents to gather. However, there should be secondary security check points beyond the lobby to prevent non-residents from accessing the residential floors.

The program includes a variety of amenity space. Each tower has a central kitchen (1,000 square feet each) for residential programming and campus events. The program will also include meeting rooms in each building that can be used as classrooms during the day and residential meeting spaces in the evenings. These spaces are flexible and can also accommodate resident assistant staff meetings or additional group study needs. The program also includes music practice rooms to accommodate students of the arts. All of the abovementioned spaces should be off the main circulation corridor to allow guest accessibility.

The program also includes 15,000 – 17,000 square feet of retail space. Suggestions for the space include local retailers, weight and fitness areas, or dining. The specific program for the retail space is to be determined after additional analysis that validates concept viability.

- ◆ Community spaces and amenities include:
 - Central kitchens
 - Meeting spaces / classrooms
 - Study rooms
 - Music practice rooms
 - Common bathrooms

Building Support Spaces

The support spaces for each building include building storage (250 square feet), maintenance storage (100 square feet), custodial supply room / break room (500 square feet), MDF telecom rooms (500 square feet), and vending areas (90 square feet) to support the maintenance of the building and residential staff needs. Such spaces should be accessible by secondary circulation. The current program includes an interior space for bicycle storage. This space could be moved to the exterior of the building should the design require adjustments for more student-focused needs.

- ◆ Building support and storage spaces include:
 - Residence Life offices
 - Building storage room
 - Maintenance storage room
 - Custodial supply room / break room
 - MDF / telecom rooms
 - Vending area
 - Mail services
 - Retail (to be determined later)

5.2 Howard University in the District of Columbia

