

Working Together: A Values Approach for Strengthening University/Community Partnerships

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER



PROGRAM STATEMENT PARKING

<u>Lot</u>	<u># Spaces</u>	
D	45	Surface
E	50	Lower Level
M	90	Unchanged
Q	182	Unchanged
Total	367	

PROPOSED PARKING

<u>Lot</u>	<u># Spaces</u>	
D	76	Multiuse
E	73	Dedicated Visitor
M	165	Reconfigured
Q	61	Lower Level
Total	375	



NORTHEAST PERSPECTIVE





NORTHWEST PERSPECTIVE





- UNO as Nebraska's metropolitan university
 - Community engagement integral to vision, mission, and strategic goals
 - Interaction/Interdependence with community intrinsic to campus history and culture
- UNO as one of the original Carnegie Engaged Universities

Since late 1990s explosive growth in campus engagement activities

- Academic Service Learning

- Service Days

- American Democracy Project

- Exploring Scholarship of Engagement

- P-16 Initiative (Building Bright Futures)

- Summer Works

- Student Organizations and Leadership Programs

UNO and Community Partnerships

College of Public Affairs & Community Service

Collaborating Center

Neighborhood Center

Nonprofit Incubator @ Collaborating Center

Brennan Labor Institute

Omaha by Design (located on UNO campus)

Building Bright Futures



Values Identification process

- ❖ Involved university and community in initial visioning and design forums
 - ❖ Feedback shaped initial design, function, priorities of building
- ❖ Established a CEC Building Advisory Board
 - ❖ Composed of university and community representatives
 - ❖ Played key role in identifying and affirming building values through “facilitated conversations”
 - ❖ Now determining process to identify and select residents of building, based on these values



Values of the UNO Community Engagement Center

- Collaboration
- Dynamic culture fostering camaraderie and communication
- Community and university partners will be able to communicate authentic and clear needs/benefits of using space
- Users of space will be reflective of community's diversity from racial, ethnic, economic and geographic perspectives
- Commitment to “respectful reciprocity”
- Willingness to work with and showcase outcomes and efforts of faculty, volunteers, and/or organizations



Operationalizing CEC Values

- Occupancy RFP, decision criteria
- Planning to ensure campus interactions (e.g., student leadership programs, service learning, community service activities) reflect these values
- Website/information sharing
- Priority setting
- Creating a community culture: building self-management, resident expectations



CEC Management

- Will be overseen by Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
- Not under any specific college; all colleges as well as Student Affairs, Athletics, and other university offices encouraged to be involved
- Not an effort to centralize outreach or limit outreach to the UNO campus; rather it is designed to strengthen campus capacity to broaden its outreach throughout community while making campus and its resources more accessible
- A small management team for the center will be created
- There will be several campus/building oversight committees in place before/after building opens



Types of Users of the Engagement Center

Permanent University Users: University organizations focused on engagement and outreach, i.e., Service Learning Academy, Volunteer Service, new student/community leadership programs, Brennan Labor Institute.

Community or University Residents: Longer-term (but not necessary permanent) organizations and initiatives. Will be located in the community/university partner spaces throughout the building. Will seek a mix of community and university users. Will require participation in application process.

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Types of Users of the Engagement Center

Short Term Users: Ranging from a few months to perhaps one or two years, could be collaborative grant partnerships, community/university initiatives, student-driven projects, teams of faculty working on small-scope community research or outreach projects projects. Will require simple application.

Day/Week Users: For intensive student, faculty and/or community projects, i.e., classroom projects, student organizations service projects, service learning activities. May involve reserving a room or project area, but no application will be required.



Application Process

Will be using a values-based application process to select all short-term and long term users (community and university) conducted by CEC Building Advisory Committee (university and community representatives)

Different applications for each type of user

- Will be relatively simple
- Will focus on how applicant meets CEC values
- Selection process will begin shortly after groundbreaking (October 24), then rolling deadlines
- Will include some type of interview
- Final decision is SVCASA and/or Chancellor



CEC Business Model

Still a work in progress

Community partners will pay some form of rent that will be affordable yet competitive with local rates

- Rent will include amenities such as access to university services, IT, CEC resources, limited garage parking, security, all furniture, utilities
- Agreements will delineate expectations of active engagement with university
- Rent will help underwrite a portion of the operating expenses of the building

University partners will not pay rent but will be asked to demonstrate reciprocal relationships with community partners



CEC DESIGN FEATURES

- Flexible environment allowing for reconfiguration as needs change
- Many common, shared, and meeting spaces to promote collaboration and meeting space for and between the community and university
- Technology, furniture and room design that support collaborative use
- Ease of access for community partners, campus visitors and staff by location and parking
- Designed to entice and encourage student involvement, service and community engagement



Other CEC Resources

- Extensive meeting rooms serving 5 – 300
- Three separate community/university partner spaces
- Community dialogue room
- Satellite meeting rooms, formal board room
- Planning spaces with flexible uses/layouts
- Student lounge/project rooms
- Areas for documentary screenings (indoor and outdoor)
- Digital art wall for student displays
- Running feeds of volunteer opportunities
- Coordinated and networked community service/volunteer/service learning information

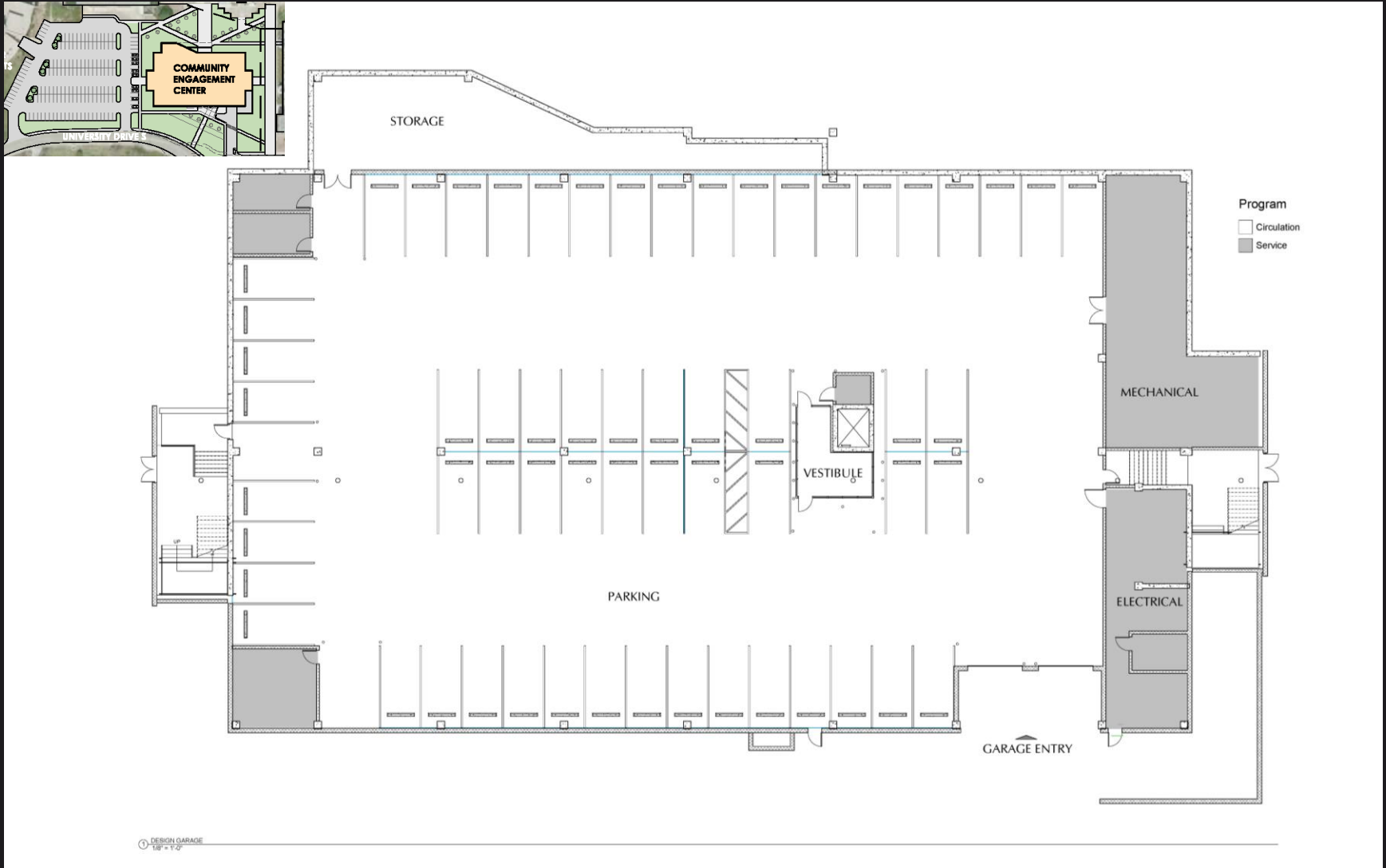


Campus and Community Impact

- Expand and enhance campus community engagement
- Increase campus/community collaboration
- Develop community nonprofit capacity
- Enhance graduates' capacity and commitment to civic participation
- Symbolize UNO's commitment to the metropolitan community

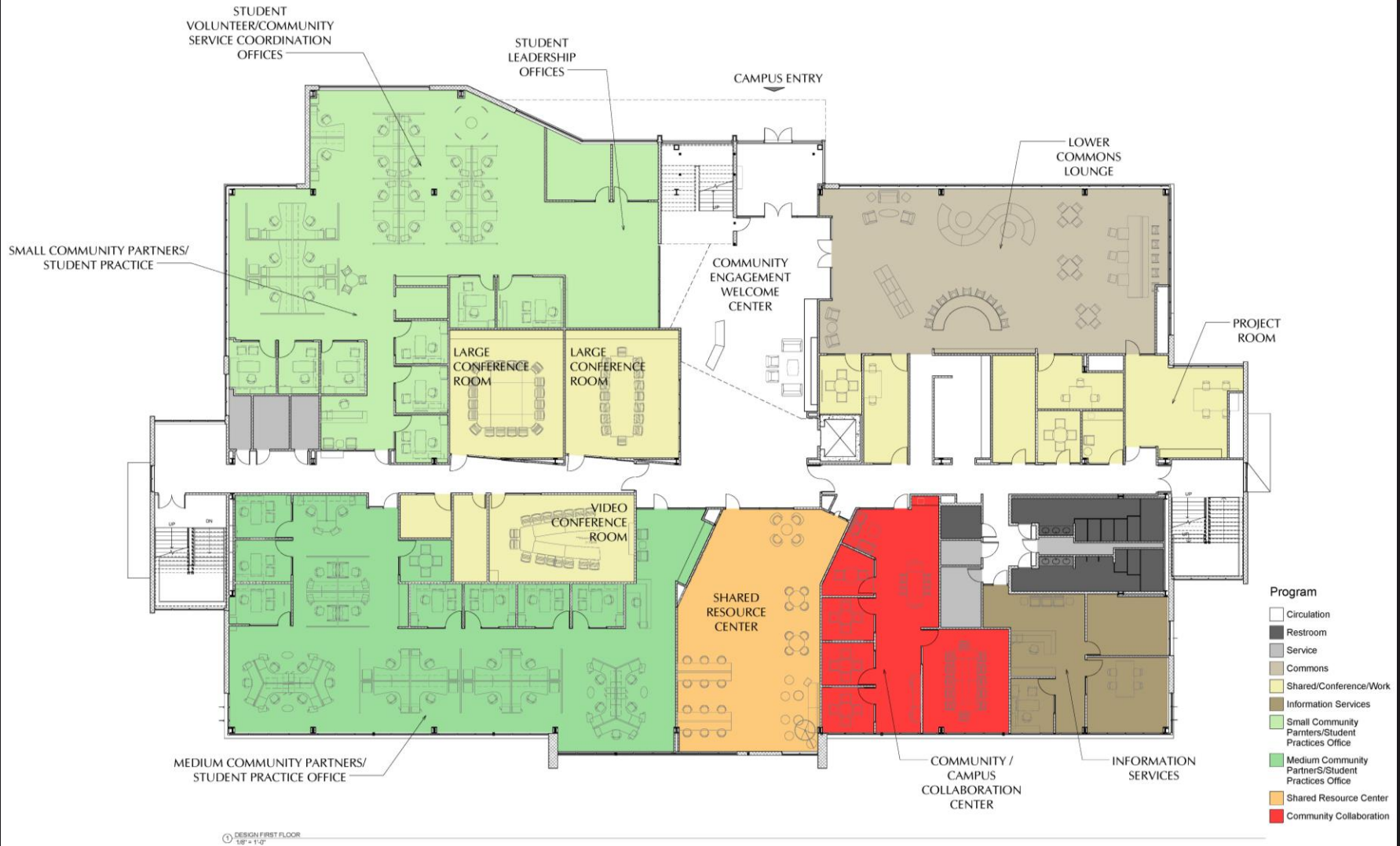


GARAGE LEVEL





1ST FLOOR





2ND FLOOR





1ST LEVEL MAIN ATRIUM





2ND LEVEL @ COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ROOMS



John Christensen, Chancellor

B. J. Reed, Sr. Vice Chancellor Academic & Student Affairs

**Deborah Smith-Howell, Associate Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs & Dean, Graduate Studies**

**Sara Woods, Associate Dean,
College of Public Affairs & Community Service**

