

The University of the District of Columbia ANC 5A Meeting

Bertie Backus Campus Plan

November 16, 2022



Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Mission
- III. Bertie Backus Campus Area and Existing Conditions
- IV. Campus Master Plan Background, Process, and Considerations
- V. Community Stakeholders Meeting
- VI. Long-term Visioning
- VII. Next Steps & Milestones

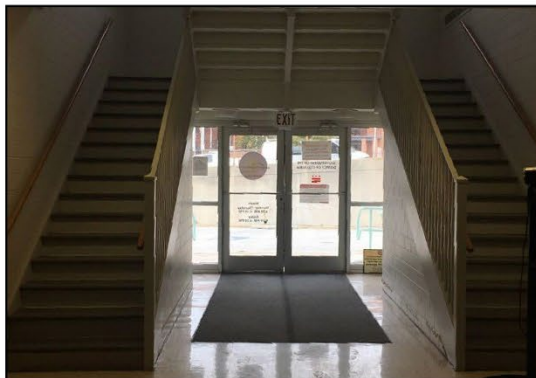
Mission

In connection with previous master plans developed for the University of the District of Columbia (approved in 2011 and 2020), UDC is now embarking on the process to create a master plan specific to the Bertie Backus Campus at 5171 South Dakota Avenue NE. The Plan will explore how best to serve all stakeholders involved, including local stakeholders and neighbors. It aims to bring to life the University's vision to develop the campus over the next 10+ years.

Bertie Backus Campus & Surrounding Area



Bertie Backus Campus Existing Conditions



What is a Campus Master Plan?

- Campus Master Plans serve as a central planning document outlining the physical development of a campus over the next 10 years
 - Seek to give structure to a college or university's goals
 - Seek to provide a plan that offers the best use of campus spaces for current and future operational, research, and academic needs
- Campus planning covers:
 - Use of facilities
 - Open space provisions
 - Circulation
 - non-motorized (walking paths, bike access, etc.)
 - motorized (roads, public transportation access, etc.)
 - Utilities/Infrastructure
 - Relationship to neighboring communities

Campus Master Plan Process

- The Zoning Regulations require that Universities in the District submit and obtain approval before the Zoning Commission for a Campus Master Plan every 10 years to ensure educational campuses:
 1. are well-planned and designed;
 2. have long-term facilities plans;
 3. minimize any negative impacts the university may have on the surrounding residential neighborhood; and
 4. are consistent and transparent with their planning process
- The ZC approved a campus plan for UDC in 2011, which included a new student center at the Van Ness Campus.
- The current campus plan for the Van Ness Campus was approved in 2021 and will remain valid for a period of 10 years.

Planning Considerations and Priorities

- Buildings/Facilities
 - Consideration of classroom space; improving the “community feel”
- Transportation/Circulation
- Open Space/Urban Design
- Campus Programming and Use of Space
- Sustainability
- Utilities/Infrastructure

Meeting with Community Stakeholders

- A meeting with community stakeholders was held on October 19 for the consulting team to gain insight based on their experience and familiarity with the Bertie Backus Campus and surrounding neighborhood.
- Community groups identified a need for:
 - Facility upgrades - more functional classroom spaces, lab space, student lounge, gymnasium upgrades
 - Open/green space – pedestrian trails, rooftop green spaces, community garden
 - Traffic & Parking – facilitate better use of existing parking lots, safety concerns along South Dakota Avenue NE
 - Infrastructural upgrades – HVAC, structural

Long-Term Vision

- Expand on the vision of the Van Ness Plan to holistically address the needs and goals of the University across its various campuses
- Connect the campus to the neighborhood for a stronger institutional presence (e.g. community-based programming)
- Make the campus more accessible through better wayfinding, circulation, and landscape design
- Explore how the campus might be redesigned to have more of a presence on South Dakota Avenue that improves its appearance, the pedestrian experience, and how it can better interact with and respond to the Art Place Fort Totten development across the street

Next Steps & Milestones

- Community Outreach
 - Notice to be sent to surrounding neighbors, neighborhood groups, and ANC 5A
 - Continuing discussion with local stakeholders
- A Notice of Intent to file the application is anticipated to be submitted by January/February 2023
- The Backus Campus Plan is anticipated to be filed with the District's Zoning Commission by March 2023
- Zoning Commission hearing will occur in Summer 2023

Questions/Comments/Discussion

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