

UDC Van Ness Campus Plan 2021-2030

Fact Sheet

- UDC's Van Ness Campus Plan was approved by the Zoning Commission in 2021 (See Z.C. Order 20-33).
- The Plan seeks to advance the mission of the University to transform the Van Ness Campus into a flagship institution that will meet the educational needs of the residents of the District and region.
- The Plan seeks to bring the University closer to its goal of being a public higher education model of urban student success through distinct Plan objectives:
 - Establish the Van Ness Campus as a landmark main campus hub emerging as an important economic engine for the District of Columbia and the region.
 - Improve campus visibility from Connecticut Avenue NW while improving the entry points to the University.
 - Create opportunities to enhance the student experience while creating revenue generating activities.
 - Establish campus zones within the Van Ness Campus to provide distinct yet connected areas that improve convenience, enhance orientation and improve operational effectiveness.
 - Accommodate for future growth by establishing a commitment to the environment and new technologies.
 - Reduce parking need recognizing that the university is an urban setting with direct access to mass transit and may be accessed by multiple modes of transportation.
 - Design for flexible spaces to accommodate the interdisciplinary nature of education.
 - Improve campus open space within an urban setting to effectively maximize the utilization of open space; with the aim to provide much needed green space and better pedestrian circulation through the Van Ness Campus.
 - Strengthen campus image and character by promoting the University's distinct identity through wayfinding and placemaking.
- The Plan contains five sections ("elements") which articulate strategies that should be implemented at the Van Ness Campus to more holistically plan for the University's growth:
 - Campus Development Element
 - Considers upgrades to campus facilities and buildings (classrooms/labs, student housing, recreation facilities) to modernize the campus and create more efficient academic spaces
 - Transportation Element
 - Seeks to enhance pedestrian safety, leverage the campus' adjacency to the Van Ness/UDC Metrorail Station, reduce automobile dependency, and improve circulation and connectivity in and around campus
 - Sustainability Element
 - Strategizes ways for the University to provide additional green roof space and develop more sustainable stormwater management practices, install additional solar panels, establish sustainability initiatives such as the Urban Food Hub.
 - Community Relations Element

- Establishes a communications plan with the neighboring community and District at large to more cohesively address the impacts of campus growth; describes opportunities for the University to partner with local programs and organizations
- Campus Character Element
 - Describes strategies to improve the physical presence of the campus through distinct campus signage, streetscape improvements to activate Connecticut Avenue NW, and architectural features across campus that would express the flagship identity of the University as an Historically Black College or University