

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1



2007 Auraria Master Plan: 5th Planning Principle:

“Enhance the identity of the individual institutions without undermining the shared identity of the Auraria Campus. AHEC students, faculty, administrators, and alumni associate with their individual school more than the physical campus.

Senior administrators of the three institutions believe that the allegiances of students and alumni will be enhanced through campus growth that strengthens the identity of the individual institutions relative to the campus. In turn, this is expected to generate greater success in alumni financial support and a greater sense of pride in the larger campus.”

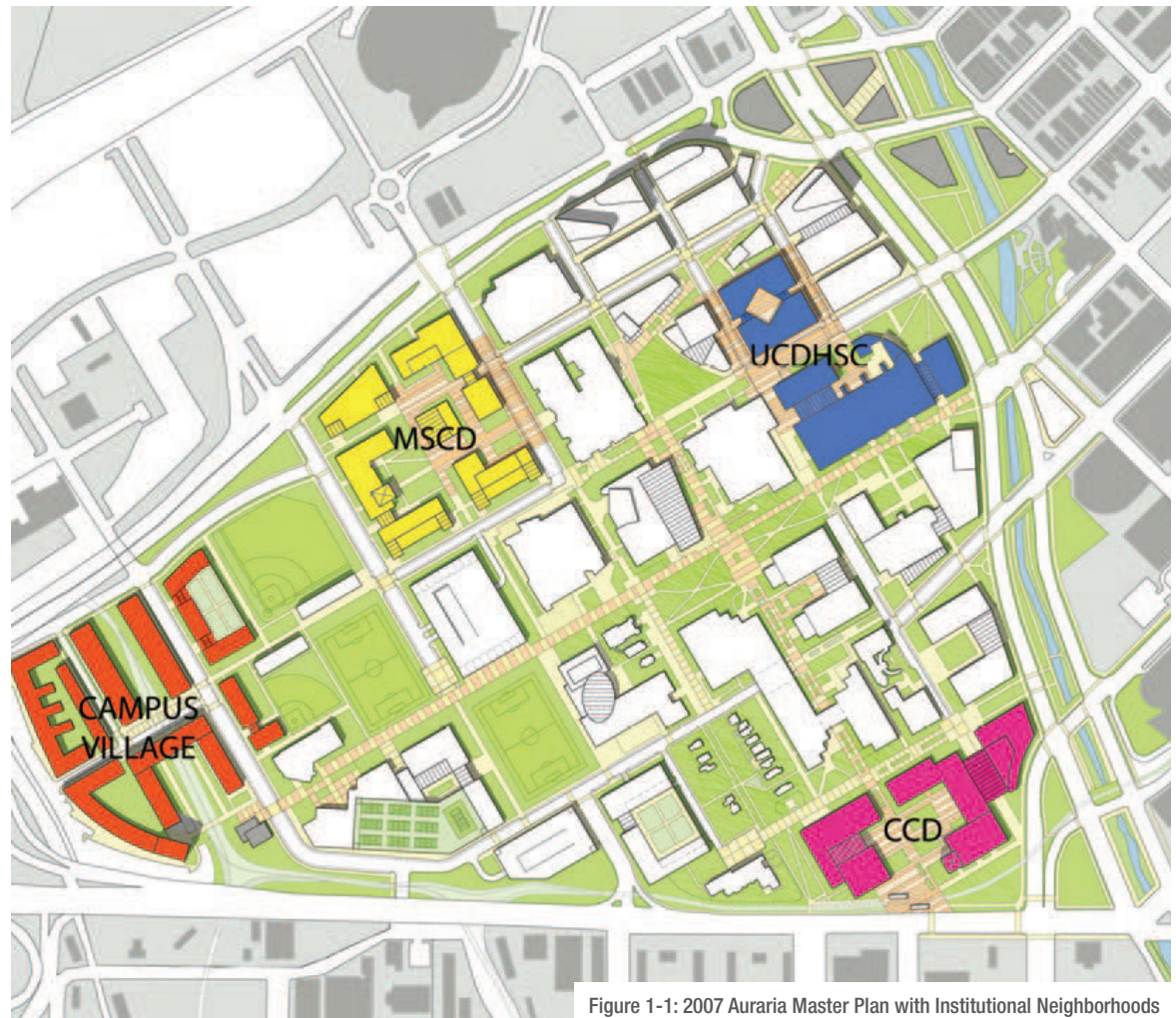


Figure 1-1: 2007 Auraria Master Plan with Institutional Neighborhoods

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The University of Colorado Denver is a dynamic institution with a strong history of seizing opportunities. Innovative and adaptive, CU Denver has for decades provided a quality education to undergraduate and graduate students who seek to learn in a diverse and engaging urban environment.

CU Denver originated in 1912 as an extension of the University of Colorado Boulder. In 1973, it gained independence within the CU System and, soon after, became one of three institutions to share the campus known as the Auraria Higher Education Center.

Today, CU Denver enrolls more than 15,000 students. While the Auraria institutions are valued partners, substantial growth over the last decade has enabled CU Denver to create a distinctive identity and gain a measure of autonomy.

- In 2007, the **Auraria Master Plan** ushered in the concept of institutional neighborhoods on the Auraria Campus and designated the area along Speer Boulevard, directly adjacent to Denver's central business district, as the CU Denver Neighborhood..
- CU Denver acquired three buildings in downtown Denver. The **CU Denver Building**, purchased in 2006, is home to the College of Architecture and Planning and lies directly adjacent to Larimer Square. The **Lawrence Street Center**, also purchased in 2006, houses the School of Public Affairs, the School of Education & Human Development, and many administrative units. The **Business School**, which reaches into the heart of downtown, was purchased

in 2008 and renovated to accommodate and consolidate the school's various programs, departments and centers.

- The **Campus Village Apartments** opened in 2006. For the first time, CU Denver students could live on campus and have a traditional, residential college experience. The Campus Village Apartments are managed by CU Denver.
- **Student Commons** was built in 2014 and consolidated student services into one location. As the first CU Denver-owned building constructed on the Auraria Campus, Student Commons anchors the CU Denver neighborhood.
- **North Classroom**, home to much of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering and Applied Science, underwent a significant renovation that updated nearly 1/3 of the classrooms used institution-wide by CU Denver. This project will be completed in 2018.
- A number of recent initiatives are contributing to a distinct CU Denver character and a more robust student community. In 2011, students voted to create a CU Denver-specific mascot and Milo the Lynx was introduced in 2013. In 2015, they initiated and led a referendum to construct the **Student Wellness Center**, a facility devoted to enriching all dimensions of wellness for CU Denver students. It will open in 2018. Club sports are also expanding and now include 14 teams.

This master plan, the first one ever undertaken specifically for CU Denver, sets its sights on the next ten years. The plan is guided by three principles, which have informed its physical recommendations (see Figure 1-2 for a map of the project recommendations).

**1. CU Denver will grow over the next ten years, and the university must take steps to accommodate that growth.**

The Facilities Master Plan establishes 2025 enrollment targets for overall student headcount of 25,000, and on-campus headcount enrollment of 18,060. These are increases from the fall 2015 headcounts of 19,046 overall students and 12,873 on-campus students.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Building (1), the Instructional Lab Wing (5), CU Denver Building Renovation (9), and Business School Phase II (2) have been long-standing priorities of the institution. These projects all address critical needs for high-quality instructional lab and research space, state-of-the-art classrooms, and adaptable office space.

**2. CU Denver will enhance student life for current and future students. This includes elevating student success and providing more and better housing options for students.**

A survey conducted as part of the Facilities Master Plan identified a current demand for 1,271 beds (701 including the 570 beds occupied by CU Denver students in Campus Village). If the 10-year enrollment targets are met, that demand will increase to 1,795 beds (1,225 including the 570 beds occupied by CU Denver students in Campus Village).

The First Year Residence Hall with Dining (3) will provide additional housing options, and renovations to the Tivoli Student Union (8) and Student Commons (11) will result in more efficient and seamless student services.

**3. CU Denver will embrace its role as a significant contributor to the economic, social and cultural vitality of the metropolitan Denver region.**

Representatives on the master plan committees overwhelmingly recommended a strategy of development that looks beyond the sites available to CU Denver on the Auraria Campus.

The development of the Nexus Site (4) represents an opportunity for additional housing on a highly-visible site that will connect the CU Denver downtown and Auraria neighborhoods. The redevelopment of the CU Denver Building Annex (6) seeks to maximize an under-developed asset and strengthen the Larimer Street corridor leading into the CU Denver neighborhood.

The next ten years are ripe with opportunity for the University of Colorado Denver. With this Facilities Master Plan as a guide, the university is well-positioned to build upon the successes of the recent past and set a pathway for a bold future for **CU in the City**.



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