Introduction

Master Plan Purpose
Why a Campus Master Plan?

The purpose of the Master Plan at the University of Illinois at Chicago is to translate UIC's strategic goals and objectives into a compelling and achievable vision for the UIC campus. This master planning process is founded on the premise that a campus exists as a place for all people who regularly interact with the campus, including those who attend as students, who serve as education and research professionals, and who live in the surrounding community among others. High-quality campuses are organized to foster and inspire personal, physical, and intellectual growth. They are incubators for interdisciplinary learning. The campus should be a clear statement of the institution's self-image. For clarity herein, we refer to the institution of the University of Illinois at Chicago as UIC and the entirety of the built environment as the campus.

The consultant team, led by Booth Hansen and Hargreaves Associates, has been engaged to develop a vision and framework plan that can be used to guide activities aimed at improving the existing campus and developing new facilities and site improvements. This Master Plan is a physically based plan that has a twenty to thirty year horizon.

The objectives of the Master Plan are to:

- Guide physical development of campus to support the Academic Mission
- Raise Aspirations
- Capitalize on the synergy of new leadership, recent strategic planning efforts, and maturation of the original campus plans
- Create a framework for short term (three to five year) minimum capital projects (Immediate Impact Projects) that are a part of a thirty year vision

UIC Master Plan Vision Statement

The UIC Campus of the Future will be a public destination that integrates the learning environment for scholarship with the urban vitality of a global Chicago. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, collaborators, visitors, neighbors, donors, friends, potential development partners and other stakeholders will experience a vibrant campus – featuring sustainable buildings and landscapes – that engages the learner, satisfies the curious, inspires the creative and attracts the passerby.
– UIC Master Plan Advisory Committee

Process

The Master Plan process will establish a framework for coordinating development and physical change at UIC that not only takes advantage of the unique existing assets but provides a clear vision for future aspirations. A successful master plan is intended to guide development incrementally, implemented partially in successive phases. The University community should develop a clear understanding of the plan's basic principles and concepts, so that the Master Plan remains as an active document after plan writing meetings have ended. This is accomplished by encouraging participation and consensus throughout the planning process so that the University can proceed with confidence.   The process is an open, inclusive process that allows all ideas to be heard and critically evaluated, naturally results in the selection of the best plan. The Master Plan process for UIC is divided into three distinct but related phases. The process started with understanding the campus context and issues, follows with the testing of a range of plan approaches, and will be completed with the full development of a preferred Master Plan.

Phase 1 : Understanding the Campus Context

Phase 1 began with a base information review of UIC documents and photographic and observational data collection to acquire physical information. Concurrently, the Advisory Committee and the consultant team met with many constituents to understand strategic issues. The process of understanding both physical and strategic issues led to the development of many diagrams of the existing campus. The Phase 1 Report is available on the UIC Master Plan website at www.uic.edu/master_plan/planning _documents.htm

Phase 2 : APPROACHES - Alternates & Preferred Plan

Phase 2 focuses on the prompt development of several Approaches to test the conditions necessary to create a framework for long-term campus development. As the East Side and the West Side each have their unique issues, they remain divided herein and approaches are tailored to the specific side. This stage examines each of the approaches and anticipates the impacts of future campus development alternatives at a conceptual, comparative level.

Phase 2: **APPROACHES - Alternates & Preferred Plan (cont.)**

Physical diagrams for three different strategic plan Approaches for each Side developed early on in the process. A Preferred Plan for each Side, which combines aspects of each of the three Approaches, was created and will be the basis for development in Phase 3. In addition, overarching issues of Campus Connections, between Sides and to the City, were identified. Also, Immediate Impact Projects were identified as short term, low capital improvements which could be implemented in the short term.
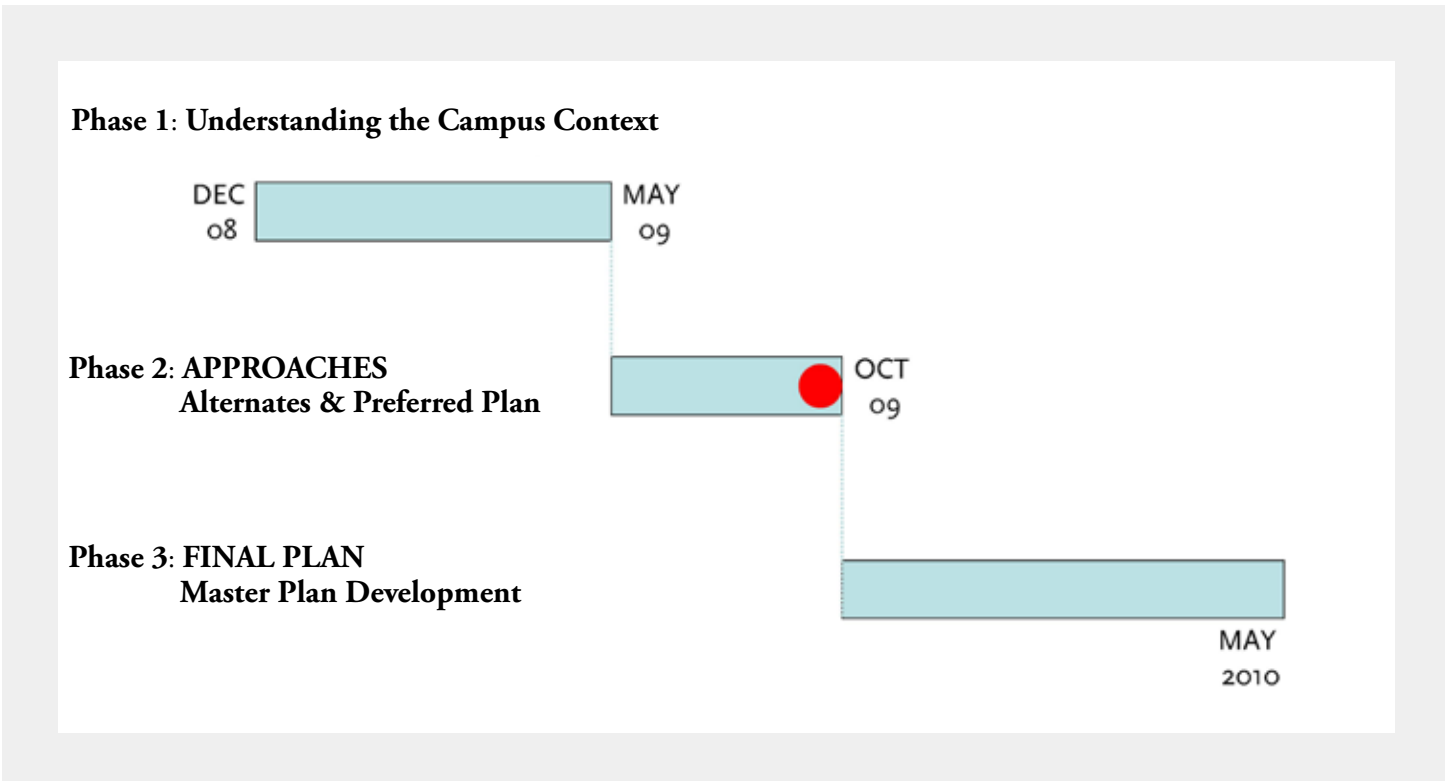
This **Phase 2 Report** is a documentation of the process of testing Approaches, anticipating the impacts of future campus Approaches, reviewing district or land use alternatives through site and building program accommodations, previewing spatial effects, and understanding the advantages and disadvantages of the ideas. It has been presented to the Executive, Advisory and Core Committee members. This Report is the written and graphic conclusion of Phase 2 of the Master Plan. The Appendix to this report is a collection of supporting research and data that informed the development process behind the Approaches.

Phase 3 : FINAL PLAN –Master Plan Development

After preliminary re-evaluation, and institutional approval, we will further develop the Phase 2 Preferred Plan for each Side. Within the refinement of the preferred approach, component alternates will be evaluated before yielding THE Preferred Plan for final development and presentation. The Preferred Plans will consist of a series of interrelated plan components, each addressing a particular set of decisions and accommodations. The Preferred Plans will define approaches for land use, circulation, program use distribution (academic, administrative, athletic, parking, residential, common, etc.), building density/massing/coverage, open space and landscape plans. Priorities will be developed for the Preferred Plan for each Side, for interrelated Campus Connections and for Immediate Impact Projects.

TIMELINE

This timeline indicates the overall schedule of the three phases of the Master Plan process. This Report is the completion of Phase 2 where Approaches were developed, ideas debated, and a master plan direction has emerged as the Preferred Plan. The final acceptance of this Master Plan by the Board of Trustees will be sought in Spring 2010.

Phase 1: **Understanding the Campus Context**

DEC 08   MAY 09

Phase 2: **APPROACHES**
Alternates & Preferred Plan

OCT 09

Phase 3: **FINAL PLAN**
Master Plan Development

MAY 2010

Figure 12.1   Competing Architectural Expressions

Figure 12.4   Isolation of campus from city with perimeter parking lots

Figure 12.7   Create campus gateway at perimeter parking lots

Figure 12.2   Link new neighborhoods to existing

Figure 12.5   Reinforce campus connection streets

Figure 12.8   Define campus edges

Figure 12.3   Define campus centers

Figure 12.6   Make through connections to existing campus centers

Figure 12.9   Redevelop campus shuttle bus to be efficient, timely, recognizable campus shuttle bus

Issues

The Issues gathered during Phase 1 have led to the generation of Master Plan Goals indicated on the following pages. The Issues indicated here in photographs are within three framework categories: Layering Campus Ideas, Disconnections and Sense of Place. A complete list of Issues as originally stated that represents the recurring views of the participants is available in the Phase 1 Report pages 54-56 on the master plan website at www.uic.edu/master_plan/planning _documents.htm.

Layering Campus Ideas (Campus Planning Objectives)

The East and West Sides of campus are each composed of fragments of different and competing previous Campus Master Plans. This created disjointed architectural expressions and unintended interstitial open spaces contributing to a fractured whole (Fig. 12.1- 12.3).

SENSE OF PLACE

BARRIERS / BOUNDARIES	OPEN SPACE	PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION	IMAGE	ACTIVITY / 24-7 CAMPUS

Figure 13.1 Remove Barriers: Fenced-In Buildings

Figure 13.4 Create safer pedestrian circulation

Figure 13.7 Update graphic identity of campus

Figure 13.2 Improve campus building identification

Figure 13.5 Useful open spaces and furniture

Figure 13.8 Dark glass buildings hinder a 24/7 campus environment

Figure 13.3 Opportunity for connective greenway space

Figure 13.6 Improve pedestrian oriented streetscapes

Figure 13.9 Enhance winter campus environment

DISCONNECTIONS

The East and West Sides of campus are disconnected both from each other and the surrounding city. At an urban scale, zones of isolation, the lack of visual connections, and the lack of connecting transportation routes highlight this issue (Figs. 12.4-12.9).

SENSE OF PLACE

The East and West Sides of campus each lack a compelling "sense of place" and a strong institutional identity.   The thresholds, barriers and open spaces of the campus need attention, at a more tangible human scale. To better identify UIC, edge definition and signage need to be closely examined. The experience of the pedestrian must be considered as the campus evolves into a more urban institution with more 24/7 services and activities (Figs. 13.1-13.9).

Goals

The Goals for the Master Plan were derived from the Issues gathered during Phase 1 as indicated on the previous pages. These Goals form the overall guiding principles of the Plan.

Cohesion & Clarity

Integrate Buildings and Spaces

The relationships of building mass to open spaces should be developed to provide a consistent urban campus that maintains within its boundaries significant green spaces that provide a connection to the buildings. Overall, a consistent image that indicates the quality and excellence of UIC must be provided.

Define & Establish Campus "Core"

Each Side of campus has an area that is capable of being the center of that side of campus physically and programmatically. The Plan should further redefine and reinforce those cores to create a premier open space.

Define Entry Points / Edges

There should be defined senses of entry onto campus that help develop the physical identity of "being at UIC."

Connections

Provide Connective Transit (Within Campus & to the City)

To make a more cohesive campus connecting the East and West Sides, the Plan should provide many effective transit connections. Improved bike routes on and around campus should make better use of the emerging city bike network. The campus' connection with the City should be developed with intermodal concepts to include planning for new facilities near mass transit stations and major bus routes.

Connect Existing Public Spaces

UIC has many existing outdoor open public spaces. These spaces should be connected to one another with green spaces of equal quality that enhance the pedestrian experience and provide a welcoming and safe environment.

Connections (continued)

Reinforce Pedestrian Circulation

The Plan should look at every aspect of the pedestrian experience on campus including the relationship with vehicles and bikes. Solutions to conflicts between the heavily used on-campus pedestrian paths and the city street system need to be developed.

Sense of Place

Remove Barriers / Define Boundaries

Open spaces should be easy to move into and out of to encourage people to use them for recreation, socialization, and the exchange of ideas. Certain barriers should be removed and others reinforced to define boundaries.

Create Meaningful Open Spaces

A coherent and attractive network of open spaces should be created to enrich the experience of an urban university. All open spaces should be planned with a purpose. They should be a pedestrian asset. They should emphasize ecological sustainability and have all-season interest.

Define Visual Identity

Reinforce the identity of both Sides of campus as a single integrated campus through unified exterior graphics and aesthetics. A new signage and wayfinding system along with a consistent landscape approach and quality architecture should allow visitors and the campus community to recognize their surroundings as "UIC".

Encourage 24 / 7 Activities

The Plan should advocate for appropriate locations for 24/7 centers of activity that support the campus community. In order to provide a safe and secure area for extended hours, select zones on each side of campus shall be identified to consolidate activities. A "critical mass" of on-campus residential options should be organized to develop a vibrant community that promotes interaction and collaboration among the diverse population of the University.