



# Introduction & Context

**“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 and 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 Campus Master Plan Vision Statement**

Master Plan Advisory Committee

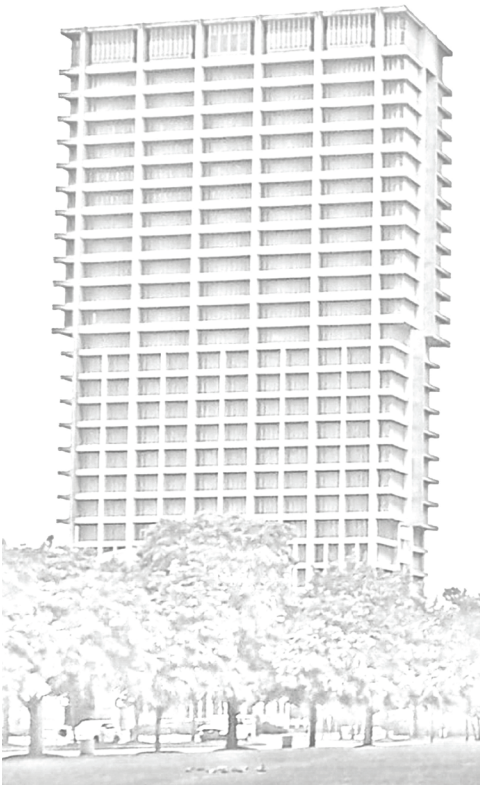
November 26, 2008

## INTRODUCTION

The 2010 UIC Campus Master Plan provides a framework for campus development over the next thirty to forty years. The campus plan is a network of interconnected systems which makes recommendations and guidelines regarding landscape, architectural planning, infrastructure and the environment. UIC's campus is uniquely situated in the middle of a dense urban area while at the same time having open area available for green spaces and recreation /athletic uses. UIC is a dynamic university with great diversity that provides the highest level of research and academic pursuit. The physical environs shall support the core values and intellectual activities and will shape the interactions of the campus population. This Campus Master Plan envisions a campus with enhanced green spaces that are varied and natural while being both accessible and maintainable providing memorable places for people to interact, relax, and refresh. The Plan provides for definition of campus edges while making better connections to the surrounding neighborhoods. All of this strives to provide for a more coherent campus experience that is comfortable, livable, and memorable. The campus shall continue to be architecturally innovative while being environmentally sustainable. It is the role of this plan to shape and help responsibly manage new development opportunities that lie ahead and to envision a future with revisions to the existing campus fabric.

## ORGANIZATION OF PHASE 3 REPORT

Starting with the overall long-term vision as identified by the Campus Master Plan, this report recognizes the success of this plan relies on its ability to provide a framework for immediate projects which can impact the campus environment as soon as possible. This Phase 3 report follows the publication of the detailed analysis of the campus context and issues (Phase 1) and the many approaches reviewed (Phase 2). On the following pages, we begin a summary of the context of the campus, issues, and master plan goals. The complete Campus Master Plan is then described with key elements, all the systems that span across the entire campus (circulation connections, campus element, typologies), and sustainability. In order to provide more detailed information and visions of specific places on campus, the West and East Sides are presented with enlarged plans and a before and after format for several of the key places on campus. Within the West Side detailed plans is an alternate approach that locates the growth of the Medical Center in an area north of Roosevelt Road. Secondly, recommendations of connections, sequencing, and new landscape typologies are indicated. Looking at more detail of each side of campus in the Key Elements section, “before and after” images indicate how specific places can be transformed. Lastly, projects that can be completed for lower capital and that will provide impact in the short term are in the Immediate Impact Projects section. In the Appendix, details are provided in technical sections related to specific components of campus, such as building and open site information, parking, transportation recommendations and mixed-use development analysis.





# 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 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. 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, worked collaboratively with UIC to develop this 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 thirty to forty year horizon.

The planning principles for the 2010 UIC Campus Master Plan are:

- Guide physical development of campus to support the Academic Mission
- 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) low capital projects (Immediate Impact Projects) that are a part of a thirty year vision
- Raise Aspirations



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To develop a comprehensive understanding of issues affecting current campus life and to hear ideas on how to shape those issues in the future, the master plan team engaged in a process of listening to the campus community and the surrounding neighborhoods especially those linked between the East and West Sides of campus. Listed below are some of the many efforts put forth to engage the community and seek consensus around common issues.

8 Town Hall Meetings and 1 Community Forum

162 Outside Organizations invited to Community Forum and 4 Town Hall meetings

30+ Meetings with Campus Organizations

20 Individual Campus Leader Interviews

16 Advisory Committee Meetings

7 Core Planning Team Meetings

9 Executive Committee Meetings



2 Interactive College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs Open Houses (141 participants)

677 Student Survey Responses

2 Graduate Level Courses

Master Planning Website

3,050 Absolute Unique Visitors

7,903 Visits

23,224 Page Views

Weekly Master Planning Blog

2,931 Absolute Unique Visitors

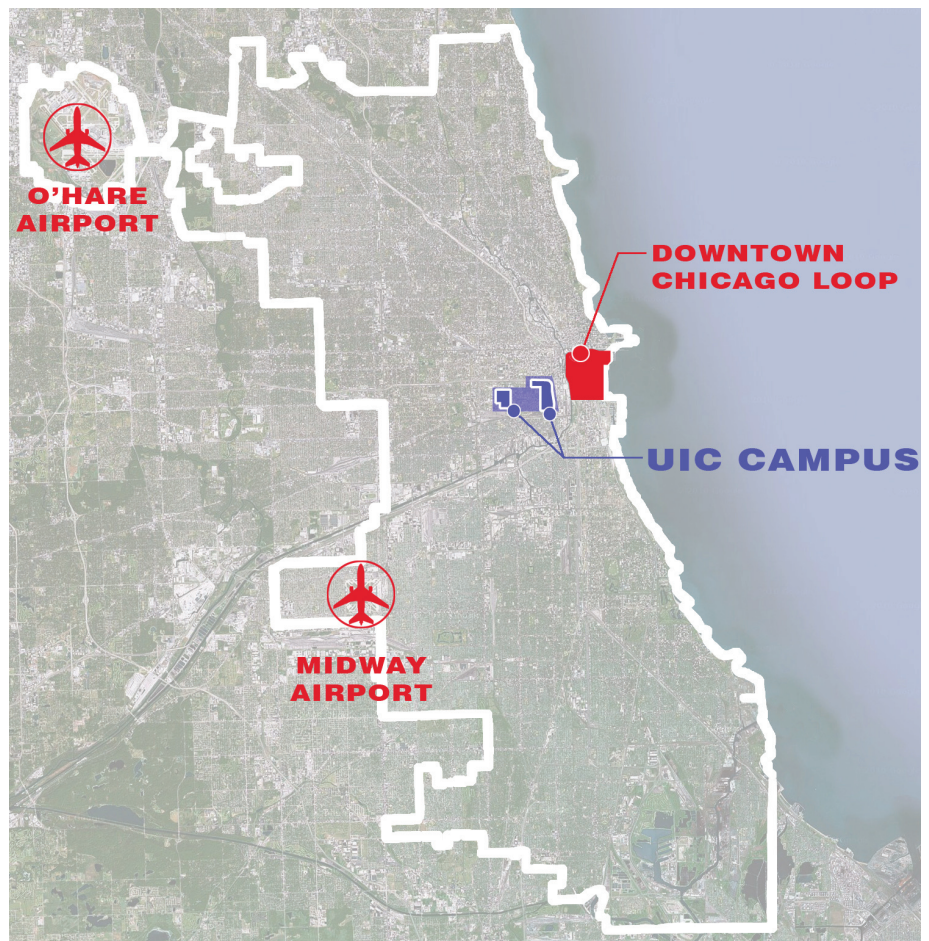
4,118 Visits

6,572 Page Views

# CONTEXT

## CAMPUS IN THE CITY

UIC is situated in a prime urban location that takes advantage of the opportunities and needs presented to it by the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago. Located close to major global connectors such as O'Hare and Midway airports in addition to the major business and financial center of the Midwest, the Loop, UIC can continue being a premier urban institution and a world class university. The campus is located at a junction of two major expressways and within diverse neighborhoods. The adjacent neighborhoods contribute to the life and urban vibrancy of campus. Many different types of adjoining communities abut the campus along with major city arterial streets.

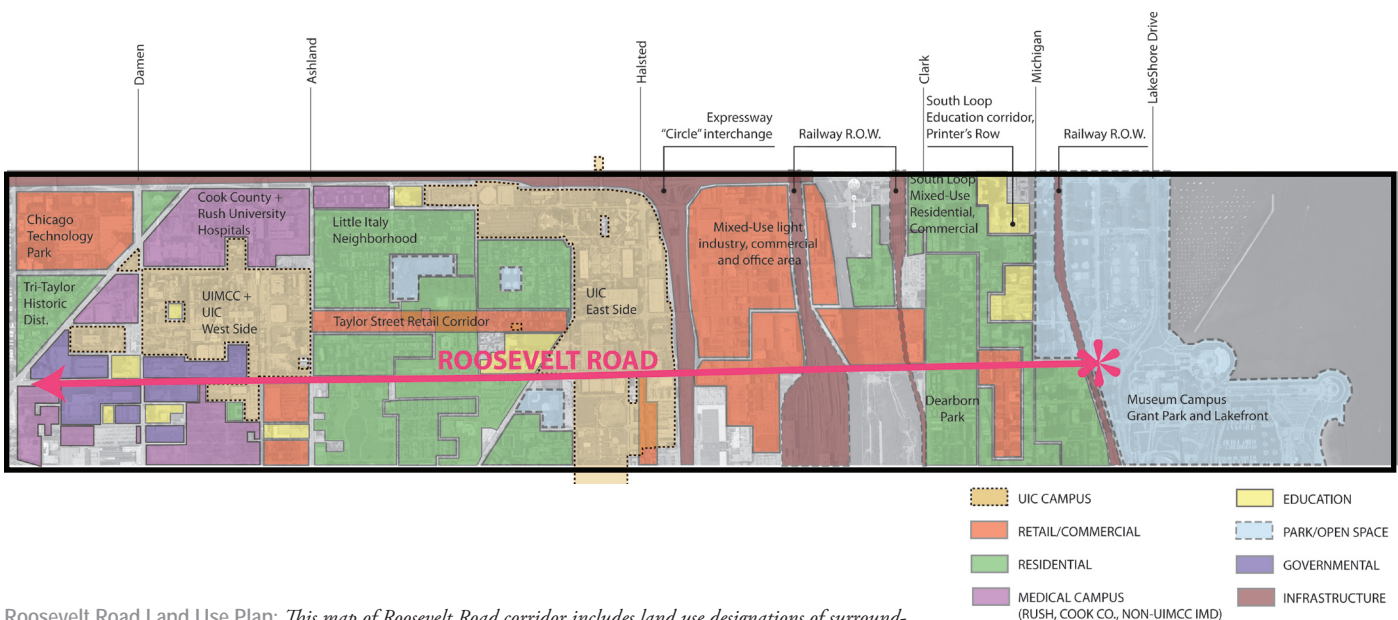




## CONNECTING TO CITY



The city of Chicago has ongoing plans for Roosevelt Road as a major civic “signature” street with districts of residential, educational, and institutional uses and as a “sub-regional shopping anchor” along its route. Increased density of residential and retail development are resulting in greater volumes of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian foot traffic within this corridor. The visual streetscape character of Roosevelt Road will be at a higher quality level as the result of investment by the city in the expressway bridge designs and streetscape landscape.



*Roosevelt Road Land Use Plan: This map of Roosevelt Road corridor includes land use designations of surrounding properties, neighborhoods and the connections to the east of campus and Chicago's Central Area.*



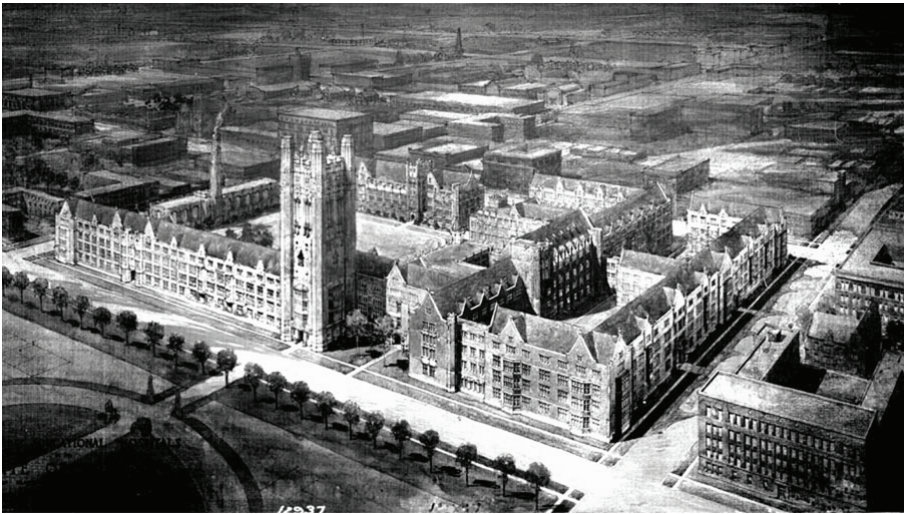
# CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

## HOW DID THIS ALL BEGIN?

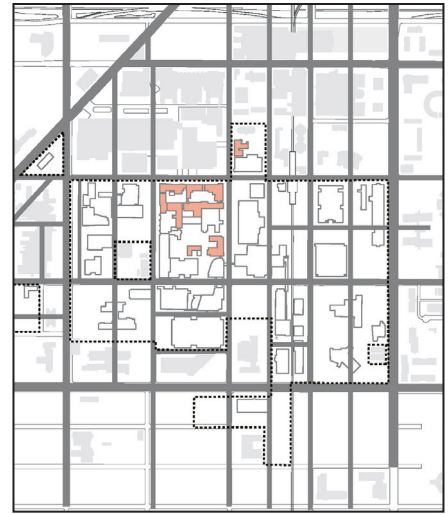
The University of Illinois at Chicago has developed in many ways, for complementary and competing interests, and for varied programmatic uses for close to a century. An understanding of the evolving patterns and relationships is essential to any attempt to add, change, or enhance the physical campus. The two “Sides” of campus, West and East, have evolved independently for much of their existence and must be understood both separately and together.

The West Side reflects changing ideas about urban campus planning, hospital technology and city zoning regulations. Adding to this diversity, the West Side contains buildings that were built by the university (in its many incarnations) and several buildings acquired by the university after they were built. The West Side began as independent health care institutions built in the mid-19th century and joined the University of Illinois in the early 20th century. The first comprehensive master plan for the Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy in 1925 (upper right) consisted of narrow medical buildings around the perimeter of a city block, defining a series of internal connected courtyards. This master plan had a clear idea of how to create a campus that responded to the city, or an “urban campus.”

On the East Side, Walter Netsch of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill created a new campus with a master plan which provided a clear visionary concept that guided its initial development. Approached as an urban renewal opportunity, parts of the existing city fabric, mainly streets and blocks, were removed to make way for the new campus. Netsch’s original diagram for the master plan was based on a series of concentric programmatic rings that would arrange new buildings that promote interdisciplinary activity and help to foster a campus-wide academic community. Between 1963 and 1965, his unique plan was realized (lower right).



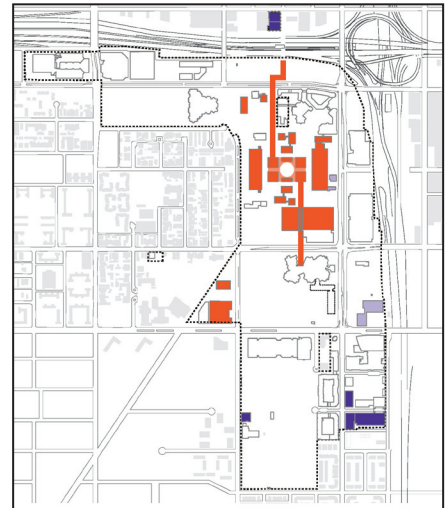
*West Side Master Plan: This rendering of the 1925 Master Plan of the medical campus was the initial concept of the building massing and design. Part of this plan was enacted and is visible today with the College of Medicine East and West Towers.*



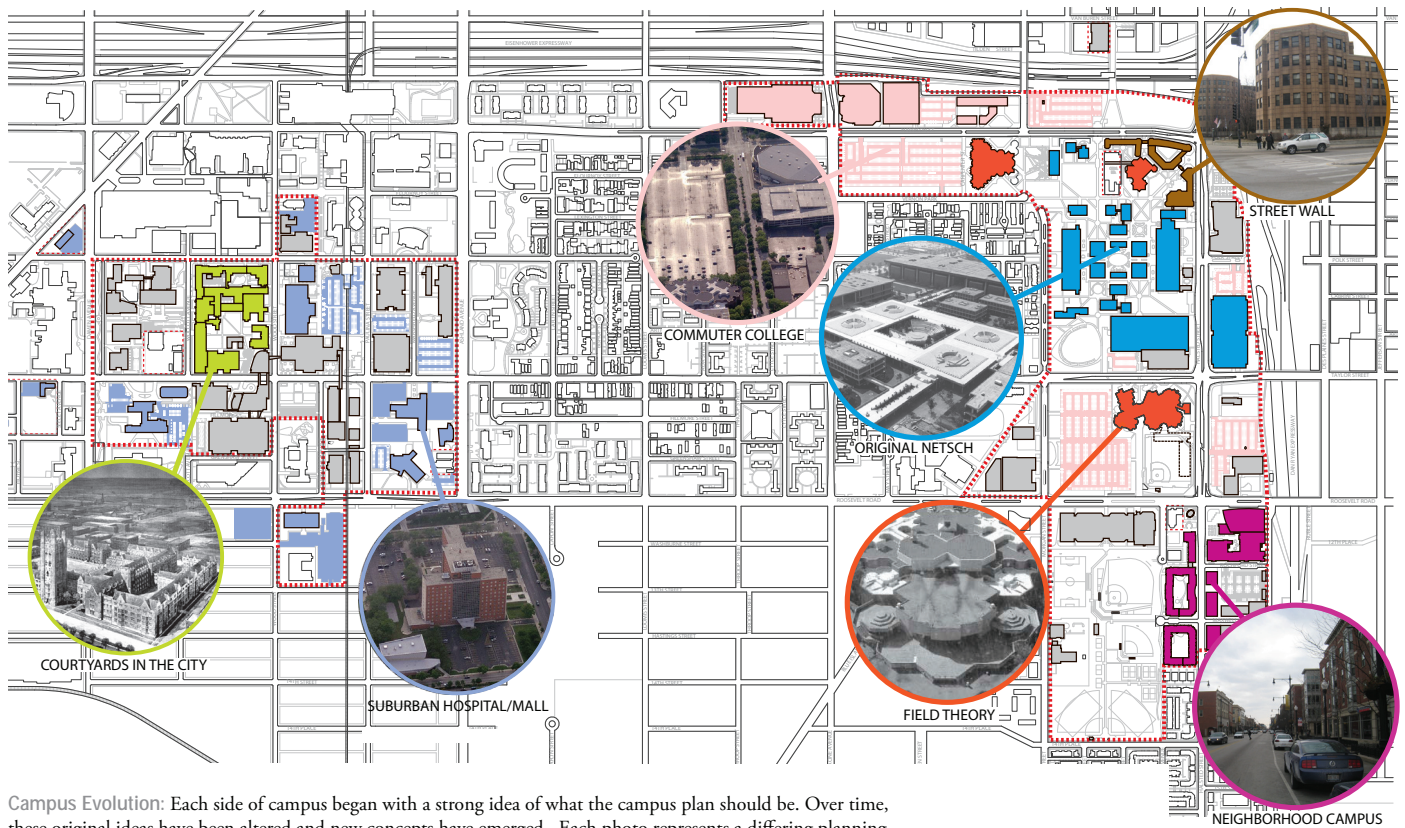
*1940 West Side Plan: This plan of the original street grid indicates the urban character and the initial buildings of the medical campus.*



*East Side Master Plan: This model of the 1965 Master Plan of the East Side was the initial concept of the building massing and design by Walter Netsch of SOM. Most of this plan was enacted and is visible today; however, several modifications have taken place including the removal of the second floor walkway system.*



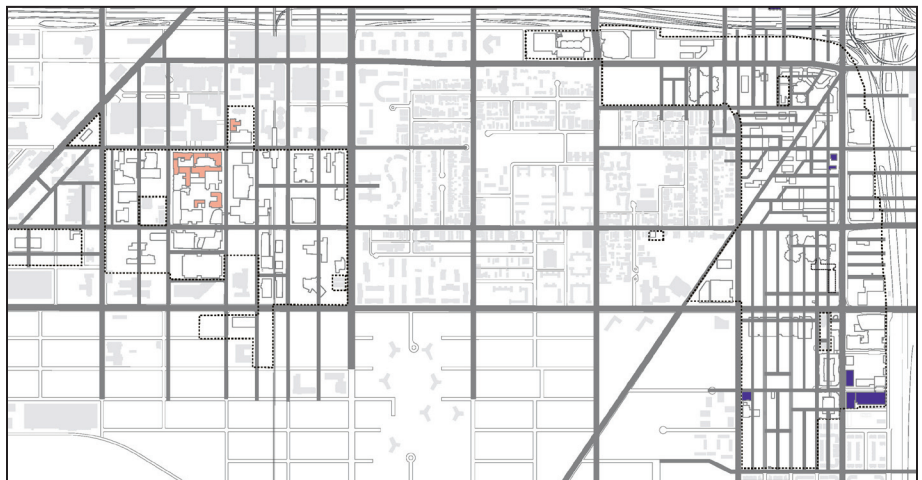
*1965 East Side Plan: This plan indicates the urban renewal of the original Netsch Master Plan with many streets and blocks removed.*



**Campus Evolution:** Each side of campus began with a strong idea of what the campus plan should be. Over time, these original ideas have been altered and new concepts have emerged. Each photo represents a differing planning objective that is visible on campus today.

## ISSUES

Since their inception, the West and East Sides have evolved relatively independently. UIC is now presented with an opportunity to more fully connect the two sides and create a sense of place with a more coherent definition of one entire campus. The West Side started as a campus for the medical college in a complex of buildings that was a seamless continuation of the city, with buildings sited close to the street within defined city blocks. Central courtyards within the blocks provided places for campus gathering. Conversely, the East Side began with the original 1960's Master Plan of Walter Netsch, who wanted to make a passionate architectural statement about the urban future of campuses. His intent was to create an "instant" campus emblematic of a new, more democratic higher education system. An infrastructure and circulation framework was constructed so individual building elements could be "plugged in" as the campus developed over time. However, some of the key components of that plan, most notably the second level connectors, were subsequently removed for maintenance and safety concerns, leaving a campus environment that does not fulfill Netsch's original goals, and one with additional issues.



**Neighborhood At Campus Inception:** This plan of the neighborhood and street grid in 1940 indicates the urban character and the initial buildings of the medical campus on the West Side.

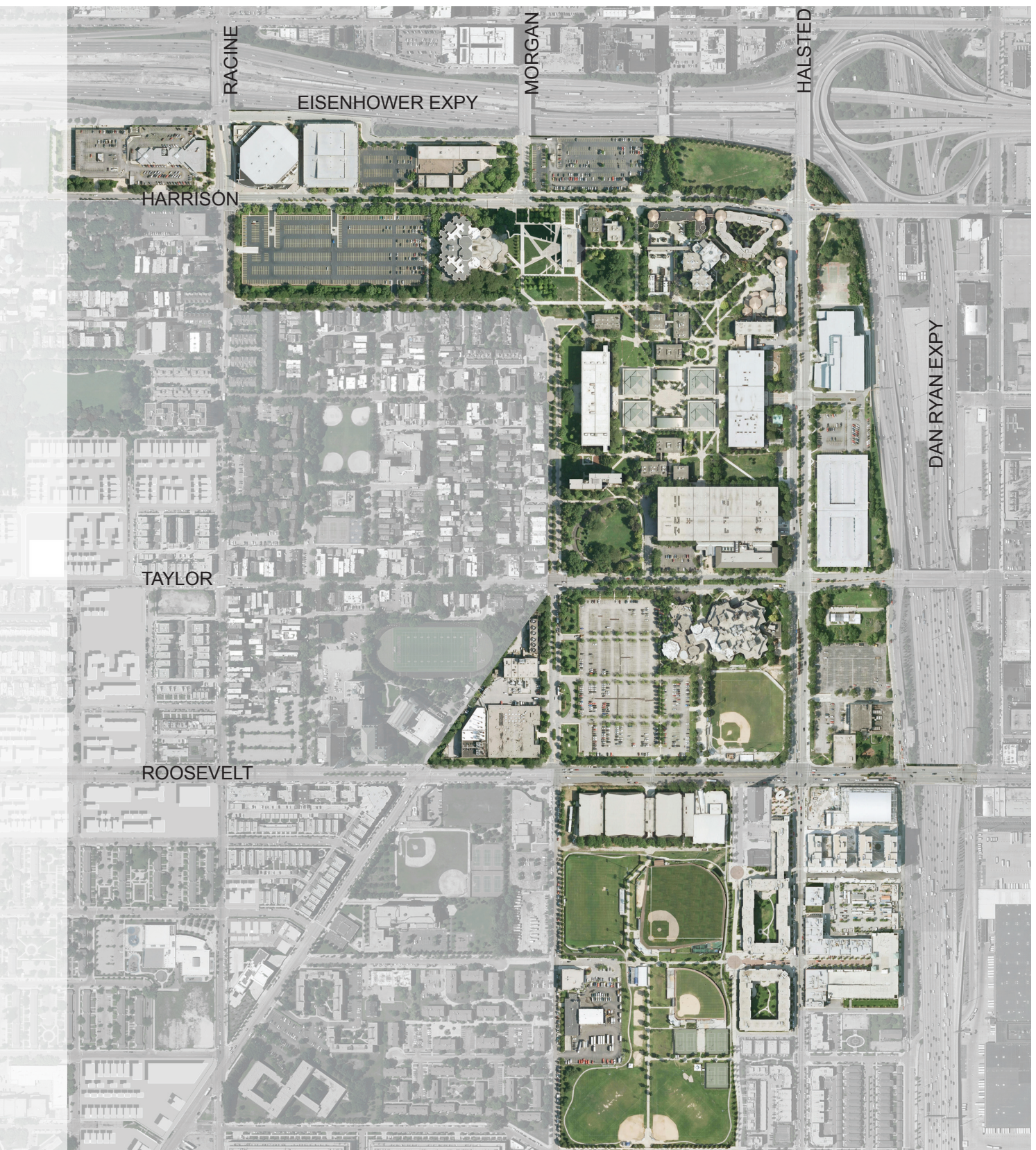




## Existing Campus Plan

This aerial plan of the campus today indicates the two sides of campus in color and the surrounding neighborhoods in muted tones. The two sides are physically separated and lack a defined perimeter making the campus boundaries difficult to detect.







# ISSUES

## COHESION

At many of the entry points to campus, visitors to campus are confronted with places of isolation (zones of inactive use such as parking lots), residual open space, or buildings that make no attempt to address this point as a gateway. The campus is systematically transitioning from a commuter college campus where no one lived on campus or in adjacent neighborhoods to a very diverse urban research university that provides more extended hours (24/7) activities, services, and amenities. This is possible due to the fact that currently over 15% of the students live on campus, many more live in the neighborhoods within 5 miles and an even larger majority utilize mass transit options to get to campus.



**The Quad:** This north view of the existing conditions indicates a vast paved area with landscape contained within large concrete planters and fixed concrete benches. Existing Lecture Halls with solid blank walls block views to the rest of campus.



**Ashland-Taylor West Side entry:** This campus entry view looking west does not indicate arrival at UIC. Parking lots flank both sides of Taylor Street while the modern Outpatient Care Center is in the distant background.



West Side Campus Sign: This ground mounted campus “gateway” sign has two different names and graphic logos.

## LACKING CLARITY

The campus currently has many differing styles of campus signage and wayfinding graphics. This leads to a lack of clarity in knowing when one is on the UIC campus. In addition to the many different styles, the existing signage does convey the tradition and mission of the University and recedes into the visual background. An effort to standardize the signage system, and location of building identification has led to conflicts with pedestrian paths and is not oriented toward the many forms of transportation on campus.



Signs and Environmental Graphics at entrance to Physical Education Building: This view shows several different graphic designs and colors including placement of a sign in the middle of an entry path.



UIC Forum Signage

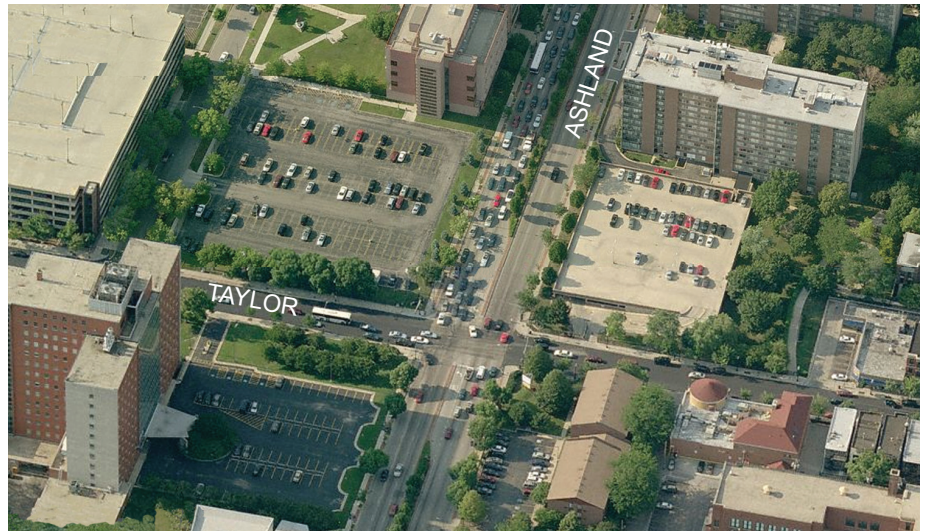


# ISSUES

## TWO SIDES ARE DISCONNECTED

The neighborhood between the East and West Sides of campus, Little Italy, separates the two sides of campus by approximately one mile. Barriers and inefficient transportation systems exist to make movement from each side cumbersome and not inviting.

At the ends of Taylor Street, between the two sides, the most direct connector street, parking lots and fenced areas are currently part of the “gateways” into campus. These two ends do not welcome or facilitate entry to campus and therefore contribute to disconnection.



**Ashland-Taylor West Side entry:** This aerial view of this entry point does not clearly indicate arrival at UIC. Parking lots flank both sides of Taylor Street as the character of the street changes from three story rowhouses to large institutional structures.



**Morgan-Taylor Street Intersection:** Looking east at this portal to the East Side along the primary connector between two sides of campus, landscaping is quite dense, fences are barriers for pedestrian access (on left side of photo), and parking lots reduce density along the street edge.



Student Center West entry area: The use of concrete for paving, benches and receptacles along with residual landscapes lead to a lack of any memorable, comfortable space to linger and meet with people.



UIC Halsted CTA Blue Line station: As a primary entry from rapid transit, this does not indicate “gateway”.



West Side mid-block pedestrian path: This path is heavily used by students, faculty, and medical center staff to get from buildings to parking and trains.

## PLACES THAT ARE NOT INVITING

There are a number of places on campus that are not inviting and discourage use. Analysis revealed an abundance of pavement, particularly concrete, and insufficient vegetation, capped by an overall lack of campus landscape identity. Generally, the site furniture is made of pre-cast concrete and the site lighting overemphasizes the vehicular experience to the detriment of the pedestrian’s. All of these components lead people to move quickly through campus and to avoid lingering or enjoying outdoor spaces.



Science & Engineering South entry: This entry to the building also is part of the major north-south pedestrian axis.

# PLAN OBJECTIVES

Guided by the goals of UIC strategic planning, the Campus Master Plan aspires to create a physical environment that will become a destination for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, fully supporting UIC's role as one of the nation's premier urban public research universities.

## COHESION & CLARITY

### INTEGRATE BUILDINGS & OPEN SPACES

The Campus Master Plan will present a cohesive urban campus that maintains significant green spaces with clear connections to buildings. The quality of the campus environment will align with UIC's deeply held principle of "Access to Excellence."

### DEFINE & ESTABLISH THE CAMPUS CORE

At the core of each side of campus will be a premier open space where people will want to gather, exchange ideas, participate in activities, or simply enjoy campus life.

### DEFINE ENTRY POINTS & EDGES

Located in the heart of the city and surrounded for the most part by open borders, UIC is already an accessible urban campus. New gateways at major points of entry to the campus will announce UIC's presence more clearly. These locations and all campus boundaries will feature an enhanced campus landscape, consistent new signage, and signature identity elements.

## CONNECTIONS

### REINFORCE PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Every aspect of the pedestrian experience, especially relationships with vehicles and bicycles, will be improved to ease movement throughout campus. Solutions will address conflicts between heavily-used pedestrian paths and city streets, and a new wayfinding system will guide visitors to their destinations.

### CONNECT PUBLIC SPACES

Greenways will connect existing and new outdoor public spaces, providing a safe and welcoming environment campus-wide.



