

University House

An event center and work space with residential quarters for the University President

UMCP Foundation Approves Design and Construction Plan

Following a year of planning and architectural and engineering work by a design-build team, the University of Maryland College Park Foundation's Board of Trustees approved the design and construction plan for University House, a facility that will provide event and work space together with residential quarters for the current University president and future presidents and their families.

University House will be constructed slightly to the north and west of the current President's Residence. A comprehensive evaluation by architects and engineers determined that the current residence suffered from major deficiencies that could not be effectively corrected by renovation and expansion. It was determined that construction of a new facility would result in much more functional and efficient space in which the University president could host events and activities designed to enhance the University's stature, establish partnerships and connections to the larger community, and conduct fundraising. The current residence, built in 1956, will be demolished later in the fall.

The design-build team of Barnes Vanze Architects and Forrester Construction Company was selected in December 2010 by the Foundation Board following an "invitation for proposal" process that was highly competitive and resulted in five outstanding finalists. The Trustees used architects, engineers, and construction managers as advisors during the process.

The winning design calls for an integrated structure in which event and other work-related spaces are adjacent to but separate from the private residential quarters. University House will face the campus (i.e., will face east/southeast), unlike the current residence, and the primary entrance route will be the driveway that begins at the traffic circle by the Riggs Alumni Center. The major event space will have a view looking out toward the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

University House will be a prestigious venue for a wide range of presidential events and programs designed to enhance the University's prominence, connections to the larger community, and fundraising efforts. It is anticipated that roughly 100 meetings, events, and other official functions will be held at University House each year.

The facility will feature an "events center" with seating capacity for 125 people and a standing capacity of 350. It will include a full catering kitchen, storage space, handicapped accessible restrooms, and office and work space for staff. Additional public areas in the Center will include the foyer, a living room, a formal dining room that can seat 24, and a gallery hallway that will serve as the transition area to the reception room. University House will be built to LEED Silver standards and will greatly enhance business conducted on behalf of the University of Maryland.

The residential space will include four bedrooms, a study, a kitchen, a family room, a garage, and other basic amenities. The square footage of the space is significantly smaller than the current residence (4,000 sq. ft. compared to 5,600), but the space is much more functional and efficient.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$7.2 million. Of this total, \$5.2 million is for the 10,000 square feet of event and work space, and \$2 million is for the residential space.

The project will be 100 percent funded by the UMCP Foundation through gifts by alumni and friends. About half of the required amount has already been committed by donors. It is anticipated that 30 contributors will provide the bulk of the funds needed. Each year the University receives about 35,000 gifts from alumni, friends, corporations, and friends. In FY11, gifts totaling more than \$105 million were contributed to the University.

Construction will begin in September 2011. University House will be completed during the summer of 2012 and available for presidential events and programs beginning in September 2012.