

Purpose & Scope

The Simonds Commission will serve from April 2012 to October 2012¹, working to further elaborate on the high-level planning and design issues for future development north and west of the main campus. The Commission will have as its foundation the 2012 Master Plan, and will work in tandem with the Campus Design Working Group. The product of the Commission's work will serve as the guidelines for future development in this critical area of expansion for the university.

¹Revised to February 6, 2013

Report Preamble

Carnegie Mellon University has emerged as one of the great success stories in American higher education over the last fifty years. The evolution of the university from a strong, regional institution to a pre-eminent global university is without parallel. Founded by Andrew Carnegie for the sons and daughters of steel workers, the university now educates great minds throughout the world in an array of disciplines, led by our exceptional faculty. Throughout, we have maintained a lean and pragmatic ethos, solving real-world problems through hard work, collaboration, interdisciplinary engagement, and an entrepreneurial spirit that is the envy of even our most elite peer institutions. The built environment at the institution reflects these very core values, intended to create spaces that allow for our greatest engagement in research, learning, service, and community. In addition, our aesthetic ethos is critical to the look and feel of the campus. As we continue to grow, and notably as we move beyond the footprint of the main campus into adjacent communities, the breadth and depth of considerations in any new built or open space is especially critical. **The Simonds Commission was empaneled in 2012 to develop guiding principles that will ensure that new projects, while remaining true to their immediate purpose, are a constructive and contributive part to the larger whole that is the Carnegie Mellon University footprint and influence.** These principles each have their own discrete and pragmatic objectives. As a collective, they help to translate our deeply held core values into the entirety of our built environment and adjacent spaces.

Principles

To Facilitate the Commission's Discussion, the Principles were Grouped into Four Areas:

- **Building**
 - Architecture
 - Safety & Security
 - Sustainability
- **Community Context**
 - Mixed-Use
 - Neighborhood Compatibility
- **Space**
 - Edges, Entrances & Their Connections
 - Open Space
 - Public Art
- **Movement**
 - Multi-Modal Transportation
 - Universal Design

Architecture Principle

Building and landscape design should be innovative and reflect the culture, history, and sensibilities of the university and the distinct place it holds in the city, region, nation, and world. Interior and exterior space design must facilitate student, faculty, and staff activities and interactions; increase connectivity with internal and external communities; and enhance the life of the campus. To this end, consistent urban and campus design leadership should be provided across architectural projects. **Design teams should respond to the existing and emerging needs of academic and research programs; respecting and interpreting the historic Carnegie Mellon architecture in massing, materials, and design in a contemporary manner.** All projects should be firmly rooted in the Sustainability principle and in an understanding of technological advancements that will influence academic and interpersonal engagement.

Designs of individual buildings within a campus district (e.g., North Quad, Historic Core, East Campus) should complement one another, creating a cohesive and consistent campus neighborhood. Projects within the university's surrounding neighborhoods (e.g., Forbes-Craig) should respond to their urban contexts, as described in the Neighborhood Compatibility principle. Landscape design should be integral to all projects, consistent with the Open Space principle.

Process Note: The Board of Trustees Property and Facilities Committee, the Design Review Committee, and professionals in Campus Design and Facility Development (CDFD) will assure that planning and design processes significantly engage campus stakeholders and building "owners" from start to finish. Additionally, the committees and CDFD will steward this principle and the application of it within the context of new construction and major renovation projects.

✓ Approved by the Commission on February 6, 2013

Safety and Security Principle

Design standards and guidelines should embrace the university's overarching values of openness, engagement, collaboration, and community while promoting the safety and security of building occupants and campus and non-campus community members using or visiting buildings. Beyond the standard attention paid to safety and security systems in buildings, thoughtful consideration of a building's purpose, use, and internal and external environments, and consideration of all potential users should inform choices regarding access control; layout and interior design; landscape and external lighting design; and pedestrian, vehicular, and emergency access and circulation.

✓ Approved by the Commission on September 22, 2012

Sustainability Principle

Highest-level environmental sensibilities should be integral to the design, construction, and management of all built and open spaces, consistent with the university's international standing in sustainable and green practices and cutting-edge systems and technologies, with particular emphasis on energy and water efficiency, the life cycle of materials, biodiversity, storm water management, and transportation management.

✓ Approved by the Commission on August 25, 2012

Mixed-Use Principle

The university's broad vision for our community is enhanced by the depth of educational, cultural, social and recreational, and economic connections with adjacent communities. In high public access areas—"streetfronts," sidewalks, major internal and external pedestrian arteries—visibility and easy access to commercial, institutional, and cultural activity should be most prominent, with residential, administrative, academic, and research uses "above and behind." An energized mixed-use environment encourages an appreciation for divergent activities, through visual and aural stimuli, while managing the inherent conflict of potentially contradictory uses. For locations internal to campus, applications of the mixed-use paradigm should be used in context where appropriate.

✓ Approved by the Commission on November 16, 2012

Neighborhood Compatibility Principle

Carnegie Mellon University is an asset to the region, with its internationally renowned educational programs, leading-edge research and technology transfer, cultural programs, and community service; and the vitality of the region is an essential component of our institutional vision. We recognize that our success is interconnected with that of our neighbors—local non-profit institutions, business owners, government, and residential communities—and is supported by convivial and collaborative relationships with them. **To further our collective vitality, urban design principles must be embraced to ensure complementarity of the neighborhoods and the campus in both the built environment and open spaces.** Sustained collaboration will contribute to maintaining a viable blend of functions, leveraging our shared highest-order vision, while strengthening the core focus of each community partner.

Process Note: Consistent with the principles of Mixed Use and Neighborhood Compatibility, the university must continue to maintain strong ongoing relationships with all adjacent neighborhood groups in order to ensure that potential concerns (e.g., lighting, noise, activity, or operations) are addressed in the design process and in ongoing use in a transparent, timely, and sustained manner.

✓ Approved by the Commission on September 22, 2012

Edges, Entrances, and Their Connections Principle

Carnegie Mellon's edges and entrances should be perceptible and facilitate a sense of arrival and place. **Architecture and landscape, rather than signage alone, should allow for subtle yet iconic demarcations to define campus boundaries.** Edges and entrances should be porous, facilitating visual and pedestrian connectivity and emphasizing the university's relationship to its neighborhoods.

Process Note: The quality of material selection, construction, and site maintenance are critical to the university's ability to demarcate these areas.

✓ Approved by the Commission on November 16, 2013

Open Space Principle

Open spaces should communicate the university's values, increase its connectivity within the campus and to adjacent areas, and enhance its cultural life—including offering opportunities for individual reflection, casual conversation, recreation, and academic and student life activities. As such, landscape projects should be designed in concert with building projects; designated as specific program elements (including wayfinding, gateway, and connections needs of the campus); and carefully designed, constructed, and maintained.

Process Note: Particular priority should be given to the landscape along Forbes Avenue as the centerpiece of the campus and critical component of greeting the university's visitors.

✓ Approved by the Commission on November 16, 2012

Public Art Principle

Art in public spaces has been integral to the design of interior and exterior spaces on the Carnegie Mellon campus—from the frescoes and niches of the College of Fine Arts, to the mural and high-relief and hand-crafted tiles of the University Center, to the Pausch Bridge connecting the Gates and Hillman Centers with the Purnell Center. Public art, whether situated inside or outside a building, should be incorporated into all new building projects and major renovations. **It should serve to engage community members and enhance the use of public spaces, invigorate otherwise unremarkable areas, provide opportunities for temporary display of student art, and reflect the innovative and diverse cultures of the university and the region.**

Process Note 1: A public art plan must be included in all new building designs and implementations, ideally with a specific articulated project cost and intentional collaboration between the selected architect and relevant artist(s). By existing policy, public art must be approved via the Public Art Process and Committee, and building owners must assure that the design plan includes resources for maintaining the collection.

Process Note 2: The Simonds Commission recommends the creation of a university committee composed of members of the Board of Trustees Property and Facilities Committee, the Public Art Committee, and Campus Design and Facility Development staff to establish and promote the importance of and interest in public art across the campus.

✓ Approved by the Commission on February 6, 2013

Multi-Modal Transportation Principle

Buildings, site plans, and open spaces must be designed with appropriate consideration for all vehicular (e.g., bicycle, bus, car, delivery truck, motorcycle, shuttle) and pedestrian (including personal mobility vehicles) flows, promoting a safe, accessible, and communal transportation infrastructure. **Consistent with a well-designed and well-managed university transportation management plan, new building projects should promote campus and community circulation and engagement, connect campus and non-campus entities, and promote and develop innovative transportation modalities.** Where possible, pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit pathways should take precedence, while accommodating transportation, parking, and wayfinding needs of visitors and guests.

✓ Approved by the Commission on November 16, 2012

Universal Design Principle

Access to and use of all facilities and open spaces should be maintained for all potential users, consistent with universal design principles, relevant law (e.g., 2010 ADA Code), and the university's commitment to an open and inclusive community.

✓ Approved by the Commission on August 25, 2012