



VCU



2022-2028 Six-Year Capital Plan

The 2022-2028 Six-Year Capital Plan is among the most transformative capital plans in VCU's history and actualizes projects identified in the ONE VCU Master Plan, designed to align university and health system physical spaces with VCU's mission and strategic goals. These projects will facilitate innovative transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary achievements, grow our national prominence, increase enrollment and persistence, enhance patient experience, support community partnerships and bring us together as one VCU to serve our students and patients as never before. Projects in the plan are prioritized by need, and, due to the density of VCU's urban campus, some projects in earlier phases must be complete or underway before projects in later phases can begin. The VCU Board of Visitors approves a Six-Year Capital Plan every two years.

Nationally prominent arts and innovation corridor

Collaboration is a driving force in next-generation teaching, learning and discovery at VCU, and the intersection of Broad and Belvidere streets will become a place where students can prepare for a world of new and emerging industries. It is also the most highly traveled intersection in the city and is adjacent to the city's arts district. A new **Arts and Innovation Building** across from the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) Markel Center will optimize VCU's renowned performing arts programs by bringing them together under one roof. And the same way a hospital is a classroom for health sciences, this new facility will offer hybrid classroom-labs, interdisciplinary performance and makerspaces, and creative incubators for rapidly growing partnerships across arts, business, medicine and engineering. A **student gallery** adjacent to the ICA also provides needed exhibit space and places student art in a location that is accessible to the larger VCU and Richmond communities.

Classrooms, labs and common spaces

With on-campus space at a premium, new classroom, lab and common spaces are mission-critical for VCU. The **Interdisciplinary Academic and Laboratory Building** is a priority for the Monroe Park Campus, providing modern spaces for classes and labs currently taking place in older facilities. A top recruitment driver and often a prospective student's first impression, a modern **Student Commons** will serve as the epicenter of student life, wellness, community engagement and learning outside of the classroom. A project closest to completion on the Monroe Park Campus is a new **STEM Building** on the site of the former Franklin Street Gym, providing modern teaching labs and classrooms for the College of Humanities and Sciences. New **recreational facilities** supplement existing facilities for court and group exercise, and a new centrally located **Welcome Center** will radically transform the arrival experience for prospective students.

Housing and retail

Updated **Honors Housing** along Grace Street will offer much-needed additional beds as well as active ground-floor retail and gathering spaces that will further build upon activity along the campus "main street." We also know that students who live in campus-managed housing have higher retention and graduation rates and grades than students who do not. Even one year in campus-managed housing has positive impacts on retention and graduation. Coupled with iconic green spaces and front doors, housing and retail will strengthen the feeling of VCU as a welcoming and safe home for students.

Athletics

During the ONE VCU Master Plan process, VCU Athletics conducted a planning study and determined that a new site, off the main-campus footprint, would solve several existing concerns — the need for more, consolidated space and the need for space upgrades. VCU Athletics currently falls below its peer average for sport and recreation space, with approximately a quarter of existing facilities in need of major renovation. An off-campus VCU **Athletic Village** will offer new sports fields and facilities, including a tennis center, practice fields, a baseball stadium and field house. This plan returns on-campus real estate to serve academic and student needs, reduces travel and increases practice times for teams, and offers new opportunities for community impact through youth programming.

Iconic greens

The ONE VCU Master Plan process reaffirmed that student retention and satisfaction are interconnected with green space. **Iconic greens** will provide much-desired open space for passive recreation, and serve as anchors for each campus and the nexus of programmatic synergies. On the Monroe Park Campus, an iconic green facilitates movement between student life resources and the library to the north, a new student center and Cary Street Gym to the south, and academic buildings to the east and west. On the MCV Campus, a central green provides much-needed open space and creates a new heart to campus that will serve as a gathering place for patients, visitors, students, faculty and staff.

Front doors and streetscapes

Front doors play an important role for an urban campus. They serve as identifiable campus markers and provide a clear sense of arrival to campus for vehicular and pedestrian traffic without separating us from our wonderful city. Front doors may be seat walls, landscape features or intersection improvements. Recently completed front doors serve as gathering spaces, clearly define "VCU's place" downtown, and create community and affinity.

A new health sciences campus

The physical environment plays an important role in stress reduction and accelerated healing. Intuitive wayfinding, parking at the point of service, access to nature and natural lighting and reduced noise — it all impacts the overall patient experience. Modern physical design also limits exposure to infectious agents and other potential hazards in the health care environment. VCU Health System projects are approved by the VCUHS Board of Directors and are an important part of the ONE VCU Master Plan. A new **School of Dentistry Building** will replace an outdated facility and "unlock" the MCV Campus, allowing for growth at the health system and other MCV Campus schools. In addition to supporting clinical productivity, it allows VCU School of Dentistry to maximize care for underserved populations in the Richmond community in need of dental care. With the central campus unlocked, a new **Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Building, Library and Innovation Center** will serve as a central hub for the MCV Campus and a connector between new clinical buildings to the east and west through an expanded bridge system that links education, research and patient care.