Themes Emerging in New VCU Master Plan - ONE VCU

VCU continues to move forward with the master site plan process and in February held multiple stakeholder engagement sessions. The University has been consistent in seeking input from the community to help shape the future development of the Monroe Park and MCV campuses, so the FDA wants to keep you apprised of their communications to us.

The plan, called “ONE VCU” will identify and detail the physical framework necessary to support the University’s strategic priorities over the coming years. The process started in fall 2017 when VCU and their contractor Ayers Saint Gross, an architectural, planning, and design firm, hosted initial informal input sessions. Participants, including community members, identified their favorite places on campus as well as areas they would like to see VCU improve. They have also collected additional feedback through interviews with internal and external stakeholders.

So far, five overlapping themes and guiding principles have emerged from the robust stakeholder engagement sessions, input sessions, and physical campus analysis to support a vision for ONE VCU. These themes include:

- **Student Success**: Ensure student success and well-being through high-quality and appropriate teaching, learning, study and living spaces.
- **Program Synergies**: Advance a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration by developing shared spaces that inspire community, partnerships, creativity, and innovation.
- **Placemaking**: Celebrate and enhance VCU’s unique urban setting and rich history.
- **Mobility and Safety**: Promote a walkable, accessible, safe campus which is easy to navigate.
- **Unify the Campus**: Strengthen the heart of each campus and the collective VCU identity through strategies that connect the campuses to each other and to the city of Richmond.

Also, of significant interest to the Fan, is an early priority that is being worked on regarding the identification of VCU’s “front doors,” entryways that help make first impressions on visitors when they come to the campus. A focus group representing both campuses has been named to identify key entryways and to consider the look and feel of these important spaces.

While VCU just held multiple community engagement sessions in February, we expect them to continue announcing more events to learn more about the process, confirm that the plan is on track, and to ask questions and provide feedback.

The FDA will share periodic updates as the University shares information with us, but the VCU master plan website will always have the most up to date information. Visit it at https://masterplan.vcu.edu/ and please send them any comments that you may have as a community member.

Initial identification of VCU’s “Front Doors”

Identifying front door strategies that feel appropriate for VCU