

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

POLICY AGENDA

TO: David Cavazos
Deputy City Manager

AGENDA DATE: December 16, 2008

FROM: John Chan
Downtown Development Director

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE ASU DOWNTOWN PHOENIX CAMPUS

This report provides an update to the City Council regarding the development of the Arizona State University (ASU) Downtown Phoenix campus. This report is for information only.

THE ISSUE

The second phase of the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus was completed in August 2008. The development includes the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and KAET Eight, Arizona's PBS affiliate, as well as Taylor Place student residence halls and streetscape improvements along Taylor and First streets. The Downtown Campus, now in its third year of operation, houses the College of Public Programs, University College, Phoenix Urban Research Laboratory (PURL), and the College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation. Fall 2008 enrollment of students taking classes funded by the campus is approximately 8,430, with 4,960 of these students attending classes on the Campus.

New programs and degrees offered at the Downtown campus include an undergraduate major in the School of Public Affairs, a Master of Nonprofit Studies Program, a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, and a new School of Letters and Sciences. A number of new centers and offices have also been established in response to local community and economic needs, such as the Megapolitan Tourism Research Center, the Office of Latino Projects, the Center for Policy Informatics, the Center for Health Care Innovation and Clinical Trials, and the Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing.

Additional detail on these projects and programs follows:

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication / KAET Channel 8

This \$71 million, six-story building at the northeast corner of Central and Taylor opened for classes in August 2008 followed by the grand opening on November 20. It houses about 1,500 students, faculty and staff. Additionally, Arizona's public television affiliate, KAET Channel 8 studios, will begin operations in this 223,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in mid-2009. The structure also has four retail pads that will be filled by restaurants.

Taylor Place Student Housing

On August 20th, 440 students moved into the first student housing tower. Capstone Development continues construction on the second, 13-story tower of Taylor Place, the \$160 million student housing complex north of Taylor Street between 1st and 2nd streets. When the second tower is complete in 2009, Taylor Place will have a capacity of 1,300 beds. Well-landscaped common areas, sky bridges as well as retail and food service amenities will link the two buildings. A Starbucks, communal dining center, exercise facilities and a convenience store are all now open for business.

Taylor Mall / First Street Improvements

Five of the six block faces of Taylor Street between the Civic Space Park and the Arizona Center are now tree-lined with pedestrian-friendly sidewalks. They contain public art, inviting benches, and sustainable water features. A traffic signal and crosswalk will allow pedestrians to cross Central Avenue and light rail tracks and enter the Civic Space park safely from Taylor Mall and will be complete in mid December. The west side of First Street from Polk to Fillmore has been improved with lighting, shade & landscaping.

College of Nursing & Healthcare Innovation Phase II

The City has hired the design-build team of DPR/SmithGroup to construct a second building for the College of Nursing. This five-story, 84,000 square foot development is located at the southwest corner of Fillmore and Third streets, just north of the first nursing building. This state of the art facility will be headquarters to one of the largest nursing colleges in the country. Highlights include an open atrium and large presentation space on the ground floor and a copper skin with unique signage that will act as a gateway to the Campus and downtown. The steel frame topped out on August 7th and the project will be complete for the Fall 2009 semester.

Civic Space and AE England (424) Building

The Civic Space, bounded by the light rail lines, Central Station and the historic Post Office, will be a premier downtown park available to residents, workers and students alike. After extensive public input, the Parks Board approved the Conceptual Master Plan on June 28, 2007. Construction began in January 2008 and the park is slated to open by March 2009. Shade structures, an interactive water feature, public art and open space will complement the historic AE England building. Future improvements in the historic structure will include retail space, a large community space and multi-purpose rooms for use by the public as well as ASU classes and events.

Looking Forward

Future phases of the campus include renovating the historic Post Office to serve as a student union and connecting that facility with the Civic Space. ASU continues to develop and grow the Downtown campus by moving more schools and classes downtown which will fuel future development phases. Campus build-out projections call for 15,000 students, with more than a quarter of them living on campus.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.