

UBC Arts Student Centre Written Description of the Project

The Arts Student Centre is conceived as a compact stand-alone structure with a total net area of approximately 10,700 sq ft. It is intended to be an efficient, multi-purpose facility that will advance the core mission of the Arts Undergraduate Society to improve the academic, social, personal, and professional lives of Arts students at UBC Vancouver, and provide much-needed amenities to support the learning, social, collaboration and innovation space needs of a diverse Faculty of Arts student population. It will be a 'common ground' for UBC Arts students to interact across disciplines. The facility will include a range of targeted activity spaces and amenities to support creative engagement. These include media and graphics production spaces, video conference spaces, as well as a student-run art gallery. A dedicated multi-use space will be used for increasing collaborative engagement with faculty groups – e.g. Arts Co-Op program, Go Global studies abroad mentor-ship program, tutoring services and 'Welcome to UBC' resources for first year Arts students to name a few.

Design Policy Compliance

Leckie Studio has worked closely with PFS Studio and Campus and Community Planning to develop the following assumptions and design principals for the development of the Brock Commons Site.

Assumptions

- Brock Commons North and South are 'given' conditions, however the design and approval process for Brock II and ASC are separate and follow an independent schedule.
- Buchanan E is being considered for possible redevelopment in the future.
- Prioritize the retention of the existing mature tree in the Commons.
- East Mall and Walter Gage Road will be maintained as vehicular campus axes, though Walter Gage will develop a more pedestrian character.
- Maintain the view to Allard Hall signage from East Mall consistent with donor agreement (do not intentionally obstruct view).

Design Principles

- Support: The ASC building should support the activities and mission of the AUS, as well as the social construct of The Commons.
- Urban Room: The ASC building should consider the space of The Commons as an 'urban room' with edges defined by Brock Tower South, Brock Tower North, Allard Hall, and Buchanan E.
- Dialogue: The ASC building should acknowledge the architectural dialogue that this urban room sets up.
- Unique Identity: The ASC building should be understood as a pavilion with a unique identity and architectural expression that is distinct from the neighbouring architecture.
- Programmable Open Green Space: The ASC building should maintain programmable open green space at The Commons to support programs of gathering, informal recreation, and play
- Building Alignments: The ASC should respond to established building alignments

- **Connectivity:** The ASC building should not impede connectivity into and around The Commons and should support connectivity between; the Arts Precinct, the greater campus, and Brock South and North users to The Commons.
- **Circulation:** The ASC building should maintain the circulation of East Mall and Walter Gage Road as vehicular, pedestrian, and service corridors.
- **Views:** The ASC building should consider views into and around The Commons including; views from above (neighbouring buildings), and visual porosity through to Allard Hall.
- **Building architecture** to contribute to public realm through transparency, indoor/outdoor relationships, seating opportunities, and porch spaces.
- **Solar Access:** The ASC building should maximize solar access to The Commons and south edge of Allard Hall with emphasis on the hours of 12-6pm during the academic year.

Contemporary District Design Guidelines:

The Arts Student Center makes every effort to align with the Design Guidelines for the Contemporary District. Every deviation from the District Guidelines is directly related to the Design Principals that are specific to the Public Realm vision of the Commons.

- **Pavilion Form:** The Arts Student Center is first and foremost a pavilion in a landscape. Landscape flow around the circular geometry and allow the Arts Student Centre to read as an object within the Urban Room of the Common. This also sets up an Architectural Dialogue that gives the Arts Student Centre a Unique Identity.
- **Materials Pallet:** The materials pallet of Buchanan E wing, Allard Hall, and the future Brock 2 Towers create light bright walls an Urban Room of the Commons. Along with the mandate to have a unique identity, the darker, natural palette of the Arts Student Center recedes into the natural pallet of the Commons. The darker paper phenolic panel is also aligned with the secondary materials palette of the Contemporary District and many of the surrounding buildings. The paper phenolic panel blends with the trees, grass and woods found in the Common, while the textured concrete nods to the adjacent Buchanan Tower and Walter Gage Residence.
- **Alignment to Grid:** The Arts Student Centre reinforces the Urban Room by breaking the alignment along Walter Gauge Road.
- **Reduced Height:** In order to maintain Views and Solar Access, the site of the Arts Student Center is restricted to the corner of Walter Gage Road and East Mall. All two storey schemes were rejected. The building height and mass as been reduced by putting service spaces below grade.
- **Passive Solar Design:** The primary solar gain period for the Arts Student Centre will be from the south and west. Vertical fins provide the privacy from the public realm as well as solar protection on the west. And an outdoor porch and deck provide solar protection and rain cover on the south.