CENTRIC
ARCHITECTURE

VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

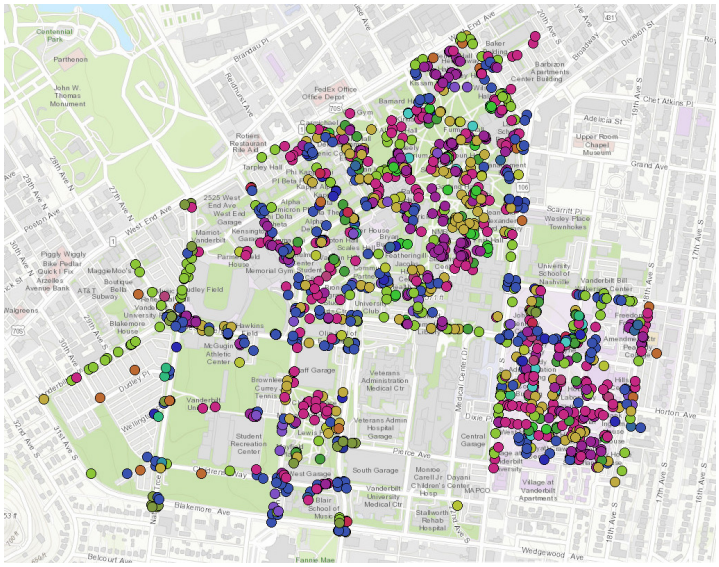
ACCESSIBILITY MASTERPLAN STUDY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
JUNE 2018

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

FutureVU embodies the university's core values and holistic approach to Vanderbilt's teaching, research and service mission, including the advancement of the university's land resources and human capital in support of the Academic Strategic Plan. In 2015, FutureVU began as a comprehensive land use planning effort, to ensure the Vanderbilt University campus is designed at every level to support the academic mission. All planning efforts are guided by the FutureVU Guiding Principles, of which recognize that diversity and inclusion is integral to the mission of the university. These guiding principles call for careful review and evaluation of the accessibility of current and future spaces to ensure they are designed to promote inclusivity for all community members.

The Advisory Accessibility Task Force (AATF) was created in the summer of 2017 to assist Vanderbilt University in identifying how best to create a barrier-free and inclusive campus environment that goes beyond code minimum requirements, and addresses the diverse nature of the student, faculty, and staff populations at Vanderbilt. The AATF met regularly for nearly a year to discuss these important issues and to come forward with recommendations on campus improvement, prioritization, and communication strategies.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS



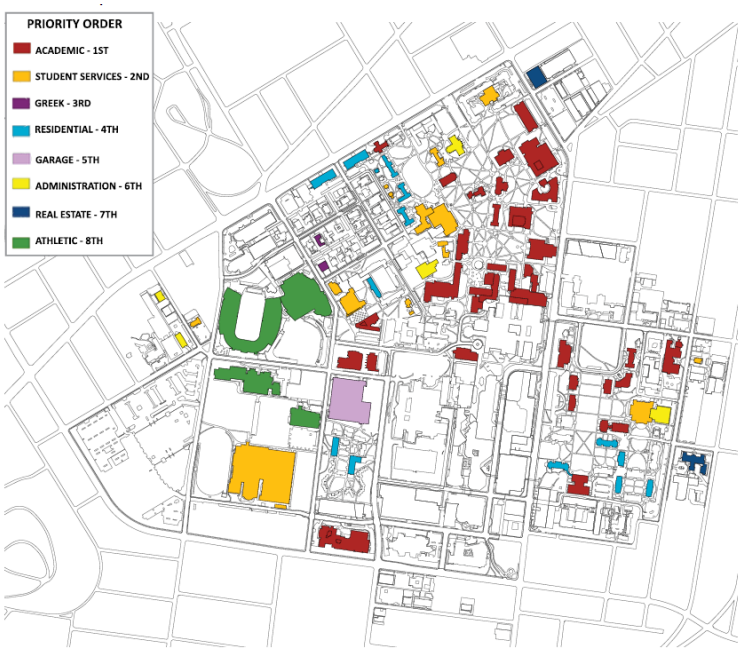
Through extensive data collection that took place over the summer of 2017, over 6,000 interior and exterior GIS data points were collected identifying items that do not meet accessibility requirements or align with the university's principles. Exterior items range from missing or damaged curb cuts, sidewalks and ramps that are too steep, pavement in need of repair, stairs that require significant re-routing to avoid, and inaccessible blue emergency lights. Interior items include everything from buildings without elevators, non-compliant visual and audible fire alarms, signs with missing braille, and doors with difficult to operate hardware.

The data collected was entered into Vanderbilt's data systems, and built upon earlier accessibility mapping methodologies developed by Professor Aimi Hamraie. Each instance includes a unique object ID number and is tagged to a specific set of coordinates for future location and mapping. These data points include buildings currently undergoing renovation design or construction, as well as buildings expected to be included in future capital projects. It is intended that future renovation to buildings listed in the masterplan will address all items identified in the data.

The AATF simultaneously sorted the 6000 points of GIS data, prioritized the various accessibility issues, ran cost estimating models, and developed wayfinding recommendations through an established communications sub-committee.

While a significant portion of the AATF efforts were towards prioritizing the accessibility upgrades across campus, the broader conversation included recommendations to incorporate other components that are consistent with the FutureVU goals of diversity and inclusion. Many aspects of an individual's public and private experiences were discussed. These included, but were not limited to, spaces for quiet thought/prayer, showering and restroom experience, the importance of gender neutral facilities, lactation spaces, and the quality of natural lighting in living, learning, and working spaces.

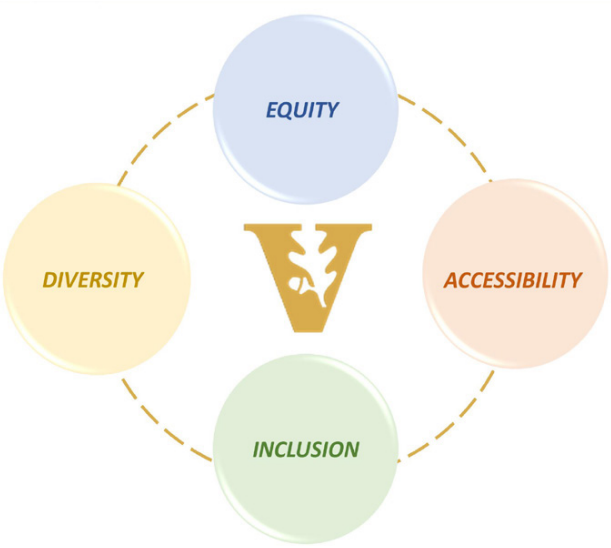
PRIORITIZATION PROCESS



The AATF classified the issues according to the requirements of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, and then by the degree to which they impact the lives and safety of individuals. The masterplan document includes recommendations on how to prioritize the improvements going forward. The currently identified items are categorized, tagged with a 'solution code', budgeted relative to an estimated unit cost for the solution, and placed into a funding classification based off anticipated repair cost as well as input from Facilities Maintenance and Plant Operations.

FUNDING SOURCES AND 5-YEAR PLAN

The different solutions that address the various accessibility issues have each been given a unit cost, in order to arrive at order of magnitude pricing. These unit costs are being identified with the help of VU maintenance staff as well as the help of an independent cost estimator. A variety of funding sources have been identified including operational funding, facilities renewal funding, and capital project funding.



The university is committed to tackling the various interior and exterior data points that were collected, utilizing the prioritization process over the course of the upcoming years. However, this will be accomplished with the understanding the process must remain fluid and steadfast – as additional issues are identified, regular review and re-prioritization must occur.

The Task Force's goals, progress, and recommendations were presented to the larger university community through a series of presentations. The final master plan reflects the collection of work performed by the AATF.

To read more about the AATF efforts, full master plan document, and review progress to date, please visit the FutureVU website.