

**THE PROJECT**

The College for Creative Studies (CCS), a highly ranked private art college in Detroit, engaged the team of Interboro Partners, planners and architects, and Dober Lidsky Mathey (DLM) to prepare a new master plan for its two-node campus in the Midtown Cultural district.

**CHALLENGE**

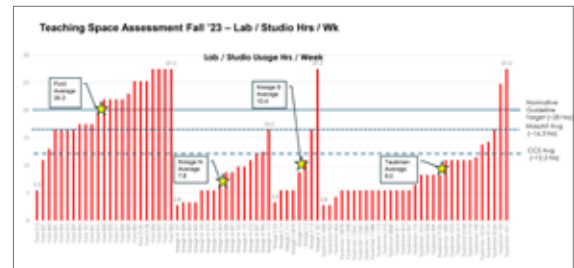
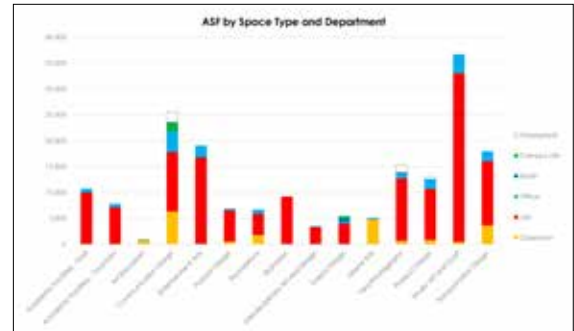
A major issue for CCS is their split campus. The Ford campus has a traditional form with distinctive, low-rise buildings serving defined purposes surrounding and shaping a campus green. By contrast, one mile away, the Taubman campus is vertical, contained in one eleven-floor building set at the back of a narrow lot. Working to better integrate the two nodes so that students, faculty and visitors experience them as one campus was a core goal of the planning. The planning naturally responded to the college’s distinctive programs that include the traditional studio art and craft, graphic design and film disciplines as well as those in transportation, fashion and product design. Related concerns included support for initiatives to build enrollment and optimize utilization of college space.

**SOLUTION**

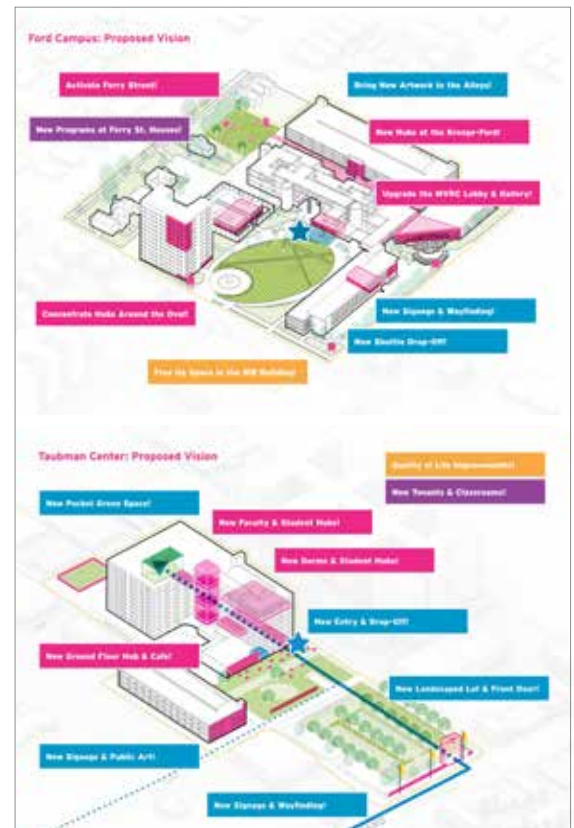
As Interboro analyzed the two nodes as impactful places and educational environments, DLM prepared a room-by-room space inventory using it and a wealth of data provided by CCS to study learning space utilization, office allocation, sufficiency of student life space and the measurable differences in space use between the nodes. The team collaborated on interviewing representatives of all campus departments engaging the CCS community in a variety of thoughtfully designed interactions to gather input and communicate the emerging plan. Frequent work sessions with the three-person core team and the campus steering committee kept leadership informed on the planning and provided the planning team guidance on institutional direction.

**RESULTS**

CCS has developed an implementation plan and has recently engaged Interboro for design services to renovate the Central Galleries, collocated with the library providing a transformation of this heavily used core campus facility.



Credit: Dober Lidsky Mathey



Credit: Interboro Partners

**REFERENCE**

Olga Stella  
 Vice President, Strategy and Communications  
 College for Creative Studies  
 313 664 1498  
 ostella@ccsdetroit.edu

**PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE**

George G. Mathey, AICP  
 DLM Study Director

