

HEALEY LIBRARY PLANNING STUDY

THE PROJECT

UMass Boston (UMB) engaged the team of Dober Lidsky Mathey (DLM) supporting CambridgeSeven (C7) architects to study the best options for renovating the Healey Library building as a hub for student success and research innovation in the 21st century.

CHALLENGE

The Healey Library building is one of six original buildings of the UMB campus completed in 1974. It has not been comprehensively renovated. In addition to the university library, its main occupant, the building also houses UMB's Information Technology group, University Advancement offices, a collection of research centers and institutes, and the offices and broadcast studios of WUMB, a public radio station serving the greater Boston community. Inspired by the university's strategic plan and the guidance of the recently completed campus master plan, the vision for a renovated Healey as "...the heart of UMass Boston's academic life, supporting student success and research excellence".

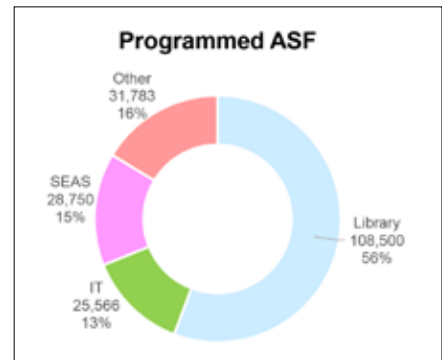
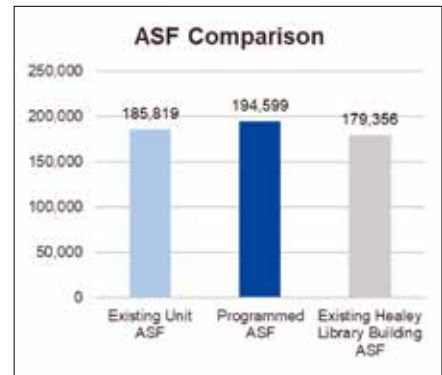
SOLUTION

DLM analyzed the existing space allocation and use in the building, by department and function, developing a set of findings and observations to inform reconceptualization of the building. An extensive set of interviews of current and potential occupants of the building, and a well-attended open house for library patrons led by DLM and C7, generated a wealth of information on integrating new and existing functions and services. These conversations facilitated DLM's preparation of a draft room-by-room facility program describing each unit's space needs. The draft program was reviewed by all units resulting in multiple rounds of revision and refinement.

The program created a strong foundation for C7's generation of proposed space allocation diagrams to help study participants visualize how the Healey building could be revitalized to better serve the UMB student body, faculty and community.

RESULTS

The university is using study recommendations to inform its community and build a case statement for funding the renovation of this core campus facility.



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PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE

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