



Tour of College Park MD City Hall

[Recipient of the 2022 AIA Maryland Public Building of the Year Award](#) for any built project that is commissioned by a government or non-profit agency within the State of Maryland and created with a civic purpose.

Thursday, October 17

5:45 – 6:45 PM | College Park, MD



Address: College Park City Hall | 7401 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740 ([View Map](#))

Parking: Complimentary garage parking after 5pm. The garage is located at 7306 Yale Avenue, College Park, MD 20740 (above Ledo's Pizza).

College Park City Hall is a civic structure jointly occupied and owned by the City of College Park and the University of Maryland. During this tour, we will explore the unique partnership between the City and the

University that resulted in one of the few truly mixed-use city halls in the country. The team will discuss how the project created a new heart for College Park, designed to serve both citizens and students. Additionally, the tour will address the various aspects of sustainability incorporated into both the building and the site.

Credit: 1 LU/HSW

Learning Objectives:

Learning Objective 1:

Inclusive Design Process – The city collaborated with the University of Maryland to develop a city block along Baltimore Avenue, strengthening the relationship between the city and the university while creating a mutually beneficial space. The design process involved extensive community engagement through workshops with city leaders, university officials, students, and stakeholders to establish guiding principles. These principles included creating an inviting civic building, enhancing functionality and accessibility, demonstrating sustainability, and incorporating flexible outdoor spaces. Tour leaders will explain how the process was set up to include these diverse voices.

Learning Objective 2:

Unique Partnership results in a unique outcome for the site – The original vision for the project included two separate buildings connected to symbolize the partnership between the City and the University. Instead, the design evolved into a single building featuring an open plaza as its centerpiece, which provides a flexible space for events and casual gatherings. The building incorporates sustainable design elements, such as a bio-retention area for stormwater management, and serves as a teaching tool for sustainability. The site, which was previously fully impervious, now includes 53% open space, with 31% of that being vegetated and featuring micro-bioretenment areas. The tour leaders will describe how the design process evolved the project into a single building, resulting in a large public plaza that is accessible and useful to everyone.

Learning Objective 3:

Sustainability was a key driver in the design of both the building and the site. Water management and conservation are major focus areas, achieving a 32% reduction in indoor water use and a 99% reduction in outdoor water use. The building supports 80% of rainwater treatment on-site. Sustainability also extends to energy use, with a Target Finder score of 80 and a predicted energy use intensity of 58 kBtu/sf/year. Although the project does not include on-site power generation, carbon offsets are purchased for five years. The tour leaders will describe how sustainability influenced the physical design of both the building and the site, and how it positively impacts occupants and visitors.

Learning Objective 4:

It was recognized early in the design process that this project could have a positive impact not only on the users of the building and site but also on the City of College Park as a whole. The existing city lacked both a physical and metaphorical center. The design emphasizes inclusivity and well-being, featuring ample natural light, quality views from 90% of the spaces, and gender-neutral bathrooms. The building is designed to be adaptable and accessible, serving as a true heart for College Park and the University of Maryland, and fostering a vibrant community hub. The tour leaders will explain how the design of the building and site contributed to creating a new city center that symbolizes the heart of College Park.