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Project View Book

Office of Development & Alumni Relations

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INTRODUCTION

From its humble beginnings in 1903 as a teachers college through its transition to a global public research institution, Western Michigan University has called Kalamazoo its home. The University’s location did not happen by accident, it was the community’s vision for and commitment to education that brought the new school to Kalamazoo. The University’s original building—a highly visible landmark atop Prospect Hill—was erected to represent the integral ties between a proud community and its school.

Today, Prospect Hill is undergoing a renewal that when complete will reaffirm the special and unique relationship between the citizens of Kalamazoo and WMU. The WMU Alumni Center project is committed to preserving and transforming the University’s birthplace into a facility that serves both the campus and community while showcasing the deeply rooted relationship between the two.
PROJECT GOALS

- Serve as a home for all alumni
- Become a community asset
- Showcase the birthplace of the University in the context of the City of Kalamazoo
- Serve as a touchstone for the WMU experience
- Offer flexible and multipurpose gathering spaces open to the community
- Illustrate the University’s commitment to sustainability

PROJECT TIMELINE

- December 2012: Renovation of East Hall as the new WMU Alumni Center is announced
- June 2013: TowerPinkster is selected as the architectural firm
- October 2013: The WMU Alumni Association announced a $1 million contribution toward the renovation project
- March 2014: Final design is unveiled
- May 2014: Construction began
- September 2015: Construction is scheduled to be complete
- October 2015: Grand Opening Celebration
THE UNIVERSITY’S HOME

Façade looking northeast
SITE PLAN

Entry Stairway from Oakland Drive
Plaza Gathering Points
Grand Entrance Plaza
Entry Doors
Portico Plaza ("The Porch")

North Hall Façade
Grand Lawn
Naming Wall Bricks on "The Porch"
Windows over Grand Entrance
East Portico Window

Not Shown:
Cupola
Future Amphitheatre
East and West Façade Windows
SECOND FLOOR

- Board Room
- Office Suite
- Conference Room
- Ballroom Foyer and Entry
- Ballroom
- Ballroom Chandeliers
SECOND FLOOR

Board room
FIRST FLOOR

Lobby looking west
1903 Room featuring fireplace salvaged from North Hall
**FAST FACTS**

**Site**

8.6 acres on Prospect Hill, the original campus of Western State Normal School

**Building Areas**

53,089 square feet
- Ground Floor – 13,772 square feet
- First Floor – 13,885 square feet
- Second Floor – 13,528 square feet
- Mechanical Penthouse – 11,904 square feet

**Spaces**

- **Public** – Lobby, Café, 1903 Room, History displays in corridors
- **Meeting/Conference** – 1 board room, 2 medium conference rooms, 2 small conference rooms
- **Event** – Ballroom overlooking downtown Kalamazoo
  (Ballroom capacity: 200 table seating; 400 lecture)
- **Office** – Home of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations
- **Support** – New stairs, elevator, barrier free access throughout

**Sustainability**

Designed to meet LEED Platinum certification

**Sustainability Features**

- Salvaged materials including bricks and other architectural elements
- Locally sourced new materials
- Geothermal heating and cooling

**Architect**

TowerPinkster

**Construction Manager**

CHRISTMAN