The Permeable Learning Ecosystem
Life at Loyola University and Beyond

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE & COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Loyola’s collegiate foundation is based upon the Jesuit virtue of exploration; to go forth and create meaningful professional service and leadership. Connection to community expresses itself not only in sending students out into the world but also inviting the world in.

The Center for Innovative & Collaborative Learning began with a five month planning study that engaged a breadth of Loyola’s community in bi-weekly meetings with the Steering Committee. Engagement and consensus-building—centered around “promoting Ignatian citizenship”—occurred with faculty, staff, and students. This process allowed the team to accomplish the following:

• Develop a set of guiding principles.
• Understand current and future needs.
• Identity challenges and opportunities for Beatty Hall and adjacent sites.
• Explore planning scenarios.
• Refine a preferred scenario into a preliminary design and massing concept.

Inclusivity

The Center for Innovative & Collaborative Learning provides a variety of space types that allow for different ways for students and faculty to learn, research, meet, and engage as a community. Approximately 70% of the program area will be shared space that supports innovation and collaborative learning. This includes a wide range of instructional spaces to serve varying pedagogical modes, the Idea Lab, the multi-use Commons and the Cafe, as well as one of Loyola’s signature programs—the Career Services Center. The balance of the space will accommodate interdisciplinary faculty office and research space for Psychology, the School of Education, Speech, Language and Hearing, and Sociology.

Ecosystem

The building provides a variety of space types that allow for different ways for students and faculty to learn, research, meet, and engage as a community. Approximately 70% of the program area will be shared space that supports innovation and collaborative learning. This includes a wide range of instructional spaces to serve varying pedagogical modes, the Idea Lab, the multi-use Commons and the Cafe, as well as one of Loyola’s signature programs—the Career Services Center. The balance of the space will accommodate interdisciplinary faculty office and research space for Psychology, the School of Education, Speech, Language and Hearing, and Sociology.

Permeability

The Center for Integrative & Collaborative Learning will serve not only as a physical gateway to campus but also as a link to the community and life after Loyola. This give and take is at the nexus of the renovation and addition to Beatty Hall. The project blends academic research and professional opportunities through collaborative spaces where students, faculty, and businesses engage with each other. Loyola’s decision to move the Career Center to this building ensures that permeability will happen serendipitously and programmatically—strengthening personal and professional connections.

Recommendations

• Understand the opportunities your project strives for to better involve the right stakeholders early in the planning process.
• Project outcome will better reflect student needs if they are engaged as key participants.
• Successful academic ecosystems require a variety of space types to support: learning styles, introverted vs extroverted engagement, programmatic flexibility.
• Ensuring balance of transparency to and through the building can connect the collegiate environment to the larger community.