

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
SYSTEM WIDE ART ACQUISITION COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM: UH Cougar Place Replacement/Sophomore Housing Project Artwork-Artists Nominations

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED: NA

SUMMARY:

Nominations of Artists are sought for artwork proposals for the UH Cougar Place Replacement/Sophomore Housing Project.

The new Cougar Place project replaces and is on the site of the current Cougar Place complex, located south of Robertson Stadium and west of Cullen Street. The project will house 800 beds with staff and support space and resident staff/resident assistant apartments. Unit configuration is expected to be 4-bedroom suites with 2 private baths, and a small common living area.

The project will support Sophomore students and provide associated academic and student support space. The project also forms the west gateway to the Student Life Corridor UH is developing along Wheeler.

The total project budget is \$48,500,000. The estimated construction portion of the project is approximately \$37,000,000 with an associated art budget of approximately \$370,000.

Additional information on the project is attached.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Project Information

FISCAL NOTE: \$370,000

**RECOMMENDATION/
ACTION REQUESTED:** Nominations of Artists

COMPONENT: University of Houston

Preliminary Cougar Place Replacement/Sophomore Housing Budget

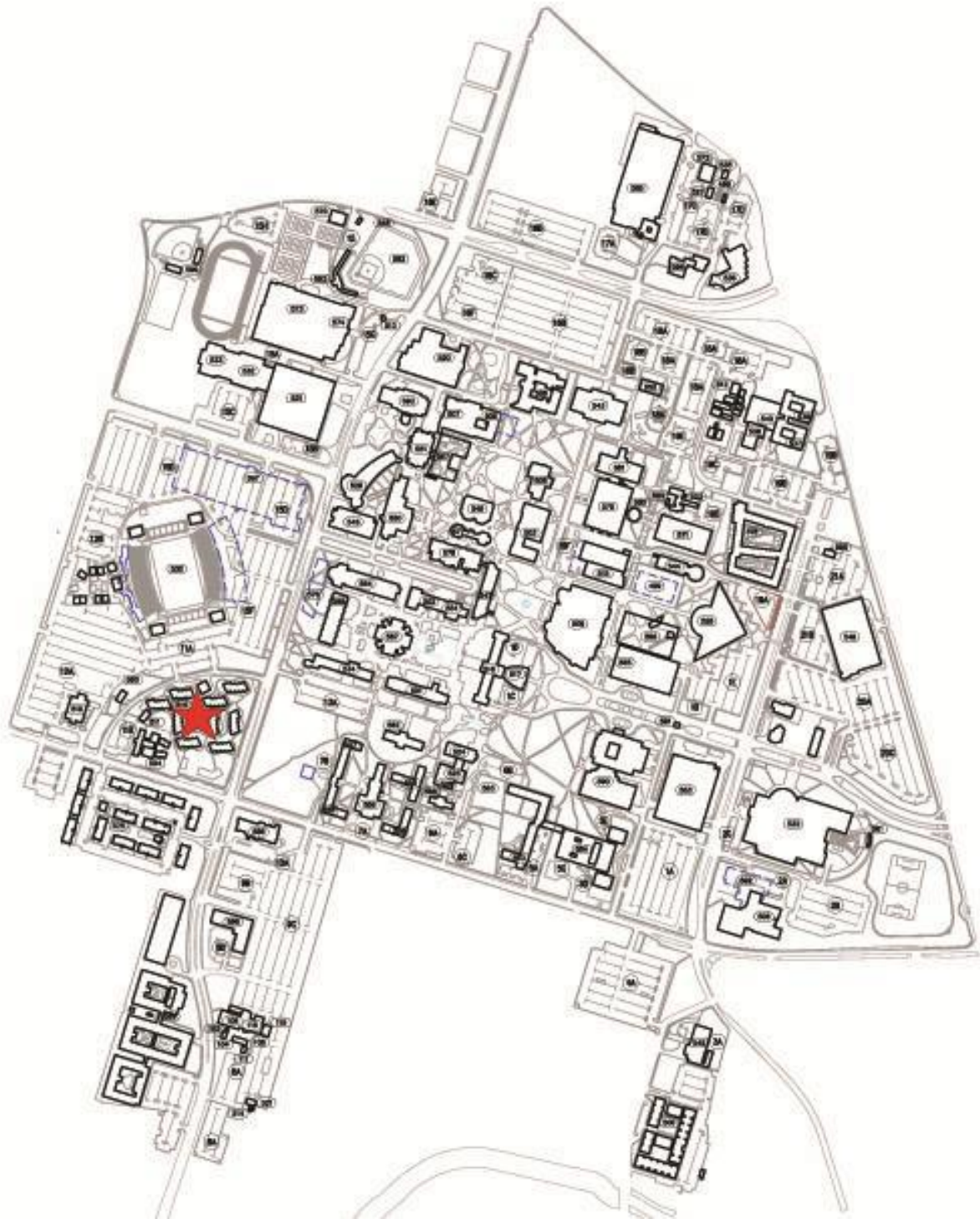
Construction Cost	\$37,777,000
Professional Services Fees	\$3,354,000
Project Management Fee	\$1,455,000
Furniture and Moveable Equipment	\$2,230,000
IT Infrastructure and Security	\$825,000
Administrative Costs	\$434,000
Contingencies	\$2,425,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$48,500,000

Proposed Project Schedule

Program confirmation	July 2011
Design starts	September 2011
Construction starts	March 2012
Occupancy	June 2013

Funding Sources

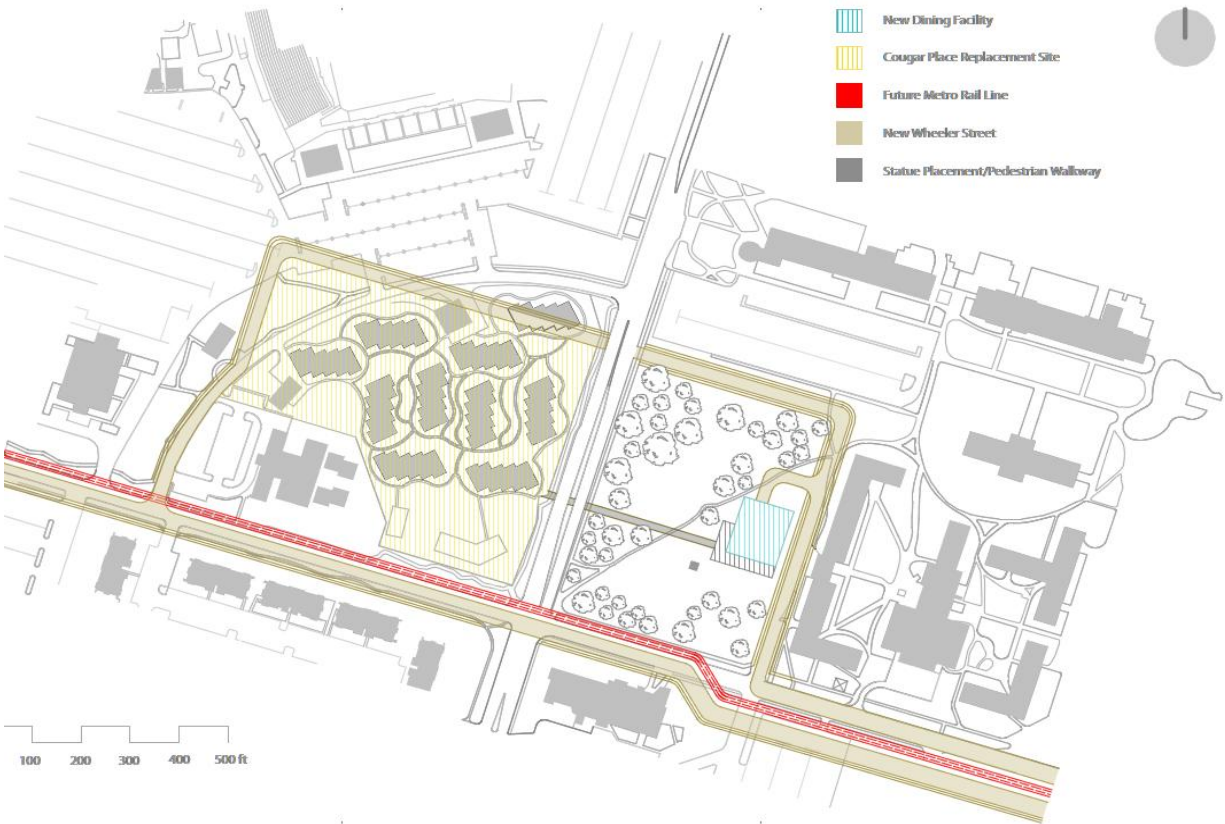
Auxiliary Revenues (Bonds) – Housing Fees	\$48,500,000
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COUGAR PLACE REPLACEMENT/SOPHOMORE HOUSING SITE



FRAMEWORK PLAN STADIUM PRECINCT



COUGAR PLACE REPLACEMENT/SOPHOMORE HOUSING SITE

Cougar Place Replacement/Sophomore Housing Project Description

The University of Houston is working to increase student success by the recruitment of top scholars, retaining those students once they become Cougars and graduating them in higher proportions. UH is also seeking to increase student life and campus activity. On campus living/learning opportunities are central to all of these efforts. In addition one of the measures Carnegie and others use for classifying Tier One Universities is having 25% of undergraduate students living on campus. Based on this the University has adopted a goal of having 7500 UH students living on campus by 2015 and 9000 students living on campus by 2020.

Since enacting the 2006 Campus Framework Plan, the University has steadily added residential housing toward these goals. Cougar Village Phase One opened in Fall 2010 to provide over 1100 students a quality freshmen living/learning experience. The project coupled with the renovation of the Moody Dining Hall was extremely successful in student recruitment, student engagement and student life and support. That lead to questions from the students in Cougar Village about where they can move when the next class of freshmen enrolls at UH and demands by those residents for a similar high quality living/learning experience oriented to their needs as Sophomores.

In addition academic studies demonstrate that if students remain on campus for the first two years of their University career they are much more likely to continue in their studies, graduate more quickly and have more successful academic careers. This project will help accomplish these goals.

With Metro light rail and the development of the West and Southwest portions of Campus the existing Cougar Place site could be much better utilized than its current low density development. In addition the existing Cougar Place complex contains significant costly deferred maintenance problems, has outlived its 25 year life-span, and would require extensive renovation to meet current codes and housing standards. Razing and redeveloping this site will extend the Student Life synergy started with Moody Dining Renovation and Cougar Village Phase One. When coupled with the new West Campus Dining Hall, renovations to the Quadrangle and Moody Towers and Cougar Village Phase 2 it will provide UH with an extended zone of activity and Campus Life fostering Student Success.

The new Cougar Place project replaces and is on the site of the current Cougar Place complex, located south of Robertson Stadium and west of Cullen Street. The project's entry will be near the intersection of Cougar Place Drive and Cullen, directly across from the intersection of Cougar Place Drive and the proposed loop road. It will double the housing density currently at the site, remove buildings with significant deferred maintenance problems, meet all current codes, and offer new housing and academic amenities to this area of campus. It will also energize the Southwest quadrant of campus and anchor the west end to the Student Living Zone.

The project will be a design build project with a base proposal of 800 beds with an add alternate for 200 additional beds. Unit configuration is expected to be 4-bedroom suites with 2 private baths, and a small common living area.

Key to the project will be academic and student space to support student development and living learning environment. This may include but not be limited to instructional space and student service space for counseling, tutoring and other functions needed to enhance student life and student success as well as the following spaces:

- Classrooms/Academic Spaces for Sophomores
- Student Computer Labs
- Study rooms on each floor/wing
- Social lounges on each floor/wing
- Building vending area
- Building Common Lounge/multipurpose room
- Large game room.
- Adjoining small kitchen/serving area adjacent to the Building Common Lounge
- Housing staff offices including space for Residence Assistants
- Fitness Center (May also be small fitness areas throughout the project)
- Laundry facilities

Exterior features for recreation and other activities will also be included.

Design of the facility will be based on the material palette of existing UH buildings such as Cougar Village. A ceramic tile mural by artist Malou Flato currently affixed to one of the apartment exterior walls in the existing Cougar Place will be dismantled and re-installed at another campus location.

The project will be designed to LEED Silver standards and open in August 2013.