The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Community Campus is the centerpiece of UMB’s deep commitment to West Baltimore and to the collaboration—undertaken with our neighbors—that will strengthen it.

Located immediately west of UMB’s academic campus, adjacent to the seven distinct neighborhoods that comprise the Southwest Partnership (see map), the Community Campus allows us to meet and serve residents where they are. It places the University’s faculty, staff, students, and our neighbors in West Baltimore within easy reach of one another. With access to each other’s expertise and resources, we can marshal these attributes to address complex challenges, strengthen community development, and promote external investment.

As an anchor institution in West Baltimore, UMB prides itself on establishing meaningful ways in which to integrate with its valued partners and neighbors as one cohesive community. Engagement is a core tenet of our mission and culture.
A COMMUNITY IN BLOOM

Community Engagement Center – Anchoring Our Community Campus

The cornerstone of the Community Campus is the UMB Community Engagement Center (CEC), which opened in 2015 to deepen our relationships with our closest neighbors. In the past four years, the center has recorded nearly 40,000 visits from men, women, teens, and children who engage with our services and programs. Each visit is a symbolic act of trust. The CEC is where we help our neighbors find jobs, give children a safe place to learn and play, host health and fitness programs, and connect neighbors with resources that help them succeed. Having outgrown our current 3,500-square-foot space, the CEC will soon move to a 20,000-square-foot historic building on Poppleton Street that is being renovated, where services and activities can be expanded to meet growing community demand. It also will house the UMB Police Athletic/Activities League (PAL), and serve as a home to UMB’s nationally recognized CURE Scholars Program, which prepares West Baltimore middle and high school students for competitive and rewarding research, STEM, and health care careers.

The Community Campus encompasses additional UMB-affiliated programs and buildings. The Graduate Research Innovation District (the Grid), opened in 2017, occupies a portion of the renovated Lion Bros. Building across the street from the new CEC. UMB is one of the building’s anchor tenants, connecting students, employees, entrepreneurs, and neighbors in solving intractable problems of health, equity, and justice. The University of Maryland BioPark is Baltimore’s largest biotechnology cluster. More than 40 biotech companies, research institutes, and clinical facilities share the 14-acre park, while some 1,000 employees actively build the city’s science community and innovation economy. The BioPark also hosts the University of Maryland, College Park Robert H. Smith School of Business and Baltimore City Community College’s Life Sciences Institute, and is a pipeline to the state’s growing need for skilled biomedical and health science workers.

Pride in Partnership - James McHenry Elementary/Middle School and Recreation Center

Community partners are integral to our Community Campus. The James McHenry Recreation Center, located mere yards from the new CEC, offers a large space in which to expand a rich portfolio of community-based — and community-driven — programming. We are working with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and major donors to renovate the rec center and bring in high-quality after-school programming with a focus on STEM and athletics. Next door is the James McHenry Elementary/Middle School, which was named a Baltimore City “turnaround” school in 2017. With new leadership, federal money, and focused coaching by one of the city’s higher-performing public schools, rigorous curricula are being implemented, student achievement is climbing, and investors are transforming the school and school culture. Our School of Social Work is embedded at James McHenry as the community school partner, convening agencies and nonprofits to provide students and families a network of wraparound services.

Furthermore, the United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) is planning to expand its widely lauded Ben Center model to the Community Campus, providing community members with numerous family-focused programs and services.
Fulfilling UMB’s Educational Mission

The Community Campus is central to the teaching mission of UMB, whose graduates are the nation’s front-line providers in health, law, and human services. Working with our community – in our community – is essential to UMB students’ development as engaged, culturally competent, and collaborative professionals. It makes them more effective, sensitive practitioners and better able to understand the circumstances of the patients and clients they’ll serve throughout their careers. As a future hub of UMB’s interprofessional education initiative, the Community Campus will help fulfill UMB’s educational mission.
Philanthropic Investment

Philanthropic investment in our Community Campus will touch many lives in West Baltimore, strengthening UMB’s capacity to provide programs and services to people who need them. Our compelling vision for the potential that the planned Community Campus promises drives our commitment to bringing that vision to fruition.

In fact, the UMB Community Campus will add to, and benefit from, substantial partners who are already working — and investing — in the neighborhood, such as Real Estate and Community Developers: Wexford, Ventas, Cross Street Partners, La Cité, War Horse Cities; Major Employers: Paragon, Maryland Proton Treatment Center, Pharmaron, Hussman Institute for Autism; Workforce Training: Baltimore City Community College, BioTechnical Institute of Maryland, Bon Secours Mercy Health, NPower; Foundations and Government Agencies: Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Abell Foundation, Goldseker Foundation, France-Merrick Foundation, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and others including Southwest Partnership, Under Armour, and the B&O Railroad Museum.

As our Community Campus continues to unfold, UMB seeks leadership philanthropy to support the human capital, programs, and facilities necessary to develop and grow vital services. In addition to generating gift support to help fund annual operations, we aim to create an endowment to sustain the Community Engagement Center in perpetuity. Additionally, we are inviting donors and funders with an interest in supporting UMB’s partnership with the United Way of Central Maryland - a partnership that provides family-focused programs and services on the Community Campus.

Be a Catalyst for Change

As UMB’s ambitious plan for a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous West Baltimore community becomes reality, we encourage you to consider serving as a catalyst for meaningful change. By investing in a shared commitment to stimulate powerful programs and services, you will benefit people who need them.

Your generous support will help ensure the financial viability of the UMB Community Campus, and will create a lasting positive impact on our common community. We are seeking philanthropic partners deeply committed to meeting these lofty goals.

We Invite You to Learn More

For more information, please contact Thomas J. Sullivan, CFRE, MS, UMB Chief Philanthropy Officer and Vice President, at 410-706-8489 or thomas.sullivan@umaryland.edu.

WE ARE UMB

As one of Baltimore’s most impactful anchor institutions, UMB exercises its influence, assets, and expertise to effect genuine, lasting change in the city. Founded in 1807, UMB is Maryland’s public health, law, and human services university. Occupying 72 acres in downtown Baltimore, we are a pre-eminent institution for graduate and professional education and a prominent academic health center combining cutting-edge biomedical research and exceptional clinical care.

In 2019, UMB enrolled 6,827 students in six nationally ranked professional schools – medicine, law, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and social work – and an interdisciplinary graduate school. We offer 76 degree and certificate programs and confer the majority of professional practice doctoral degrees awarded each year in Maryland.

UMB faculty, staff, and students contribute more than 2 million hours annually in volunteer service to Marylanders and deliver $40 million in uncompensated care.

2019 FAST FACTS

6,827 STUDENTS

76 DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

2 MILLION VOLUNTEER HOURS ANNUALLY