

The significance and purpose of the vision

The goal is to establish a shared long-term vision for Arts in the University City. The vision is a forward-looking statement that describes what Arts in the University City aims to achieve in the future. The vision serves as a source of inspiration and a guide for strategic decisions and actions.

In the ongoing work with user groups, there is a strong focus on functional categories (themes). The vision forms the backbone and serves as a decision-making guide, supported by management, ensuring that we move in the right direction when specifically defining the connections between functions, the interaction between departments/users and the use of spaces in relation to the user groups.

The user groups provide input, the project working group refines it, and the faculty leadership team makes the final decisions.

Introduction to Arts

The Faculty of Arts is one of Aarhus University's five faculties and encompasses the humanities, education and social sciences. Arts is comprised of three schools – the Danish School of Education (DPU), the School of Culture and Society (CAS) and the School of Communication and Culture (CC). These schools are known for their excellent research and teaching, as well as their strong contributions to society, both locally and globally.

Arts' current locations at Kasernen, at Tåsingevej and in the Nobel Park will be brought together in the southern part of the University City in Aarhus by 2031, creating a unique opportunity to unite the faculty's academic goals with the vision of an open, engaging and inspiring campus area. The location will strengthen the connection between Arts in the University City and Aarhus University, as well as the connection to the city of Aarhus.

Vision for Arts in the University City South

Arts in the University City South has the following key priorities with regard to the new physical environment:

1. A vibrant campus focused on community and collaboration

Arts in the University City South is a vibrant and inspiring work and study environment that offers space for both deep focus and activity. Community, shared life and common spaces are top priorities. Collaboration happens when people meet, which is why the campus must be designed with shared spaces that accommodate both small and large communities. The campus should be designed to support employees and students in spending the entire day there, providing the facilities they need throughout the workday.

The campus should promote interaction and engagement between the schools and departments, strengthen ties between students and researchers, support interdisciplinary research and teaching,

and serve as a platform for external collaboration. Therefore, a key priority is to place research and teaching environments close to each other and to ensure that spaces and spatial connections support collaboration. The University City South should feature one or more major hubs.

2. A flexible learning and work environment

A future-proof and flexible learning and work environment must be ensured. The learning environment should support dialogic and dynamic teaching, allowing for seamless transitions between different teaching methods. To ensure a lively and varied learning experience, classrooms, lecture theatres, study zones and group rooms should be located close to each other. It should also be possible to integrate open study areas into the teaching, ensuring that group work and deep focus become a natural part of the learning environment.

The physical environment must be flexible so that office and meeting facilities can accommodate changes in department sizes, forms of collaboration and working methods. Offices and shared facilities should be strategically located to ensure that shared facilities can be used across departments and schools. Common spaces should be dynamic and serve multiple functions, inviting work, gatherings, spontaneous meetings, social interactions, exhibitions and showcasing.

3. Sense of place and identity

The University City South must clearly reflect Arts' identity as a diverse faculty, both indoors and outdoors. The identity lies in diversity, where the distinct expertise of schools and departments shapes a cohesive whole.

Aesthetically inspiring and well-functioning work and study environments should ensure that the campus is an attractive place to spend time – both for academic immersion and social interaction. This requires the creation of good physical spaces and welcoming academic settings with clear and easy access to essential facilities. Students should have the opportunity to shape their surroundings, making them vibrant and personal.

4. An open campus area

Arts in the University City South should be an open and inclusive place where students, staff and external guests feel welcome. Its location should strengthen the connection between Arts in the University City and the rest of Aarhus University, while integrating the faculty into the city of Aarhus. Student life should be visible and accessible in designated areas. This also applies to outdoor areas, which serve as spaces for gathering and interaction in everyday campus life.

The campus will include facilities that can host smaller events and activities, contributing to a dynamic exchange environment where students, teaching staff and external partners can meet in settings that reflect Arts' identity. The extent of external facilities for Arts should be considered in relation to the nearby 800-seat lecture theatre.

5. A holistic approach to sustainability

The University City South should promote a holistic approach to sustainability where physical, environmental and human factors play a central role. Renovation will only take place where necessary, and densification will be achieved through efficient use of space and shared facilities.

In the existing buildings, load-bearing partition walls and window placement determine the possible room sizes. Therefore, the final amount of space and number of rooms will depend on how the existing building stock is integrated and how new buildings are designed based on the stated requirements and preferences. The variation in room sizes can create flexibility across floors and should be seen as a strength. For example, the variation in room sizes can help support Arts' goal of achieving a well-balanced mix of classrooms, study zones and group rooms located close to each other.

The campus should provide accessible and inclusive buildings that support well-being, with universal design incorporated from the outset. This includes logical and intuitive wayfinding, making it easy to read and navigate the buildings.

Recycling, resource consciousness and renewable energy production are key principles that support the long-term, responsible development of the campus, with buildings reflecting conscious material choices. Green elements, both indoors and outdoors, should contribute to a sustainable and inviting environment, where outdoor spaces accommodate urban nature and support biodiversity.