

Stryker Center Concept

Background Information

Evolution of Williamsburg's "City Square" (See Figure 1)

- City government offices moved to N. Boundary St. from S. England Street in the early 1930s to make way for the Restoration.
- City Square today covers approximately 23 acres. Major structures include:
 - Stryker Building (1967)
 - Library (1973)
 - Police and Fire Stations (1978)
 - Library Arts Center (1982)
 - Public Works Complex (1985)
 - Municipal Building (1988)
 - Community Building and Parking Terrace (1999)
 - Transportation Center (rehab of 1935 Train Station in 2002)
 - Chamber of Commerce (2000)
 - Library expansion (1999)
 - Emergency Operations Center (2011)
 - Municipal Building expansion (2011)
- Centerpiece for all these structures in City Square is the large Green and Library Plaza, designed by Carlton Abbott designed to unify the disparate elements of the "campus" as it was developed over time.
- City Council met in three successive city/county Courthouse buildings from 1770 until 1989, when it moved into the existing Stryker Building space.
- This Century Art Gallery will soon announce plans to build its home adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce (Hershberger) Building.
- The next step, and the crowning feature in the development of City Square, will be Stryker Center.

Description of Stryker Center Proposed Facilities (See Figure 2)

- The project will replace existing Stryker Building (or adaptively reuse existing Stryker), in order to enable both city government and the Williamsburg Regional Library to address community needs.
- Key features of the building to be:
 - Approximately 14,000 sq. ft. in size.
 - Up to five offices and work space for Regional Library Director and staff.

- 100 seat City Council Chamber, also suitable for other community presentations and other activities, including W/JCC School Board meetings.
- Video production and broadcast capability to televise public meetings and other events.
- Four multipurpose meeting/activity rooms of various sizes for Library, City and community uses.
- Gallery/pre-function space for Library changing exhibits.
- Opportunity for exhibit of City of Williamsburg post-colonial and local government history.
- Catering kitchen and restrooms to support facility uses.

Assessment of Library and City Needs

- The Williamsburg Library and Arts Center is used extensively now, and is pressed for space. The last expansion was 13 years ago.
 - The Williamsburg Regional Library needs to fulfill its Strategic Plan direction “offering programs that advance the library’s function as a community center.”
 - In fiscal 2012, program attendance at the Library topped 65,000 people, and meeting room use topped 17,000 attendees.
 - Potential meeting room users are frequently turned away, or do not ask, due to limited availability.
 - The Stryker Center will provide the Library with up to a 215% increase in meeting room space over existing facilities.
 - The Library meeting rooms and auditorium are not equipped for television broadcast/video recording.
 - Space for traveling exhibits and other static presentations hosted by the Library is very limited.
 - Teen Services needs space for expansion, which would be addressed by expanding into existing Library meeting rooms.
 - Circulation and collection servicing activities need more space, which would be addressed by expanding into existing staff office area.
 - The senior administration for the regional library systems will function effectively outside the walls of the existing Williamsburg Library, but continued close proximity is a clear advantage.
- The City of Williamsburg has satisfied its needs for administrative space with the recent expansion of the Municipal Building and Fire Station/EOC leaving the Stryker Building vacant, except for the City Council Chambers and work session space.
 - The Williamsburg City Council and major City boards and commission, have no home befitting the quality and heritage of the City of Williamsburg

- The existing City Council Chamber fails on many counts: it is poorly designed for effective governing body hearings and meetings, technically archaic, cramped and uncomfortable for citizens attending meetings, and does not meet current accessibility standards.
- The City Council does not have a work session or conference room meeting space with video broadcast capability.
- In addition to City Council, City boards such as Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board suffer from inadequate space both for formal meetings and work sessions.
- The existing Stryker Building (1967) has had problems with mold, poor ventilation, and temperature and humidity control. It is thoroughly outmoded, and many would say, ugly. The last renovation was in 1989.
- 2002 detail engineering survey of the Stryker Building recommended its demolition and replacement over rehabilitation. Of particular importance is the inability to access the second floor under ADA requirements. The City has obtained an additional decade of service since that time.
- A modern Council Chamber could also service the W/JCC School Board for their formal meetings (wholly, or shared with the JCC BOS Board Room).
- The City Council has long expressed a desire for appropriate space to display artifacts and photography of the City's post-colonial and governmental history.

Stryker Center Cost and Management Considerations

- Project cost includes demolition of existing Stryker Building (if replaced), design services, site preparation and landscaping, construction costs, technology package (video origination, sound and visual systems), and furnishings.
- Williamsburg Library Foundation has expressed interest in major funding support in excess of \$500,000 to assist City in construction, technology, and furnishing costs.
- City and Library will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on the operation of the Center. The MOU will address issues such as:
 - Hours of operation/staff presence in building
 - Open during hours when Library is open for normal operations
 - Open at other times, if any, with City responsible for building
 - Ownership and responsibility of AV and IT equipment
 - Align ownership with user where possible
 - Joint use of equipment by agreement
 - TV production team allocation of services and costs
 - Responsibility for supplying other furnishings and equipment
 - City – Exterior, Council Chamber, Council workroom, kitchen and restrooms
 - Library – Library administrative area, public meeting rooms, exhibit gallery

- Systems maintenance responsibility
 - City – Exterior; Building electrical, mechanical and HVAC systems; Fixtures/equipment in Council Chamber and workroom, restrooms and kitchen
 - Library – Fixtures and equipment in Library admin areas, exhibit gallery and public meeting rooms
- Janitorial responsibility
 - City for exterior and once daily janitorial service
 - Library for interior clearing between users
- Control over use of rooms, scheduling
 - Library – meeting rooms, gallery
 - City – Council Chamber, Council workroom
- Disposition of room rental and use fees
 - Library – retain 3rd party revenues
 - City does not pay for city sponsored events
- Responsibility for serving/managing users
 - Library – for library supported events and rentals
 - City – for city supported events