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# LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

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## CONTEXT

The Merced County Library system currently serves Merced’s residents. However, reduced funding has resulted in the scaling back of services including programs, hours, and staff. Development in the University Community will need to creatively address the provision of this important service.

There are no cultural facilities located in the University Community, though there are numerous organizations and events that serve the City and region today. Among these are the Merced County Arts Center & Arbor Gallery, Multi-Cultural Arts Center, Merced Center for Performing Arts, Merced Open Air Theater in Applegate Park, Merced Symphony Orchestra, fun runs, county fairs, antique shows, farmers markets, and local school plays and performances.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Community Plan goals, objectives, and policies provide for the development of library and cultural facilities to serve the University Community.

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### LIBRARIES AS CENTERPIECES OF LEARNING AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY

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#### Goal

High quality library services for University Community residents.

#### Objective

#### PLC 1.0

To develop library facilities to serve the needs of the University Community’s residents.

#### Policies

#### PLC 1.1

Establish standards for the development of Community libraries that recognize opportunities for joint use with UC Merced, other institutions, and opportunities imposed by digital communication. *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7)*

#### PLC 1.2

Develop library facilities that serve the University Community, as identified in sub-area Specific Plans, which may include:

- One or more freestanding facilities for library services
- Shared library facilities with area schools
- Library facilities integrated with multi-purpose community/cultural facilities
- Shared library facilities with UC Merced
- Library facilities incorporated within commercial/retail development *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7)*

#### PLC 1.3

Encourage libraries to be consolidated with other public facilities in the Town Center and Residential Village Centers near transit facilities, bike paths, and pedestrian paths, to serve as a contributing use that fosters activity and identity. *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7)*

#### Objective

#### PLC 2.0

To capitalize upon the opportunity to integrate and share library facilities with related educational, cultural, and other Community institutions.

#### Policies

#### PLC 2.1

Encourage the development of library facilities that can be jointly used by public schools and community residents. *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7, 5.8)*

#### PLC 2.2

Work with UC library system to explore opportunities for the sharing/linkage of library resources including facilities, staffing, and circulation materials. Promote access to the UC library system by Merced’s residents. *(Imp 3.3)*

## Objective

### PLC 3.0

To utilize technology to expand and enhance library services for residents.

## Policies

### PLC 3.1

Install new technology, such as a fiber optic network, for telecommunication services to connect University Community housing and other neighborhood facilities with local libraries and, as feasible, the UC library system.

*(Imp 2.5, 4.3, 5.7)*

### PLC 3.2

Encourage the development of “information access” in public facilities and buildings (computer terminals or kiosks in public facilities). *(Imp 2.5, 2.6, 4.6, 5.7, 5.10)*

### PLC 3.3

Support innovative methods (as they emerge) of delivering library services at the neighborhood level to promote community education and provide a focus for community activity and cultural development. *(Imp 5.7)*

## CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS THAT ENHANCE LIVABILITY

## Goal

A diversity of cultural opportunities for University Community residents and visitors.

## Objective

### PLC 4.0

To celebrate the University Community through programming of community events.

## Policies

### PLC 4.1

Promote local community groups to establish and support a regular calendar of events that bring local residents together such as book fairs, festivals, neighborhood celebrations, athletic competitions, picnics/food preparation, and so on. *(Imp 3.5)*



### PLC 4.2

Work with UC Merced in the scheduling of events and activities that serve both campus and Community.

*(Imp 3.3)*

### PLC 4.3

Encourage local artists to contribute artistically to the design of Community facilities and public art. *(Imp 3.5)*

## Objective

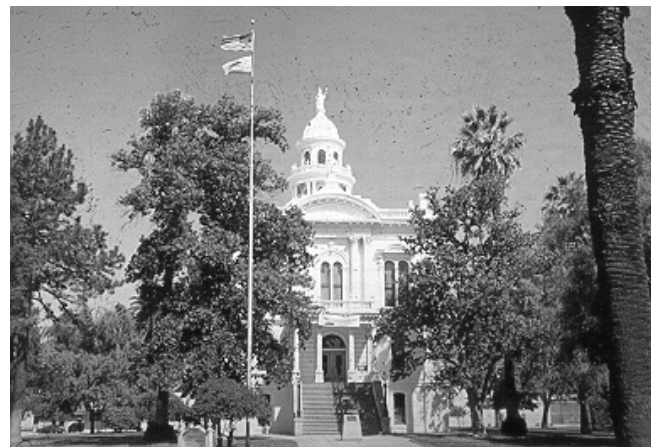
### PLC 5.0

To develop a wide range of cultural facilities to serve the University Community.

## Policies

### PLC 5.1

Work closely with civic groups to identify opportunities for the development of cultural facilities within the University Community. *(Imp 3.5)*



### PLC 5.2

Promote and support the development of “satellite” facilities of existing Merced cultural organizations, such as an arts or historical center, in the University Community. *(Imp 3.5)*

### PLC 5.3

Promote the development of a museum or educational facility that documents the history, culture, and landscape of the Merced region, including the agricultural industry and critical plant and animal resources. This may be accomplished in collaboration with UC Merced. *(Imp 3.5)*



### PLC 5.4

Work closely with UC Merced to develop community relationships with on-campus cultural facilities in terms of community participation and facility/event programming. *(Imp 3.3)*

### PLC 5.5

Promote the development of cultural facilities in the Town Center, as the first priority locations, with possible facilities in the Residential Village Centers. *(Imp 2.5, 3.5)*

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## POLICE AND FIRE—ASSURING THE SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY’S RESIDENTS

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### CONTEXT

The University Community site is served by the Merced County Sheriff’s Department, which operates out of City of Merced police facilities. Development in the University Community could necessitate the development of a local facility.

The Merced County Fire Department provides fire, rescue and emergency medical services to the University Community area and all unincorporated areas within the County. McKee Station #85 is the closest facility to the University Community area. Development of the University Community would likely necessitate the development of new facilities to assure levels of service and response times.

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

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#### A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY

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##### Goal

A high level of police protection for University Community residents, visitors, and businesses.

##### Objective

#### PS 1.0

To coordinate land development activities with police and sheriff’s departments in order to ensure that adequate facilities and services are development to provide service in the university community.