

June 16, 2014

City of Colorado Springs
Office of the Mayor and City Council
30 North Nevada
Colorado Springs, CO 80901



Re: City for Champions LEED construction

Dear Mayor Bach and City Council Members:

The Green Cities Coalition (GCC) of the Pikes Peak Region is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote economically, socially, and ecologically healthy cities in El Paso County. We submit these recommendations in reference to development of the City for Champions projects. Our purpose in providing these recommendations is to encourage incorporation of best practices with respect to development of the City for Champions and poses neither an endorsement for nor opposition to the City for Champions' proposal.

Given the nature of these projects, GCC requests that best practices as defined by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) be followed with regard to planning, execution and determining long-term impact. This includes the democratic practices of involving citizens, selecting contractors and service providers, involving neighborhoods and local organizations.

As UCCS policy requires that all buildings be LEED certified, it is the recommendation of the GCC that all 4 buildings be built as LEED certified. This kind of construction promotes low energy consumption and sustainable uses.

LEED construction also incorporates a transportation component. By incorporating LEED certification and the development of a transit system that connects all four structures, we feel these 2 additions to the development plans for the City for Champions will attract of tourists and investors to the community.

The GCC has gathered specific requests from our working groups in transportation, water, energy, local foods and recycling. The recommendations for inclusion in development of the City for Champions are provided for consideration to the long-term economic benefits to the community.

Transportation: Connectivity; downtown and the surrounding area public connectivity, which can take several forms including bus transportation, trolleys and other mass transit. Adjust infrastructure to meet the needs of visitors and citizens and create:

- Public transportation hubs
- Bike lanes and pedestrian trails
- Parking for bikes
- Incentives to take mass transit
- Improvements to streets and road
- Better timing for lights and pedestrian crossings
- Bike Share program
- Electric car charging stations
- COS Airport transit connections

Local Foods: Commitment to local foods/products/agritourism - we should think of downtown as the "kitchen" of Colorado Springs, where we can sit down with a local beverage and some great local food and engage in conversation

- Use of local vendors
- Locally produced foods; use of local food establishments
- Roof top gardens for cooling
- Urban gardens
- Include Colorado Springs Downtown Public Market in C4C development

Energy:

- Base load energy is self-sufficient
- High efficiency
- Geothermal heating and cooling
- Solar-thermal
- Micro turbines to offset "new electric capacity"
- If Drake Power Plant remains in use, retain waste heat from Plant for heating and cooling
- Carbon offsets for embodied energy
- Full life cycle costs

Water:

- Water conservation measures
- Use of xeriscape and low flow irrigation systems
- Use of low flow plumbing
- Use of water catch basins to direct rain water for watering landscape
- Recycle and recapture water
- Water quality and flows in Fountain Creek and impact to C4C development. Shore up Fountain Creek banks

Recycling:

- Incorporate state-of-the-art recycling opportunities - featuring not only single stream recycling, but composting to the extent possible
- Recycling education creating a learning hub providing for further education about our community with recycling and waste management a part of that conversation
- Encourage visitors to bring their own water bottles and selling only recycled/recyclable/compostable materials
- Use of hydration stations, rather than water fountains

The Downtown Public Market is a natural fit with the two projects proposed for the downtown core - it features the best of Colorado Springs from a food/beverage/product standpoint, enticing visitors to spend more time in the city and get to know the area. It's another piece of the "cultural hub" that should be incorporated.

Lastly, as an additional consideration outside of LEED construction, the Olympic Museum could be expanded to include a Children's Science Museum, Natural History and Science Museum, etc., to create a Regional Museum. The Green Cities Coalition appreciates the opportunity to provide this input into development of City for Champions.

Sincerely,

Green Cities Coalition
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