

Kenyon College

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN 2014



“*Kenyon remains a small college and exemplifies deliberate limitation. What is included here is special, what is excluded is not necessary to our purposes. Focus is blurred when there is dispersion over large numbers or over a large body of interests. Kenyon remains comprehensible. Its dimensions are humane and not overpowering. Professors, knowing students over years, measure their growth. Students, knowing professors intimately, discover the harmony or conflict between what a teacher professes and his or her behavior.*”

— KENYON COLLEGE COURSE CATALOG 2014-2015
 KENYON COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

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Introduction

Kenyon College has chosen to update the 2004 Campus Master Plan as part of a comprehensive strategic planning process. The goals of this Master Plan update are to reaffirm the guiding principles of the 2004 Plan, evaluate these principles in light of the campus initiatives that have been completed since 2004—including the recent Landscape Master Plan—and define physical planning recommendations to guide future campus development in support of the Strategic Plan.

The Campus Master Plan is an opportunity to reinforce what makes Kenyon unique. It aims to enhance the student experience, strengthen the College's role in the local community as a cultural and economic resource and further Kenyon's environmental stewardship. The Master Plan establishes a framework for future campus development in support of the academic mission as defined in the Strategic Plan. To that end, the Master Plan has been structured around broad objectives rather than specific initiatives. Areas of emphasis include the adaptive reuse of buildings that have been vacated by recent construction, addressing the needs of College Relations and Admissions, strengthening community through selective residential improvements and the creation of a comprehensive revitalization plan for the Village.



SEAN DECATUR
President

A Letter from the President

This document represents the committed work of numerous members of the Gund Partnership and the Kenyon and Gambier communities. While it is in some ways an elaboration and extension of portions of the College's 2004 master plan, which was also prepared by the Gund Partnership, it includes several projects not imagined or thoroughly worked out in the earlier plan. It is, in fact, an essential part of the Kenyon 2020 strategic plan.

The Master Plan Steering Committee comprised members of the College's board of trustees, its administration, faculty, and student body, and the village administration. The committee was charged with addressing needs that have arisen since 2004, especially with regard to student life, and revisiting previously identified problems, most of them related to the availability of appropriate academic and other facilities, for which solutions were not yet in place. The members were also encouraged to propose ways in which the master plan could not only maintain and preserve but also enhance the sense of community at Kenyon and in Gambier.

To those ends, the committee and the Gund Partnership directed much of their attention to areas north of Wiggin Street and the academic core. These included the student residence halls just north of Brooklyn Street and west of Chase Avenue known as the Freshman Quadrangle, which last accommodated the entire entering class in 1968. This master plan envisions remodeling of the existing buildings in that area and constructing new ones in order to house the freshman class in a group of contiguous residence halls with designs reflective of the historic architecture elsewhere on campus. Such a group would foster both the sense of community within each new class and the bonding that produces strong class and collegiate loyalties.

The village center, long a source of concern for its dearth of attractions for students and other community members, for its nearly total lack of available commercial and professional space, and for its various architectural failings, was examined in detail from Wiggin Street to Brooklyn Street. The master plan provides imaginative proposals for dealing with all of these, including a way to bring more student traffic into the area by relocating the Student Affairs Division in remodeled and new structures along Chase Avenue. Other proposals, such as a series of buildings on the site of Farr Hall that would greatly increase available commercial and professional space, address all three problems. Perhaps the most visible of the proposals would be a new Kenyon Inn, replacing the current and increasingly problematic structure with a larger one capable of meeting the needs of a greater number

of guests as well as the many community members who meet and dine there.

Key issues in the academic core were also addressed. These include the need for better facilities for the Department of Biology, entailing both remodeling of and additions to Higley Hall, and for the dance program. The discussion of the latter led to the proposal to bring all of the Department of Dance, Drama, and Film into a new "arts district" in the West Quadrangle. That quad, which has already begun to take shape with the existing Storer Hall and the recently completed Gund Gallery and Horvitz Hall, would also be the site of a new academic building, with much-needed auditorium, classroom, and office spaces, as well as a similarly sized building to accommodate the offices of the president and provost along with other administrative operations.

The largest of the master plan's individual proposals, in both scope and expected costs, are the underground parking garage in the West Quad and a new Kenyon library. The former would allow the West Quad to function fully as an extension of the campus – centered on a newly created green space – while providing much-needed additional parking spaces for employees as well as campus visitors. The latter would give us the opportunity to design a facility that not only meets current and anticipated needs within the evolving fields of library and information sciences but also offers more, and more pleasant, areas for student research and individual and group studying. As the preliminary designs show, it could engage more fully with other academic buildings on campus simply by offering entrances on both its eastern (Middle Path) and western (West Quad) sides.

I think you will find much to admire in the following pages, along with much that is thought provoking. The buildings, the renovations and additions to existing buildings, and the other new structures proposed by the plan represent an enormous financial commitment, one that is unlikely to be covered by the results of any single fundraising effort. And because there are many other areas of great need at the College – ranging from program costs and employee salaries to curricular innovations, financial aid, and maintenance of existing structures – construction of each of the facilities envisioned in this master plan must be carefully considered for its potential contributions to the improvement of the Kenyon experience and to the ongoing life of the community.

Sincerely,
Sean M. Decatur
President, Kenyon College



Kenyon College Mission Statement

THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLEGE

“ I. Academics

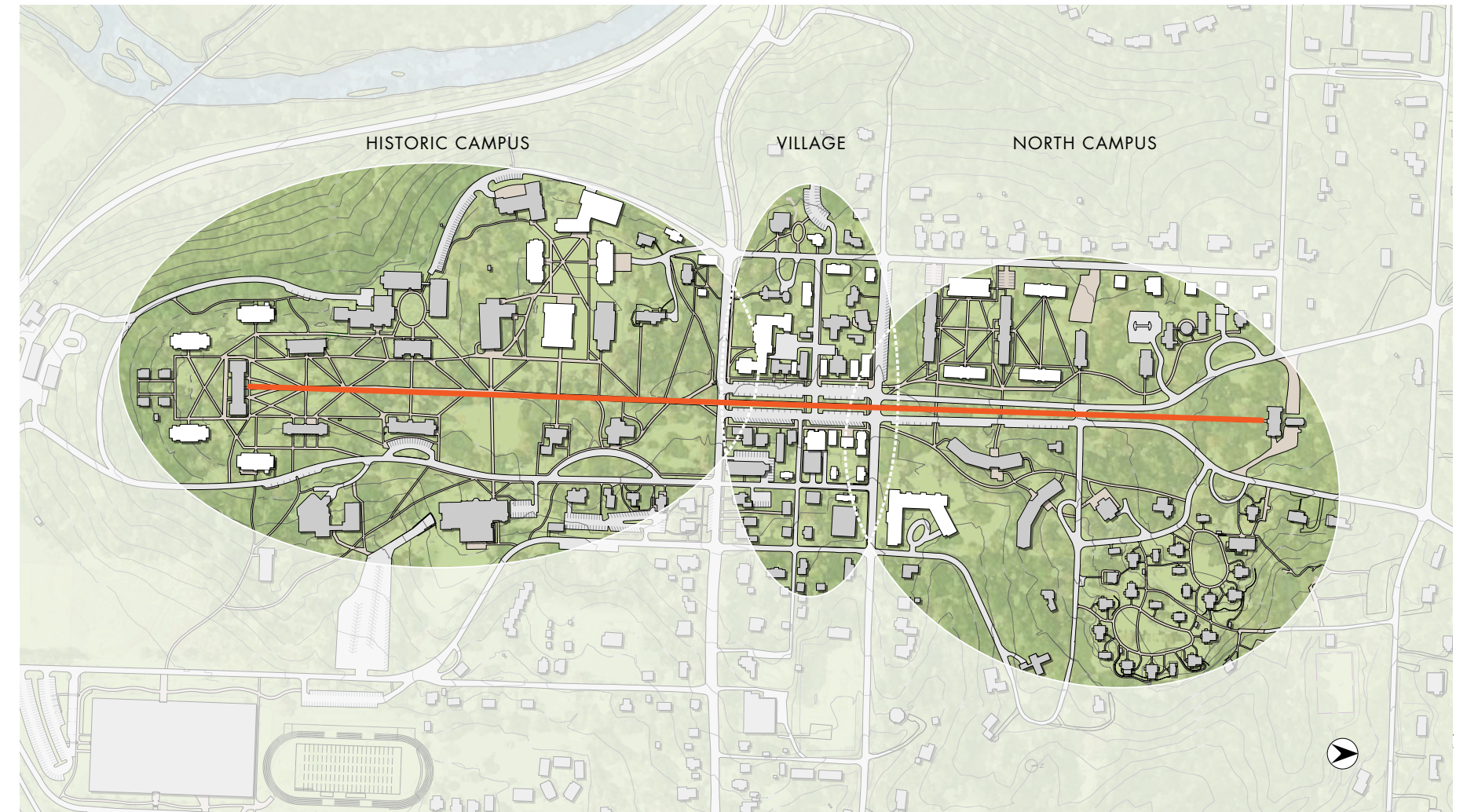
Kenyon is institutionally committed to promoting a liberal arts education. Skills are promoted and developed that are not only useful to any career but essential for a fulfilling and valuable life. The academic program provides freedom within a common structure to promote balance and coherence, so students design truly liberal educations which are focused, expansive, and useful in the future.

II. Community

Fundamental to the Kenyon experience is that students and professors develop personal and long-term relationships. The personal contact between students and faculty that characterizes Kenyon stands as central to the Kenyon undergraduate experience. The consequence of student-faculty interaction is that student experience is not one of anonymity. The scale and rural location of the residential community heighten the importance of these relationships. Kenyon provides an environment that is aesthetically conducive to study.

III. Leadership and Success

The opportunity to participate in campus life and the ease and comfort of participation are characteristic of Kenyon. The atmosphere at Kenyon promotes student involvement. Discourse among students is frequent, on both academic and nonacademic issues, and that discourse is enriched by the diversity of the faculty and student body. Students are active in producing their own experience, rather than being primarily receivers or observers. Doing, by oneself and with others, is Kenyon's recipe for learning. ”



The Kenyon Campus

The Kenyon Campus sits on a plateau above the Kokosing River in the rolling hills of rural Knox County. Often cited as one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, the verdant landscape and distinguished architecture create a powerful campus environment. The campus has an understandable and personal scale with expansive, breathtaking vistas all the while embracing the small village of Gambier. Its remote location enhances one's sense of wonder upon arrival.

Middle Path is the primary organizing element of the campus, extending two-thirds of a mile from Bexley Hall at the north to Old Kenyon at the south. Middle Path connects the campus's three distinct zones—the historic and academic core, the village and north campus. Each zone has a unique character and function but they are united and made whole by the powerful gesture of Middle Path.

Wonderful examples of collegiate Gothic architecture line the campus core and dominate one's perception of the campus. In addition to these landmark buildings, the campus contains a range of building types and architectural styles that work together harmoniously. From the Victorian Gothic Ascension Hall to the white cottages on College Park Street, the buildings are unique and distinguished yet share a similar spirit. Development north of the Village from the 1960s and 1970s is less successful but a cohesive campus landscape helps to knit these buildings into the fabric of the campus. Locally-quarried sandstone has been used at Kenyon since its earliest buildings, firmly rooting the buildings in this place and creating a sense of harmony that unifies the campus.



Campus Growth

Originally constructed from 1827 to 1829, the collegiate gothic Old Kenyon was the first permanent campus building and remains the iconic anchor of the campus. Construction of Rosse Hall commenced shortly after and began to define the academic green that is the heart of the college. Middle Path was laid out in 1842 by the third president of the college, David Bates Douglass, in an effort to organize the campus. Middle Path connected Old Kenyon to Wiggin Street, punctuating the entry with stone gates that flanked the entrance to College Park.

Bexley Hall seminary, which was begun in 1839, would define the northern limit of the Kenyon campus we know today. When Middle Path was extended to Bexley Hall in 1860 by Gregory Thurston Bedell, the third Bishop of Ohio, the powerful gesture of Middle Path was complete. Development at Kenyon over the next 150 years

occurred along Middle Path. The core academic area was well defined by the end of the 1920s which saw the addition of iconic buildings such as Leonard and Peirce.

The post war boom of the 1950s began to dilute this gesture in an effort to accommodate an increasing student population. Student residences were constructed north of the Village and buildings such as Phillip Mather Hall and Chalmers Library were added in the campus core interrupting the rhythm of buildings and green space.

The creation of the Coordinate College for Women in 1969 spurred a new round of development focused north of the village and saw the creation of Gund Commons, McBride, Mather and Caples. Although the women's college was originally intended to remain a separate but related entity it was incorporated into Kenyon College in 1972.



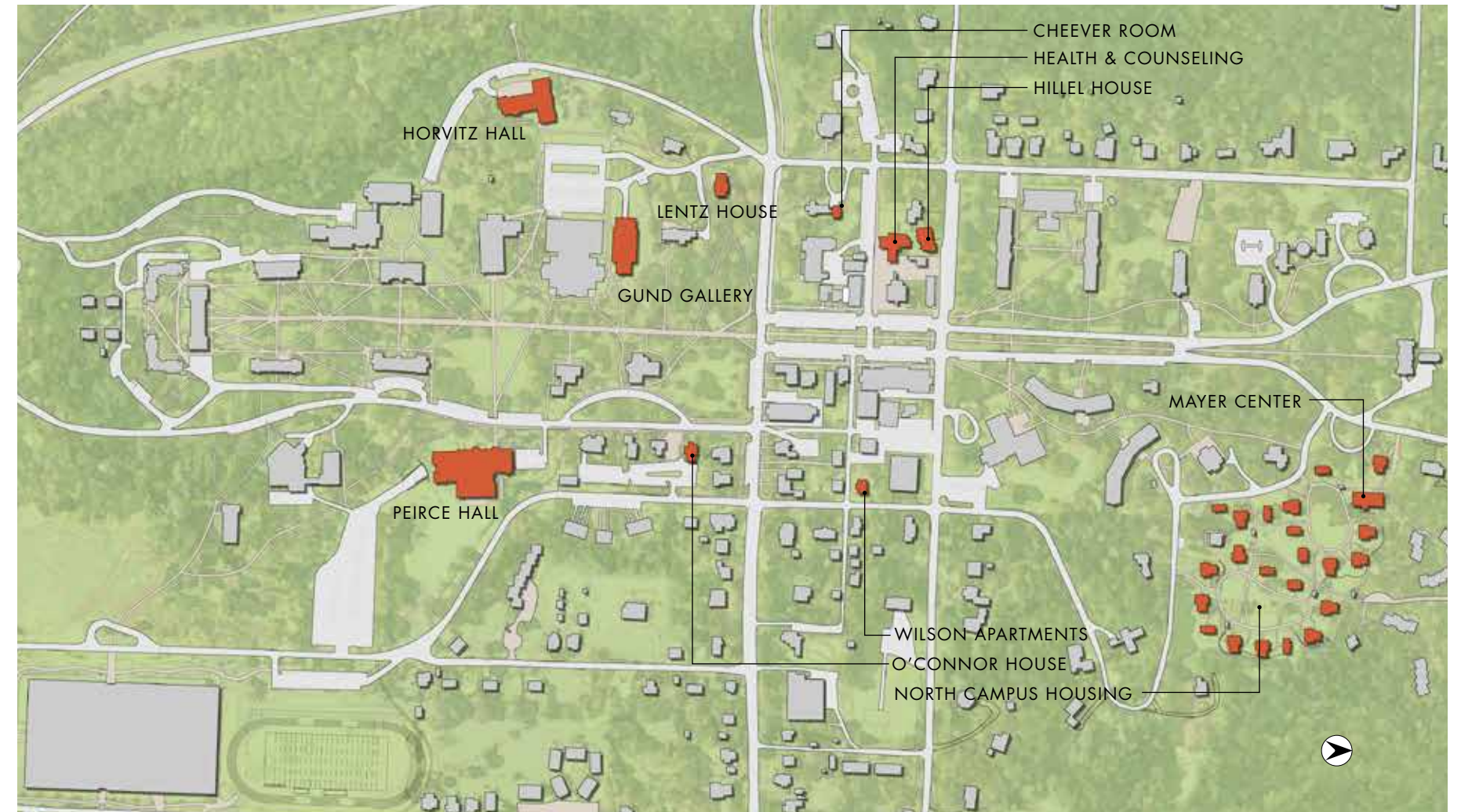
The 2004 Master Plan

The 2004 Master Plan focused on the historic core campus, with the goal of bringing all of the academic programs into the core around Middle Path and south of the college gate at Wiggin Street. Specific goals for the plan included:

- Renovate historic Kenyon buildings to be accessible and address changing program and pedagogy needs.
- Develop academic clusters to strengthen program cohesion and identity and address need for contemporary medium-size classrooms and faculty office space.
- Develop planning strategies for the West Quadrangle to accommodate academic program growth and greater density in the core area.
- Develop the Library and Peirce Hall as centers of academic and social life in the context of the campus.
- Increase student housing opportunities in the south campus areas to balance populations throughout campus and village and eliminate off campus housing.
- Respond to student housing desires by eliminating triple rooms, providing more single rooms and restoring commons areas in residence halls to create community.
- Relocate long-term student parking areas to the campus periphery and develop high volume options in the core for faculty and staff day parking and to support event parking in evenings and weekends.
- Restore the scale and character of the Village of Gambier and create development opportunities for new retail and services in the village center's high traffic areas while consolidating college functions and services nearby for student convenience.
- Relocate student program activities and Senior housing near the village center to restore residential areas in the village and create new faculty housing options.



Gund Gallery 2011



Campus Development Since 2004

The successful “We Are Kenyon” campaign allowed the College to support an unprecedented level of new construction at Kenyon. Since 2004, the college has completed several new buildings that offer updated, state-of-the-art services and spaces to the campus, help attract excellent students and leading faculty to join the college community, and support the goals of the 2004 Master Plan.

The initiatives undertaken in the last decade have focused on consolidating academic programs in the campus core; expanding housing opportunities; revitalizing Scott Lane; developing an Arts Quad, and creating a comprehensive parking plan that moves cars to the campus perimeter.

Current work underway includes the new Cox Health and Counseling Center on Scott Lane and the new Rothenberg House on West Brooklyn Street, opening in 2014.

The following projects have been completed since 2004:

- **Horvitz Hall** for studio art
New construction
- **Gund Gallery**
New construction
- **North Campus Apartments**
New construction
- **Lentz House** for English
New construction
- **O'Connor House** for interdisciplinary studies
New construction
- **Wilson Apartments**
New construction
- **Peirce Hall**
Renovation and expansion
- **Finn House**
Renovation and addition for the Kenyon Review
- **Hoehn-Saric House** for the Center for Global Engagement
Renovation and addition
- **Mayer Center (Art Barn)**
Renovation for the Craft Center and student spaces for north campus residents



Horvitz Hall for studio art 2012



Renovation/Expansion of Peirce and Dempsey Halls 2008



North Campus Housing 2013



Lentz House 2008



Cox Health and Counseling Center 2014