The future of society

Imagine a future where learning transcends existing institutions, open to all ages and incomes, and unhethered to traditional spaces. Imagine a future where cities embody the ideals of our communities, custom-built to how we live and how we renew future generations.

Today’s legacy will be the experience of the 22nd century. What is possible now will become reality; what is not yet conceived will enter the realm of possibility. How do we plan for a future we cannot yet see or imagine? We need to be guided to a future we cannot yet know.

To provide this guidance, we must put into place principles about social benefit to nourish successful institutions: inclusive economic policies, meaningful political engagement, sustainable and renewable resources, and most important of all, access to equitable and quality education.

In Social Sciences, we seek the farthest horizons that innovation makes possible. Instead of thinking about cities in terms of transit patterns and buildings, we explore what enriches and animates the urban experience. We want to enhance the landscape with the public’s well-being in mind. At the very foundation of democracy, education affords the best opportunities for resolving inequity, disenfranchisement, and devaluation of humans.

In order to grow discovery focused on society’s most compelling opportunities, Social Sciences will bring together faculty, students, and community members to collaborate in UC San Diego’s soon-to-be-built North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood.

Anchoring the Public Engagement Building space will be the Department of Education Studies, the Urban Studies and Planning Program, a new Real Estate and Development program, and CREATE, the Center for Research on Educational Equity, Assessment, and Teaching Excellence. The synergy of these disciplines will be catalytic for the future.

In UC San Diego’s Public Engagement Building, we will create a hub where our faculty, students, and the broader community can work together to generate ideas about quality of education and quality of life. Our goal is to sustain healthy neighborhoods throughout the San Diego region and grow high-quality schools.

By helping Social Sciences realize our aspirations through the Campaign for UC San Diego, you are creating a platform for growing the urban landscape and strengthening educational opportunities for all our citizens. You share in making the Public Engagement Building our catalyst for tomorrow.
Enhancing the social landscape

Social Sciences at UC San Diego embraces innovative, nontraditional approaches. Working with our faculty and our community partners, our students at all levels are empowered to pursue ideas wherever they take them. We track how institutional practices and social networks change in response to new opportunities. We test, create, and support promising initiatives that can enhance the social landscape.

Dissolving geographic barriers to knowledge

The power of incubating programs for the social good is exemplified by Jamie Alexandre and the 4.5 million young learners his nonprofit has helped. Alexandre, a Cognitive Science postdoctoral scholar and executive director of the Foundation for Learning Equality, established a nonprofit organization that makes automated instruction available to learners in the most isolated regions in the world. The software adopts the interactive features of better quality online instruction rather than passive video tutorials, so students thousands of miles from any university, or without internet access, can independently scale basic concepts to advanced proficiency.

Centering the beneficiaries

Student teams from UC San Diego participating in a local competition were tasked with innovating redevelopment that would transform an old courthouse in downtown San Diego into a space benefiting the public. Our students determined the site could address chronic problems of affordable housing and homelessness. Working collaboratively with local organizations such as Serving Seniors, they proposed a number of micro-affordable housing units in their redevelopment plan. With seniors being one of the fastest growing at-risk populations for homelessness, student ideas and ideals put the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens at the center of their redevelopment plans.

Aligning outcomes to intentions

Four years ago, there was only one computer science course offered in San Diego’s South Bay communities, where more than 200,000 children are educated. Even though computer science is among today’s most coveted STEM skills, few computer science courses are offered to low-income students, particularly young women. Today, there are more than 60 computer science courses offered in the South Bay, thanks to the partnership of Education Studies faculty and the CREATE program with local school districts.
PREPARING K-12 STUDENTS TO SUCCEED
CREATE organized a group of regional education leaders to tackle what they call a "troubling impediment" to young high school students going on to earn a four-year degree: students' difficulties with fractions/ proportional reasoning taught during their elementary and middle school grades. With colleagues in the San Diego Math Network, CREATE trained teachers how to teach proportional reasoning more effectively and help students make successful transitions to math education in middle school, high school, and beyond to college. These efforts come at a particularly important time, as educators and policy-makers across California are rethinking mathematics instruction and requirements for college algebra.

ENABLING EARLY, PERSONAL, AND RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS
Faculty from the Departments of Cognitive Science and Education Studies have partnered with the Vista Unified School District in a pioneering project that brings knowledge from education and neuroscience to the classroom. Teachers often struggle to reach the wide range of learners in their classrooms in part because they lack information about what will maximize each student's potential. In this project, a multidisciplinary team will gather real-time data on children's cognitive, socioemotional, and biological development and work with educators to support informed changes in classroom practice.

ASSURING THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY ARE BENEFITS FOR ALL
The Y think Tank Center for Social Science Research has become a major liaison between the university and the county of San Diego and the wider Southern California region, to bring social science knowledge, real-world applications, and data science to our partners in the region. Recently, the Center shared best practices on how to create city offices to spur immigrant integration in San Diego, working hand in hand with San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation's "Inclusive Growth" campaign.

The STEM Success Initiative aims to gather community and university resources to lift the region's K-20 sciences, technology, engineering, and math education throughout the San Diego region.
A space for the 22nd century, today

In Social Sciences, our faculty pursue knowledge by partnering with regional and national stakeholders. Faculty and students in all programs and departments of the division will benefit from flexible meeting and work space where they can transform promising new ideas into a more structured form.

Education Studies
Space customized to the programmatic work of Education Studies is designed to emphasize values of transparency, inclusiveness, and collaboration in preparing future teachers and educational researchers, leaders, and innovators.

Urban Studies and Planning (USP) and Real Estate and Development
Design Studio — A state-of-the-art extended-hours design studio will be valuable to members of our campus community and partnering stakeholders.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Lab — A premium GIS lab will augment UC San Diego's planning capacities, already substantially more sophisticated than what is publicly available.

CREATE
Offices and collaborative workspace will expand CREATE’s extensive collaborative efforts with campus and community partners, while also benefiting from its close proximity with colleagues in USP and Education Studies.

Social Sciences Incubation Space
A suite of collaboration spaces on the ground floor of the adjacent building will be dedicated to projects selected by the Dean of the Division of Social Sciences. At the outset, the dean envisions incubating projects energized by multiple specialties and community partners.

Social Sciences Dean
The Dean of the Division of Social Sciences will be the community's most powerful partner in improving people's lives in dialogue with prominent external stakeholders. Offices of the Dean will accommodate working space for professionals at many levels, meeting space, and a welcoming, inspiring reception area.

The eight-floor Public Engagement Building will include approximately 40,000 square feet in the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood, with added programmatic space across the second-floor breezeway in the adjacent Arts and Humanities facility. The building will have multiple flexible learning and meeting spaces, adaptable and welcoming to university and community members alike.
It takes a collective effort to create a society that celebrates ingenuity, aspiration, and tenacity.

With your gift, you join UC San Diego in advancing the Division of Social Sciences through the Campaign for UC San Diego. You help us reconfigure our communities, our society, and ultimately the aspirations of the next generation of citizens.

The distinction of humanity is our ability to imagine possible futures. The virtue of Social Sciences is the power to bring those imaginative futures into being. Individually and collectively, each program occupying Social Sciences’ Public Engagement Building unlocks the potential to transform existing systems, to rearrange them, and inspire the people living in our communities to exceed history’s constraints.

Through the Campaign for UC San Diego, you provide the means for the Division of Social Sciences to aspire to new paradigms of learning and living, ultimately making possible a world where education is readily replenished, neighborhoods sustain our ecologies, and commerce validates our values. Your generous contributions may be recognized within the Public Engagement Building at levels commensurate with the size of your gift.

Thank you for supporting the departments and programs of Social Sciences. Your support builds the foundation for the next century.
For more information about supporting the Social Sciences Public Engagement Building at UC San Diego or making other contributions to advance our vital work, please contact:

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