



EarthRise design
 Interpretive planning + architecture
 Donald Watson, FAIA, CIP

Does our site need master planning?

Table 2 summarizes key questions to be considered in master site planning and related interpretive planning. The questions address the critical issues of site and property, institutional and program activities, budgeting and finance.

EarthRise *design* can help to facilitate and provide guidance to coordinate these elements of a master planning and interpretive planning process.

Table 2 - Elements of a master planning and interpretive framework

	Master Plan Element	Questions to be answered	Items required and/or helpful to answer	NOTES
1	Physical (Site plan)	What are the limits and alternatives of planning and building? (institutional needs, zoning and regulatory requirements, community and market opportunities, and environmental criteria).	Property map depicting market or community area, site survey, plan indicating constraints, setbacks, easements, opportunities for green design (site/landscape, environmental and aesthetic features).	Research to identify all regulatory requirements and site conditions. Detailed surveys (contours, geophysical) may be required only after a building site is selected
2	Institutional	What project goals and criteria describe the program, for planning, funding (prior to selection of A/E design team). What is needed for organizational and external approvals?	Description of approvals required, including schedule and related requirements of submittals. Timetable and start-up for planning, fund-raising, A/E selection, design, and construction.	Timetable for consultant studies and design may be determined by institutional assessment of what is required for fund-raising and approvals.
3	Program statement of (3a) goals and (3b) space needs	(3a) What are the building and related site goals and overall design criteria (vision)? (3b) What are the space needs, activities, function and physical requirements? required? (to be verified by A/E firm)	(3a) Verbal narrative statement of vision, goals, design criteria, anticipated building program. List of staffing present and projected. List collections (for exhibits). (3b) Detail space list with sizes and technical requirements, requires recommendations of staff, professional specialists)	(3a) For purposes of master planning, this is an initial statement, subject to verification after design professionals are selected. (3b) The program statement is a dynamic document and is verified and developed as project proceeds.
4	Funding	What are the estimated budget and fund-raising sources and schedule required to carry out the project, including operation and maintenance?	Estimates (preliminary) of construction costs and professional fees, including staffing; market assessment and feasibility of proposed programs.	Project budgeting is subject to verification. Construction costs are obtainable from consultants, reference to comparables.

Source: Donald Watson / EarthRise *design*