



McKinney City Hall

Unifying Spaces for a New Civic Era

Design and policy advisory, spatial analysis and test fits
 Government/Public Services
 2021
 McKinney, TX
 434 staff
 180,000 sqft

In 2021, the City of McKinney, TX was in the process of consolidating various municipal departments that had been spread out across nine separate buildings into a singular, modern five-floor City Hall. This strategic consolidation was designed to enhance efficiency, foster closer collaboration among departments, and create a more cohesive community space. Before fully implementing its space needs assessment and interior design masterplan into the newly designed complex, McKinney sought to integrate best practices from other governmental organizations into a programmatic vision that prioritized flexibility, shared spaces, and Activity-Based Working (ABW).

With the complexity and significance of this transition in mind, McKinney sought the expertise of PLASTARC to guide the programming and schematic design phases. Our years of experience conducting and analyzing workplace research for the General Services Administration (GSA) meant that we already had an extensive understanding of workplace design for governmental institutions. While interviews with McKinney leadership helped us to understand specific departmental needs, this background of prior research ensured that we could McKinney integrate these diverse criteria into a single, streamlined facility. Equipped with extensive workplace research at comparable governmental departments, our fluencies would inform a final design that facilitated efficient municipal operations while embracing the community's involvement.

Through detailed programming and test-fitting efforts, PLASTARC delivered tailored solutions that addressed the unique dimensions and constraints of the new City Hall. Rather than designing replicable neighborhoods that could be used throughout the building, we mapped out entire floor plans that were custom-fitted according to the facilities' highly specific layout and each department's needs.

After receiving feedback from McKinney on its three originally proposed programs, PLASTARC provided a final program and test-fit that met all of the city's criteria. The new McKinney City Hall, which is integrating this program, represents a bold step forward in municipal workspace design. Our involvement was essential in sculpting a design that embodies principles of connectivity, efficiency, and community focus. This project sets a precedent for future municipal projects, demonstrating the value of thoughtful design and strategic consolidation in creating spaces that are truly reflective of the community's needs.

METHODS

- Conducted interviews with leaders to assess specific departmental needs
- Peer-reviewed initial space need assessments and schematic designs
- Applied ongoing case studies from other governmental clients to inform updated programmatic recommendations
- Offered three comprehensive programming proposals that each offered a unique space type distribution and floor plan

KEY VALUES & OUTCOMES

- Consolidated lobbies and welcome spaces on each of the floors to optimize space distribution
- Offered schematic designs for each floor that met all departmental needs
- Finalized an interior design program that fully integrated client's feedback
- Introduced new space types, including phone booths and interdepartmental meeting spaces, that specifically serve concentrative and collaborative work styles

“PLASTARC's rich research, data reports, and test fit equipped the Design team and client for informed decisions, aligning the City of McKinney with workplace design trends while honoring their unique culture.”

~ Melina Phillips, Lead Designer, Lake Flato Architects