



ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT: UP MANILA'S SDG 11 INITIATIVES (AY 2021-2022)

In the bustling heart of Manila, the University of the Philippines Manila (UP Manila) stands as a beacon of responsible urban development, resolutely committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) - Sustainable Cities and Communities. Grounded in a steadfast dedication to public access, sustainability, and student well-being, UP Manila is making significant strides towards crafting an urban oasis that extends its benefits to all.





PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

The UP Manila Complex is declared as a National Historical Landmark by virtue of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Resolution No. 15 that houses numerous heritage buildings. Buildings within the campus have been declared as Important Cultural Property (ICP) or National Cultural Treasure by the National Historical Commission and the National Museum, and these are: Calderon Hall, Nurses Home, PGH Administrative Building, Salcedo Hall, Paz Mendoza Hall, Rizal Hall, Lara Hall, Dela Paz Hall, UPM Museum, Cancer Institute, and the old NIH Building. Most of these buildings are consistent with the style of the American Colonial Period, Specifically the Spanish Mission Revival and Neoclassical architectural style.



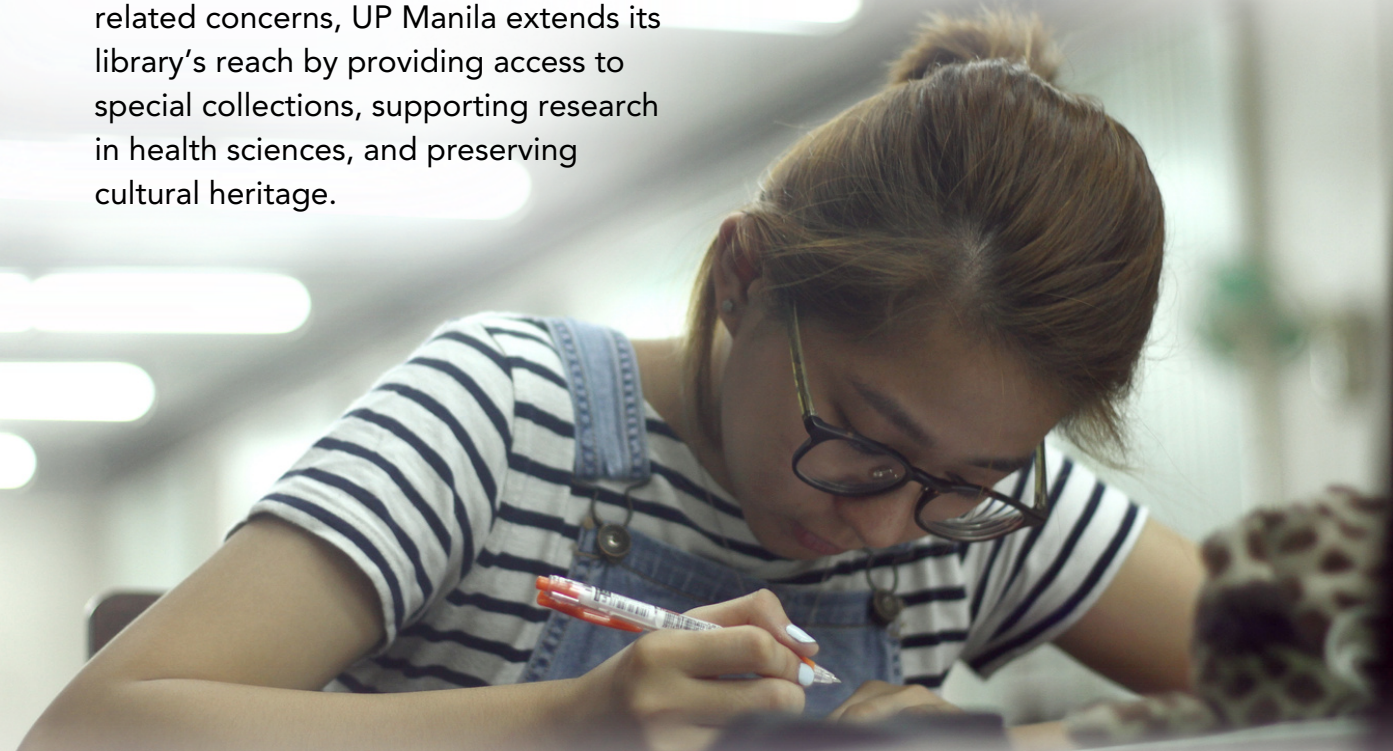


Given the cultural identity of the University, UP Manila's Land Use Development and Infrastructure Master Plan is sensitive to the preservation and adaptive re-use of the existing buildings. As identified in the Manila Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the UP Manila houses heritage buildings under the Histo-Cultural Heritage Overlay Zone (O-HCH) which requires special consideration for protection and conservation due to their special character, architectural value, or aesthetic interest wherein they contribute to the City's collective understanding of its historical development and cultural heritage. (Source: [1](#))



FACILITATING PUBLIC ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

A cornerstone of UP Manila's commitment to SDG 11 is its unwavering dedication to facilitating public access to knowledge resources. The university generously opens its libraries and museums to the public, thereby fostering lifelong learning and cultural enrichment. These accessible spaces function as vibrant hubs of knowledge and heritage, enriching the community's intellectual and cultural tapestry. Notably, UP Manila employs the UP Manila iLib Web Catalog, an online database, to enable remote search for print resources, ensuring that the broader public can engage with its wealth of materials. Although access to print resources onsite has been temporarily restructured due to pandemic- and facility construction-related concerns, UP Manila extends its library's reach by providing access to special collections, supporting research in health sciences, and preserving cultural heritage.



CONTRIBUTING TO ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The UP Manila Museum of History of Ideas (UPM-MHI) plays a vital role in enhancing the cultural landscape of Manila. Through its diverse exhibitions and education events, it serves as a catalyst for the community's appreciation of arts and heritage. An innovative response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum Virtual Tour was introduced during the Museum's 60th Founding Anniversary and the Museum and Galleries Month. This online tour, available both in English and Filipino narration, enables audiences to virtually explore the Museum's exhibits.

Furthermore, a noteworthy endeavor known as the "Beyond Vision Project" culminated in the official launch of a tactile exhibit in October 2019. This initiative involved the creation of Braille-embossed plates and audio materials, a collaborative effort between UP Manila's Museum of History of Ideas, Touch the Artist Vision, Rotary Club of San Juan del Monte, Jesse M. Robredo Foundation, and the Philippine Eye Research Institute. The project aimed to enhance the museum experience for blind and visually impaired individuals, offering them meaningful engagement with the exhibits. Such initiatives align with UP Manila's commitment to promoting inclusivity and accessibility, thereby ensuring equal opportunities for all segments of society. They are further consonant with the principles enshrined in Republic Act No. 72377, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, which advocates for the welfare of disabled individuals in the country.



CULTURAL EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

UP Manila extends its contribution to arts and culture through various initiatives. One notable event, the webinar titled “Immunization Hygiene and the Philippine Pandemic Response Then and Now” held on October 29, 2021, underscored the pivotal role played by the University of the Philippines Manila and the Philippine General Hospital in the realms of public health, education, and pandemic response. This event served as a platform for discussion on critical intersections between these domains in addressing diseases, both historical and contemporary.

Additionally, the university offers online culture and arts programs in adherence to relevant guidelines. One such program is the “Ending Violence against Women and Children (EVAWC)” activity, conducted on December 7, 2021. This activity, mandated by Presidential Proclamation 1172 s.2006, featured a panel discussion and a chorale presentation, fostering awareness and promoting kindness to create and strengthen safe spaces for women and children.

(Sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#), [14](#))



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY

UP Manila remains firmly committed to supporting SDG 11 by advancing sustainable practices and prioritizing pedestrian-friendly campuses. It aspires to enhance residential use within the campus, improve pedestrian access to public transport networks, and mitigate the potential impacts of increasing density. Key strategies include the reclamation and development of open spaces for recreation and evacuation, promoting a pedestrian-friendly environment, implementing efficient parking solutions, and reducing hazard risks and pollution through adherence to building standards.

Furthermore, UP Manila champions remote working policies in response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, affording its staff and faculty the flexibility to contribute to sustainable practices while achieving a healthier work-life balance. These flexible work arrangements are designed to enable government officials and employees to effectively manage various situations, whether resulting from natural calamities, emergencies, or other factors affecting public service delivery.



PROMOTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR STUDENTS

In its unwavering commitment to ensuring equitable access to education, UP Manila has established two dedicated dormitory buildings catering to the housing needs of students and residents. Specifically, UP Manila operates two residences, namely the female students and PGH residents. The presence of these dormitories stands as a testament to the university's dedication to offering affordable housing solutions that further the creation of an inclusive and diverse academic community.

Collectively, these dormitories provide a total of three hundred sixty-eight beds, accounting for approximately 6.88% of the total population, thereby serving as a valuable resource for students and residents alike.



Moreover, UP Manila is actively planning for the construction of additional housing facilities designed to accommodate faculty, staff, and students. This forthcoming housing development is strategically located in proximity to the College of Medicine Medical Sciences Building and the Sports Science and Wellness Center, with convenient access through the designated Salcedo Hall gate. The proposed housing complex is poised to offer a remarkable eight hundred twenty-three units, a significant expansion that equates to approximately 22.30% of the current population and 18.08% of the projected population within the next decade. This substantial increase in housing availability underscores UP Manila's profound commitment to providing affordable accommodation options, thereby fostering an inclusive and diverse academic community.



(Sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)).



URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT ORIENTATION

UP Manila’s urban development efforts align with the concept of Transport-Orientated Development (TOD), as described in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of Manila. TOD is characterized by mixed-use communities within walking distance of transit stops and core commercial areas. These communities are intended to be convenient for both residents and employees, promoting various modes of travel, including transit, cycling, walking, and private vehicles



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



UP Manila’s unwavering commitment to fostering a conducive, secure, and environmentally sustainable environment that nurtures learning, research, and community engagement is distinctly evident in its extensive portfolio of infrastructure projects. To date, UP Manila has successfully completed 39 projects as of December 2022, representing a significant total investment amounting to Php 354,803,244.67. The subsequent table provides a concise overview of the distribution of these accomplished infrastructure projects within the UP Manila campus.

Completed Projects as of Dec 2022		
UP Manila	8	128,182,927.46
CAD	7	56,292,797.08
CAMP	3	26,855,473.57
CAS	2	60,220,524.78
CD	3	22,851,723.37
CM	4	23,284,349.29
CN	2	4,170,482.88
CP	3	11,529,981.37
CPH	1	1,200,000.60
SHS Baler	2	3,475,467.91
SHS Koronadal	0	0.00
SHS Palo	0	0.00
NIH	3	14,861,544.64
NTTC-HP	1	1,877,971.72
Total	39	354,803,244.67

In conclusion, UP Manila's steadfast dedication to SDG 11 goes beyond rhetoric, reflecting its tangible commitment to public access, sustainability, and student welfare. By opening its doors as a National Historical Landmark to libraries and museums, enriching cultural heritage, adopting sustainable practices, prioritizing affordable housing, creating pedestrian-friendly campuses and improving its infrastructures, UP Manila serves as a beacon of responsible urban development in the heart of Manila. Its initiatives exemplify the essence of SDG 11 - forging cities that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for the benefit of all members of the community.

(Source: [1](#), [2](#))

