

Athens-Clarke County Judicial Center - Project Concept

Proposed Project Concept:

All items listed below noted within the categories “Must Have”, “Highly Wanted”, and “Nice to Have” will receive priority consideration.

Must Have:

- Building area of acceptable square footage to support the designated program.
- Program elements that support operational efficiencies between End Users and access to justice for Athens-Clarke County residents
- Space allocation to meet immediate needs.
- Courtrooms and Hearing Rooms designed for universal ADA access, spatial configurations to support functional operations by court type and current and future technology to ensure long-term flexibility
- Secure building access for all building occupants through a controlled security screening checkpoint
- Dedicated circulation systems for public, staff, and secure movement supporting best courthouse planning practices
- Building planning and organization that supports visual monitoring through unobstructed sightlines
- Secure transport, transfer, and delivery of in custody defendants to the courthouse
- Site area to accommodate efficient building floor areas to avoid unnecessary separation of departments
- Courthouse is welcoming and accessible.
- Interior environment supports health, safety, wellness, comfort, and convenience for all patrons and end users
- Courthouse preserves and affirms the dignity and equality of the Athens-Clarke County citizens who appear in court
- Courtroom environments encourage the proper decorum and respect
- Public art display area
- Building systems and exterior envelope supports energy efficiency and sustainable design best practices

Highly Wanted:

- Dedicated Multi-use / Jury Assembly Area with ample seating and support functions to accommodate jurors
- Space allocation shell for phased or future program
- Public waiting areas with access to daylight and views in support of trauma informed design principles
- Building planning that supports flexible access and use of conferencing, training, and multi-purpose spaces
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design of site that allows for ease of security monitoring, universal accessibility, and protects the building perimeter using passive design elements (hardscape and landscape buffers)
- Site configuration to support separate access points for public, juror, staff, and secure pedestrian and vehicle movement
- Outdoor covered entry area for public access protected from inclement weather

- Supports community connectivity through ease of access by its location, access to mass-transit, and neighboring context of civic and community-based infrastructure
- New Judicial Center is municipally modest and reflects the context, culture, and history of Athens-Clarke County
- Building concept is recognizable as a courthouse
- Incorporation of state-of-the-art technology to maximize access to case files and juror processing
- Acoustical comfort to reduce stress and amplify communications
- Visual comfort through connections to daylight and views
- Focus on indoor air quality
- Temperature and humidity control conducive to comfort of occupants
- To meet ACC Sustainability Policy criteria at a level higher than minimum criteria being met (i.e., LEED Silver or Gold)

Nice to Have:

- Public building amenities such as wellness rooms and café
- Meeting space and hoteling space for staff and agencies found outside of the new Judicial Center
- Consolidated Accountability Court operations for ease of access and increased support for Drug Court, Veterans Court, and Mental-Health Court
- Separation of departmental functions that serve divergent client types (juveniles, families, adults, victims, witnesses, probationers)
- Site conditions that support below grade building areas (secure parking, central holding, and transport operations) that can assist with secure design.
- To meet ACC Sustainability Policy criteria at a level higher than HW.
- Energy performance enhancements through adequate balance of lighting and daylighting