

Physical attributes of a new dharma center

1. Dedicated sangha space
 - Main meeting room with usable space (i.e., free from stored furniture, supplies and other obstacles) for up to 125 people on chairs and cushions.
 - Additional meeting spaces of lesser capacity for concurrent activities.
 - At least one non-meeting room for office uses, library, interviews, waiting area, etc.
 - Separate main entry area with adequate space for shoes, literature display, etc.
 - Location for a permanent altar.
 - Zoning and code compliance appropriate to our uses.
 - Central heat and air conditioning.
2. Support space
 - Commercial kitchen adequate for serving large groups.
 - Meditation and storage areas on the same ground-floor level.
 - Restrooms adequate for large groups.
 - Parking adequate for large groups (avoiding conflict with neighbors), including some lighted, off-street parking.
3. Dedicated storage
 - Storage space that is readily accessible to the main meeting space.
 - Dedicated storage for bulky gear such as chairs, cushions, mats.
 - Storage appropriate for fragile items.
 - Secure, accessible location for audio equipment.
 - Storage space that is adequate for current needs, with room for growth.
 - Adequate dedicated storage for each group using the space.
4. Safe, environmentally-friendly space
 - Physical plant that facilitates safe use by people with limited mobility and environmental sensitivities, such as allergy to carpeting.
 - Security system.
 - Energy-efficient features (insulation, doors and windows, HVAC, major appliances, etc.)
5. Pleasing and inviting space
 - Inviting esthetics.
 - Sanctuary as the basis for the plan.
 - Meditation space(s) that accommodate all practice forms.
 - Physical separation between quiet spaces and noise-generating spaces.
6. Desirable location
 - Location within the greater central city (Downtown, Midtown, East Sac, Land Park/Curtis Park)
 - Proximity to available outdoor space suitable for walking meditation, outdoor movement, family and social activities, etc.
 - Proximity to public transit routes.
 - Proximity to markets and cafes.