

The Ed Roberts Campus will be the first building of its kind in the nation - a community center serving and celebrating the Independent Living / Disabled Rights Movement. Located at a regional transit hub and integrating advanced strategies of Universal Design and Sustainable Design, the building will welcome people of all abilities.



THE ED ROBERTS CAMPUS is a nonprofit corporation formed by seven organizations that share a common history in the Independent Living/Civil Rights Movement of People with Disabilities. These seven organizations have joined together to plan and develop a universally designed, transit-oriented campus located at a BART station in Berkeley, California. The Ed Roberts Campus will become the foremost disability rights service, advocacy, education, training, and policy center in the world.

The ERC commemorates the life and work of Edward V. Roberts, an early leader in the independent living movement of persons with disabilities. Ed believed in the strength of collaborative efforts - he called it "working toward our preferred future."

SITE

The project is located above an existing BART parking lot adjacent to the Ashby BART Station in south Berkeley. The site faces west to busy Adeline Street and a large urban open space created by a larger BART parking lot. To the east lies a neighborhood of small, single family homes.

PROGRAM

The 85,000 sq. ft. project incorporates exhibition space, community meeting rooms, child development center, fitness center, offices, vocational training facilities and a café. The building integrates sophisticated design responses to the issues of universal design and environmentally sustainable development.

DESIGN

The ERC is designed as an important community building with a distinct civic presence and an international significance that celebrates the collective values of its partner organizations.

CLIENT
The Ed Roberts Campus

LOCATION
Berkeley, CA

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SIZE
85,000 gsf



The building acts as both community center and urban threshold, positioning the partner organizations at a major regional transit portal. The building presents a sweeping semicircular plaza to the city on Adeline Street - an embracing, civic gesture that expresses its important role in the community. The plaza serves several functions: as a drop-off and entry space for the ERC; as a transit plaza for bus, taxi, bicycle and BART riders; and as a public gathering space. A transparent entry façade borders the plaza, revealing a monumental helical ramp. The ramp, a major work of public art beneath a large light monitor, serves both functional and symbolic roles, providing dramatic access to the upper floor for all users. An enclosed courtyard beyond provides natural daylight, ventilation and community gathering spaces to the occupants. At the exterior, economical and durable finishes include cast concrete, stucco and wood sun screens.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Guided by the principles of Universal Design - the creation of environments that are equally usable by individuals of all abilities - the project far exceeds the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Key design elements include the helical ramp, 7 ft. wide corridors, oversized elevators with specialized controls, and audio way-finding devices, among many others.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Located at a major transportation nexus above the Ashby BART Station, the ERC is conceived as a transit-oriented, environmentally appropriate development. The project incorporates a range of sustainable design strategies to serve the diverse needs of the occupants as well as the larger environment. These include daylighting, natural ventilation, energy-efficient building systems, enhanced indoor air quality, and recycled and non-toxic materials.