

## Oxford Plaza and the David Brower Center

Oxford Plaza and the David Brower Center SMC Northern California has been selected as Construction Manager for the City of Berkeley for the new 300,000-square-foot Oxford Plaza/David Brower Center project.

The project includes 96 affordable housing units on five floors and above-ground-floor commercial space on a key city-owned site adjacent to the UC Berkeley Campus. The commercial space will include restaurants, retail and 50,000 square feet of office and educational space for environmental non-profits. The entire development will be constructed over an underground public parking garage.

The project is a unique partnership between the City of Berkeley, non-profit developer Resources for Community Development, and the David Brower Center. Named in honor of the first executive director of the Sierra Club, the Brower Center will include office facilities for environmental organizations, meeting space, and an auditorium for educational programs and events. A dramatic public rotunda will provide daylight and natural ventilation for the various commercial uses.

Oxford Plaza is designed to achieve at minimum LEED Gold Certification for environmentally responsible design. Sustainable design features include environmental technologies and architectural elements related to siting, daylighting, natural ventilation, structure, photovoltaic power generation, and solar hot water.

The project will be within walking distance of BART, UC Berkeley, public schools, the library, YMCA, the Farmer's Market, retail stores, restaurants, and a growing arts district. Oxford Plaza builds on downtown Berkeley's inherent richness with its combination of affordable housing, environmental education, and as a venue for the intersection of art and ecology.

The overall mission of Oxford Plaza is to build a residential community that is a thriving contribution to downtown Berkeley; to create a resource for empowerment for Berkeley's low-income families and individuals; and to serve as a model for sustainable development.

*The SMC Team includes: Project Executive John Baker and Senior Project Manager Charles Peters. Construction is scheduled to start in February 2007.*

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