

**Institute of Black Culture and Institute of Hispanic Latino Cultures  
Project Team and Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 29th, 2017**

- Mike (DLR) gave a summary of how the reconstruction project has progressed to its current state. At the next meeting on December 7th, the DLR group will present a “deliverable” which will contain specific dimensions and measurements.
- Mike (DLR) reviewed the floor plan for the IBC. He explained a slight (about 100 sq. Ft.) reduction in the size of the rotunda social space. This was done to allow for 10-12 feet of open space between the two Institutes. Another significant change from the last meeting was the addition of the elevator reaching the third floor. The third floor currently has mechanical room, and it may be able to have a roof top balcony if coding allows for it.
- Mike (DLR) presented two different approaches to using the beacon/rotunda literally. One approach would have a fine textured pattern on the exterior glass that acts as a gradient so that a fish bowl experience is not created. As you go upwards on the glass, it would become more transparent. The other approach is a pattern of culturally-relevant colored and shaped glass that could be lit from the inside so that they glow in the evening. This would bring colors and meaning to the institute.
  - Courtnie (IBC Advisory Committee) suggested using black, green, and red to represent Black pride. She also suggested using symbols that are significant to Black community members. Will mentioned that the current MCDA logo has meaningful symbols taken from African culture, and he will send a link with more symbols to the architects.
  - Dr. Stewart-Fullwood asked if the glass in the beacon can be designed so that people inside the IBC can see outside but people on the street cannot see inside the Institute. Mike (DLR) said it may be difficult because reflective glass causes sustainability problems, but the architects are going to investigate what other materials or textures can be used so that the glass allows for people to look out but not in.
  - Carl (IBC) proposed the idea of using colors/patterns from flags of countries that could represent the Black diaspora.
- Mike (DLR) presented the material palette for the IBC which includes a lot of soft grey, white, and black tones that will contrast with colorful art pieces that define each space. The exterior material presented included light grey concrete fiber panels and a mixture of shades.
  - Hayat shared that she prefers the laminate over the floor tile color/design that was proposed because the floor tile feels sterile like a hospital. Nicole (DLR) said that the colors of the materials are not selected, these are just materials.
- Mike (DLR) reviewed the floor plan for La Casita. The warming kitchen was slightly expanded from the last plan presented because some of it was able to expand under the stair B. Mike (DLR) reiterated the thick wall that will run intermittently through the

building from the living room towards the back. It's wide enough to be a seat and low enough to sit on. It gently defines rooms. Nicole (DLR) said that the wall can host a progression of history. Mike (DLR) also mentioned the addition of an interior balcony.

- Chris (La Casita/IBC) asked if the palapa roof material can have some full protection from water over the courtyard so that it can be usable during rain. The architects said the current front balcony and courtyard would not be waterproof, but they're are going to look into material to possibly use so that water could not get through. The architects must carefully consider the materials used because they don't want to block the sun and create a very dark space.
- Dr. Stewart-Fullwood asked if the architects have considered the landscape between the buildings. Nicole (DLR) said they have been working with officials to make sure that they carefully design the landscape in ways that don't damage or add debris to the area. Nicole said that the space between the buildings may be too small to fit a tree because of the space for root spreading.
- Mike (DLR) presented the material palette for La Casita. There are significant contrasting colors and different materials including solid vinyl wood plank, laminate, carpet, and floor/wall tile.
  - Dr. Suarez (Project Team) discussed the value in selecting materials that will last in the long run. Mariana (La Casita) suggested using tiles with a color scheme that is vibrant and powerful.
- The architects explained that they will be submitting a deliverable to the university next Thursday, and the packet will have to go through 5 committees. Those committees will give approval/rejections and comments for change. As a result, the next workshop will not take place until about mid January, following the processing of the deliverable.