

1. Who comprises the MIT FSILG community?

Approximately 40% of undergraduate students are affiliated with a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group (FSILG), and more than 1,000 MIT students reside in an FSILG house. More than 25,000 FSILG alumni/ae are active in MIT leadership roles and give generously to support the Institute. This makes the FSILG community a vital and integral part of MIT. The FSILG experience provides unique opportunities for leadership development, service, and philanthropy in the context of a close-knit residential community that supports academics and emotional needs and fosters mentoring relationships.

2. What is the West Campus Village concept?

The West Campus Village is an initiative to create a lively center of campus life integrated into the renewal of MIT's West Campus that would provide on-campus housing for FSILGs along with retail spaces, outdoor areas, and gathering places. The endeavor has been a collaboration between FSILG students and alumni/ae, MIT's Division of Student Life (DSL) and Office of Campus Planning (OCP), the MIT Investment Management Company, and MIT senior leaders.

3. What steps were taken to develop the concept and assess interest in the West Campus Village?

In its current form, the West Campus Village has been under exploration since 2014. Phase 1 (2016-2017) solicited interest and input from the FSILG community through design workshops, a survey, and a benchmarking study of similar programs at 21 other colleges and universities. The resulting report captured ideas about what the Village should comprise for residents and the community. Phase 2 (2017-2018) focused on conceptual design, financial models, and more extensive community building including determining which organizations were interested in relocating to the Village. Using input from students and alumni/ae, a taskforce developed designs that would accommodate eight or 10 organizations of 30-60 students each in a row-house configuration. The group proposed three different lease models. Copies of the reports and background information are available on the AILG web site at ailg.mit.edu/west-village.

4. What steps were taken to determine the financial feasibility of the West Campus Village?

A feasibility study conducted by OCP and DSL was launched in fall 2018. Utilizing design concepts developed during Phase 2 and a cost metric based on recent MIT residence hall construction, the minimum cost to build a facility of 125,000-145,000 gross square feet containing 300-320 beds was estimated at \$133-\$154 million.

5. What was the conclusion of the feasibility study?

At this time, developing a West Campus Village is not feasible. After careful consideration and a significant investment of resources and time by FSILG alumni and MIT, the decision reflects a number of factors. First, the total estimated project cost surpassed \$130 million, and the project could not proceed without at least 50% of the funds being donor contributions. Second, only eight FSILG organizations expressed serious interest in relocating from their current houses to the Village, and there were no practical options for organizations to generate the funding needed to initiate the project.

6. What other ways is MIT supporting the FSILG community?

MIT is committed to supporting the FSILG community. In DSL, the FSILG Office staff support FSILG members and advise the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, Living Group Council and Multi-Cultural Greek Council. For each house, DSL hires and trains a graduate resident advisor (GRA) that supports the community

directly. Several key initiatives have received funding from DSL including the 2018 FSILG Facilities Assessment, the wireless network infrastructure upgrades, and numerous member support programs.

7. What is the FSILG Cooperative and how does it support FSILGs?

The FSILG Cooperative, Inc. (FCI) is a cooperative purchasing company that recommends vendors and contractors, assists with member insurance, and has programs for vendor and utility payment. Additionally, the FCI provides administrative assistance for all IRDF applications including construction loans, project grants, and operating grants. The FCI can also provide project management and is investigating programs for FSILG facilities management in conjunction with the AILG Facilities Committee. See www.fsilg.coop for more information.

8. What is the Independent Residences Development Fund and how does it support FSILGs?

The Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF) is a financial resource funded by FSILG alumni/ae and friends that provides grants and low-interest loans to support organizations' projects and operations. For more than 50 years, the IRDF has evolved to respond to the needs and challenges of the FSILG community. This year the IRDF significantly expanded its grant program to include funding for historical preservation and restoration and for critical accessibility and safety infrastructure updates. In 2018, the IRDF changed its funding structure to increase the percentage of donations that go to FSILGs and to allow donors to earmark their tax-deductible donations for specific organizations. See web.mit.edu/irdf for more information.

9. How is the Association of Independent Living Groups supporting FSILG facilities renewal?

The AILG comprises alumni/ae corporations and advisory boards involved with MIT's FSILGs. Overall, more than 200 alumni/ae volunteers participate annually in a variety of governance, operations, property management, and advisory roles:

- The AILG Facilities Committee supports alumni/ae house corporations and oversees the AILG Safety, Licensing, and Inspection (SLI) Program.
- The AILG IT Committee collaborates with MIT IS&T to ensure service levels and standards for all FSILGs.
- The FSILG Facilities Renewal Committee includes representatives from the AILG and DSL that assist organizations in implementing facilities improvements.
- The Renewal Committee and IRDF work closely to enhance FSILG facilities project funding opportunities.

10. How can I best help my organization?

Get involved! MIT's FSILGs rely on the engagement and support of their alumni/ae. In recent years, alumni/ae have helped their organizations in myriad ways:

- Starting or supporting fund-raising campaigns for capital improvements.
- Helping to manage organization budgets to support annual capital projects.
- Assisting with facilities assessments to establish short- and long-term plans.
- Contributing to the IRDF, which provides low-interest construction loans and can reimburse organizations for projects that improve safety and accessibility, enhance educational space and equipment, and preserve historic buildings.

11. Questions?

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