

The Goldman Difference

Twenty-five years since expansion, GSPP looks to the future

FOCUSING ON FUTURE GROWTH AND IMPACT, GSPP is embarking upon facility investments aimed at making the most of our existing campus footprint. It has been 25 years since our last round of physical transformation; we've now launched into an exciting new growth phase.

Thanks to the generosity of the late Richard and Rhoda Goldman of San Francisco, UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Public Policy was expanded in 2002, with the construction of a second building on Leroy Avenue and the addition of a courtyard to link the new facility to the school's original home in the former Beta Theta Pi building on Hearst Avenue.


Twenty-five years later, the Goldman School is poised for its next chapter and the next generation of the Goldman family is eager to lend a hand. The Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund, led by the children and grandchildren of the original benefactors, has generously contributed a gift of \$2.5 million to upgrade GSPP's existing facilities and exterior space.

"We want to help the Goldman School of Public Policy look as good as it is," says Doug Goldman, President of the family foundation. "It's the #1 policy school in the nation and it should look the part."

Planned improvements will focus on making the existing facilities look and function better, with an emphasis on building community. The living room at 2607 Hearst already has new carpet and furnishings intended to foster communication and collaboration, and the GSPP courtyard will get a much-needed facelift. RHAA has been hired to serve as landscape architect for the project, with construction to commence in April 2023 and a target completion date of late fall 2023. Renovations will level the sloping grounds, add seating and workspace, and better connect the GSPP site with the broader UC Berkeley campus through direct access from Hearst Avenue and prominent signage.

Dean David C. Wilson is inspired by this ongoing partnership with the Goldman family.

"This new round of investment not only continues the legacy of our benefactors, Richard and Rhoda Goldman, but will build the solid foundation the Goldman School needs to tackle the grand challenges of the 21st century," he said. "Public policy is how a better future gets made, and the time for change is now. When people walk past our GSPP campus location, they should be curious about who we are and what we're doing; they should want to be a part of our space and join us in dialogue, learning, and community building."

Dean Wilson summarized that GSPP's mission requires us to be more than a place to work and an academic department. "To build a better future, we need to start by building better community, offering more intentional opportunities to transform how people see and think about public policy." 



Former Dean Michael Nacht, former Vice-Chancellor for Capital Projects Edward Denton, and Richard Goldman at the 2002 groundbreaking for the building at 1893 LeRoy Ave.



The Goldman Family (from left): Jason, Jennifer, Doug, Lisa, Matthew



An artist's rendering of a possible remodel of the GSPP courtyard