

Additional Tools and Approaches for Health-Promoting Spaces

Institutions may use a range of tools, activities, and engagement approaches to support the planning, evaluation, and improvement of health-promoting spaces. Depending on local needs, priorities, and resources, some approaches may be implemented quickly while others may support longer-term planning and system change.

Space Planning and Evaluation

- Space audits and walkthroughs
- Equity and accessibility impact assessments
- Space utilization and workflow reviews
- Healthy space maintenance scorecards
- Noise, lighting, and sensory environment assessment

Engagement and Co-Design

- Interviews, focus groups, and surveys
- Photovoice or visual storytelling activities
- Community mapping or “heat map” exercises
- Co-design workshops with learners, staff, faculty, and community members
- Participatory planning processes for renovations or redesign

Leadership and Organizational Planning

- Leadership self-assessment tools
- Roles and responsibilities matrices
- Space planning values worksheets
- Priority-setting and phased implementation exercises
- Sustainability and accessibility planning frameworks

Small-Scale and Rapid Improvements

- Low-cost environmental improvements (lighting, furniture, signage, decluttering, plants)
- Creation of quiet, reflection, or decompression spaces
- Improvements to hydration, food access, or active transportation supports
- Repurposing underused spaces to better support wellbeing and inclusion
- Enhancing visibility of supports, accessibility features, or community resources

Continuous Improvement and Accountability

- Feedback and reporting processes
- Regular space reviews and walkthroughs
- Monitoring accessibility, inclusion, and wellbeing concerns over time
- Incorporating supportive spaces into quality improvement initiatives
- Ongoing collaboration between facilities, operational leaders, learners, faculty, and community partners