The Building

Designed by world-renowned architects Jeanne Gang (Studio Gang, Chicago, Ill.), the 10,000-square-foot Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College (ACSLJ) is the world’s first structure created specifically for social justice leadership development. Organized as a welcoming commons, the building houses ACSJL staff and provides space where the campus, community, and social justice leaders can come together to engage in activities aimed at creating a more just world.

Inside the Design

The buildings three wings— which, respectively, invite and embrace the college campus, a residential neighborhood, and an old-growth grove of oaks—converge at the hearth, a central gathering space that encourages interaction and discussion. The design is based on Studio Gang’s study of how people gather naturally, across cultures and history, and it is intended to inspire social unity and discussion of diverse and often differing viewpoints.

Social Justice recognizes the inherent dignity of all people and values every life equally. It calls for both personal reflection and social changes to ensure that each of us has the right and the opportunity to thrive in our communities, regardless of our identities. When we acknowledge that oppression exists and work to end systemic discrimination and structural inequalities, we increase the promise of a more just world.

Those who strive for social justice believe in the triumph of our shared humanity.

About the ACSJL

Founded in 2009, the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College expands on the College’s tradition of seeking to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that each student develops a commitment to justice and enlightened leadership.

The Center’s mission is to support the pursuit of human rights and social justice by developing emerging leaders and sustaining existing leaders in those fields. The Center will create a pivotal role for liberal arts education in engendering a more just world, and it will establish Kalamazoo College at the forefront of leadership development for human rights and social justice.

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Health Equity
Human Rights
Economic Justice

Mass Incarceration
Economic Equity
Politics and Justice

Genders and Sexualities
Art and Justice
Food Justice

Immigration
Environmental Justice
Race and Racism

ACSLJ programming covers a variety of issue areas

CONTACT