Facility Program for a New City Hall, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Las Cruces is the county seat of Doña Ana County and the largest city in the county. In 2003, Architectural Research Consultants, Incorporated (ARC) completed an Administrative Space Needs Assessment for Las Cruces. It is one of the fastest growing regions in the southwest, second only to Las Vegas, Nevada in rate of population growth. The city government has several buildings scattered throughout the area, and the city recently purchased a site downtown to develop a new, consolidated city hall. It issued an RFP for design services. ARC was a consultant on the winning team, headed by design architect Studio Southwest. This project is considered to be a key element in the ongoing revitalization of downtown Las Cruces.

The plan includes the administrative functions of most city departments, including city administrative services, legal, community development, facilities, finance, human resources, information technology, public services, public works, and utilities. Fire, police, and utilities services are not part of the study.

ARC met with representatives from each involved city department to determine space needs, document equipment requirements, and resolve functional relationships. The final space program requires about 120,000 gross square feet of space to meet projected needs. Several workshops and conferences provided for input from city employees, administrators and citizens. During these workshops, attendees assembled several building layout options based on ARC’s findings. Architects at Studio Southwest were able to develop schematic floor plan layouts from the results and present them to the attendees for review.

Schedule: 2006
Client: Studio Southwest Architects