The University of Michigan Heath System’s (UMHS) Medical Center Campus and its regional location figured as one of the most important elements of the University of Michigan Campus Plan, incepted by VSBA in 1997. Because of the Medical Center's growing relationships with other disciplines across the campus and the urgency of its need to evolve in tandem with swift developments in care provision and education, the master plan for the Health System plays a primary role in the overall master plan.

In the UMHS master plan, VSBA assessed in greater detail the particular needs of University subareas and subsystems. We questioned the Health System's physical evolution and analyzed the relationship of physical plans to policy decisions and changing campus relationships.

A long-range plan for the Health System's physical development may help the overall strategic planning efforts of the University, the UMHS, and the communities it serves by:

- describing a variety of ways of thinking about the physical campuses -- as a series of systems and subsystems, for example, or as a succession of activities within buildings -- and sharing these perspectives broadly with the greater University community as an aid to coordinating decision-making
- setting out principles for the location of buildings, activities, and landscape organization within the broad fabric of campuses and properties, to inform and coordinate decisions about structures, systems, and subareas of the Health System and University at large
- discussing the physical implications of academic, patient care, administrative, operational, or financial policies under consideration, suggesting events that might trigger physical change
- producing information on the character, condition, and capacity of the University's physical infrastructure, and suggesting opportunities for activities and uses that its heritage of buildings and landscapes offers
- establishing or verifying the role of each campus or property in the whole and outlining the desired relationships between areas, while suggesting programmatic, strategic, or physical linkages to augment these roles and relationships
• assigning priorities to existing needs, identifying “brushfires,” and formulating long-term strategies
• suggesting policies to support goals for the physical campus.

VSBA prepared a facilities master plan for the Medical Center campus, including the Medical School, research labs, inpatient and outpatient clinical care components, and amenities for patients, visitors, faculty, doctors and staff. Evaluation of sites on the Medical Center Campus for expanding clinical facilities was also completed, as well as the development of a master plan for satellite Health System sites that may provide ambulatory and primary care services.