



## Los Angeles Valley College Monarch Center

VALLEY GLEN, CALIFORNIA

Located at the heart of the campus, Monarch Center uses an open floor plan surrounding a plaza to blur the boundaries between exterior and interior. The bustling, two-story student hub offers access to a wide variety of spaces for students to gather, study and socialize. The 66,118-square-foot building—which earned LEED Silver certification—includes a student lounge, cafeteria, bookstore, convenience store, health center and administrative offices.

Los Angeles Valley College was largely a commuter campus and wanted to create an on-campus home for students. A top priority was to maintain exposure to the existing campus mall and adjacent sustainable park, also designed by LPA. The design solution elevates the student union, clad in vibrant yellow panels, and uses large-span structures to keep the ground plane open and free of excessive columns.

Organized as a U-shaped plan, bold-colored exteriors give each of the three wings a strong identity, with those same color themes carried into the interior. Abundant glazing connects inside to outside and saves energy by taking advantage of natural light; this transparency also makes the large building feel less monolithic and more inviting.

### PROJECT DATA

#### CLIENT

Los Angeles Community College District

#### SERVICES

Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, Master Planning

#### AWARDS

LEED Silver  
CCFC Award of Excellence  
ENR California Best Project Merit  
AIASD Merit  
AIAOC Merit  
AIAOC COTE

#### FACTS

41,000 square feet