



# Harris at the Keller Center

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF POLICY AT UCHICAGO



For more than 30 years, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy has been a driving force for rigorous thinking and evidence-based approaches to address our world's most challenging and important problems.

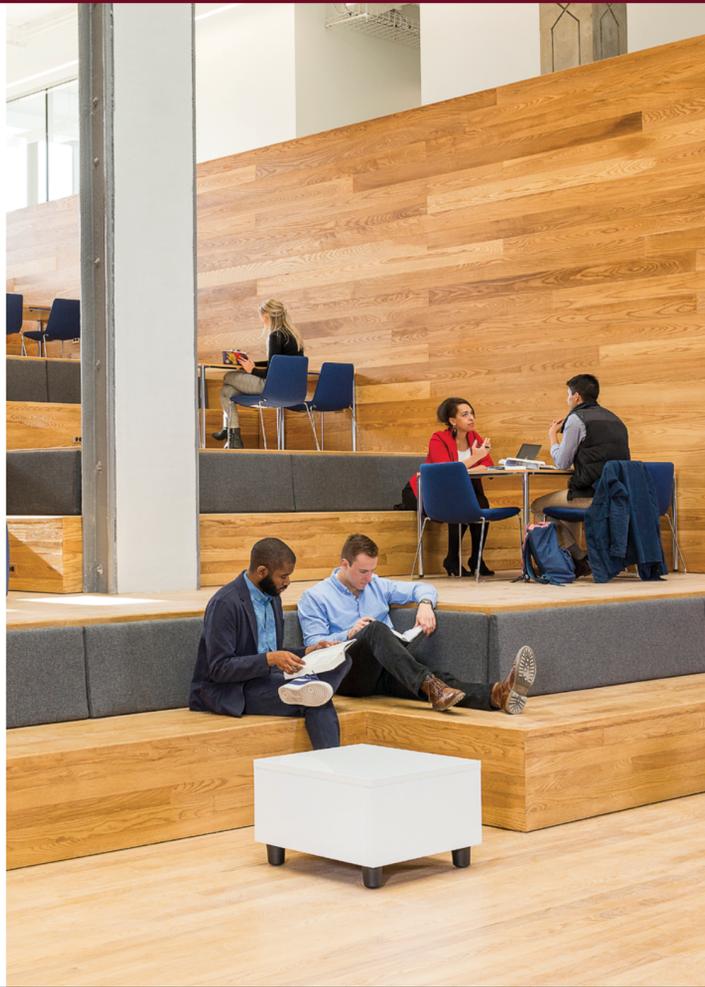
We believe this approach is more important than ever. That's why we're inviting the next generation of scholars, policymakers, and rising leaders from around the world who share in our commitment to evidence and clear-eyed analysis to call the Keller Center their home.

Expanding Harris' commitment to policy engagement and impact, the Keller Center offers a world-class destination for learning, collaborating, and policy innovation on the South Side, in the City of Chicago, and around the globe.

Join Harris at the Keller Center, and help us make an impact for the next generation.

@HarrisPolicy

[harris.uchicago.edu](http://harris.uchicago.edu)  
1307 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street



## ETHICAL REDEVELOPMENT AND RECLAIMED MATERIALS

The focal point of the Keller Center is the Harris Family Foundation King Harris Forum, a sun-soaked, four-level atrium that reaches the full height of the building.



Designed as the beating heart of the Keller Center, the forum hosts daily collaborative problem solving and dialogue among students and faculty, as well as world-class speakers and events open to the public.



The wood in the forum comes from reclaimed ash trees that were removed from Chicago public parks after being damaged by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle.



Seeing an opportunity, local artist and leader in ethical urban redevelopment Theaster Gates acquired the downed ash trees from the City of Chicago.



Gates then worked with architect Farr Associates to specify the wood for the Keller Center. Local residents who are trained and employed as millworkers at Gates' South Side mill produced the finished wood that appears in the Keller Center forum, as part of the monumental stair, and in other spaces in the building.



The Keller Center uses reclaimed materials throughout, including toilet stall doors and light fixtures from the original structure.

## RAINWATER CAPTURE

The Keller Center's design incorporates rainwater capture, which reuses available resources to work key infrastructure in the building, and also mitigates impact on Chicago's stormwater systems.

The rainwater cistern captures rainwater and uses it to flush the building's toilets, diverting rainwater from Chicago's overburdened sewer system. It also created more usable space for the rooftop photovoltaic system (solar panels).

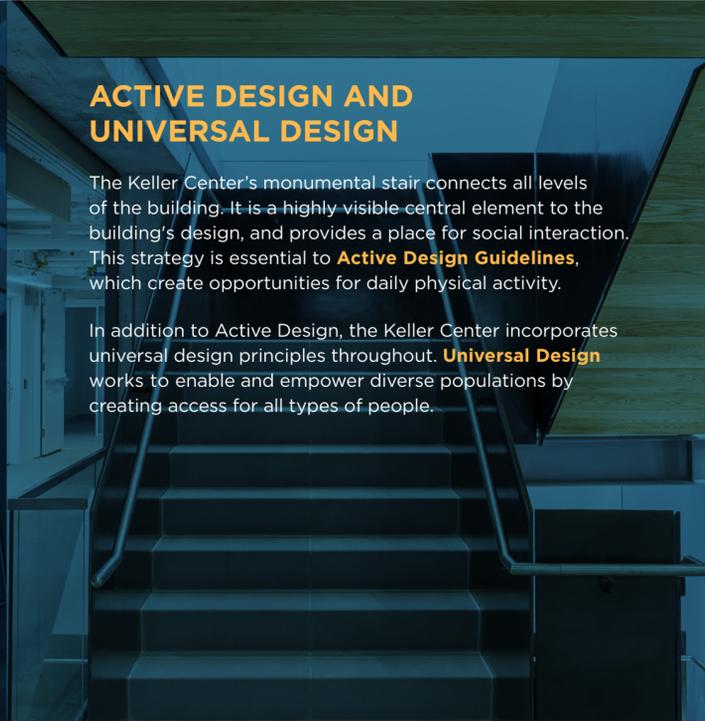
The rainwater cistern tank holds **15,000** gallons of water and diverts **525,208** gallons annually from the Chicago's sewer system

That's enough water to completely fill the **four-story** volume of the Keller Center's atrium

## ACTIVE DESIGN AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The Keller Center's monumental stair connects all levels of the building. It is a highly visible central element to the building's design, and provides a place for social interaction. This strategy is essential to **Active Design Guidelines**, which create opportunities for daily physical activity.

In addition to Active Design, the Keller Center incorporates universal design principles throughout. **Universal Design** works to enable and empower diverse populations by creating access for all types of people.

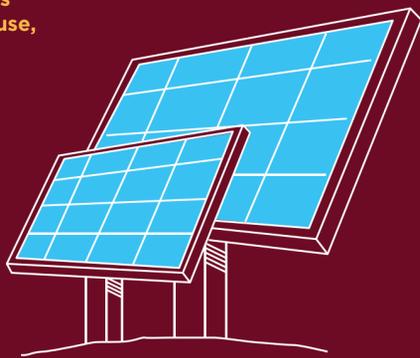


## SOLAR ENERGY CAPTURE

The Keller Center's photovoltaic array (solar energy system) produces up to 152,055 kWh of carbon-free electricity each year. This is enough energy to power

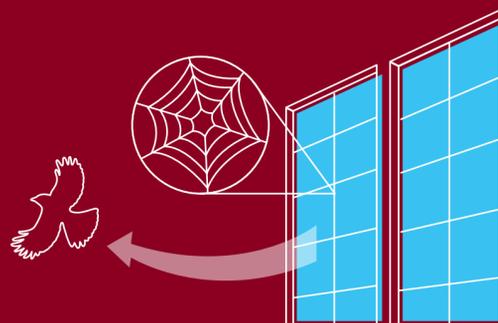
**11%** of the building's annual energy use, or about

**15** average homes annually



## BIRD-FRIENDLY GLASS

All new windows on the perimeter of the Keller Center incorporate a **special UV reflective coating** that makes the building more bird-friendly. The coating incorporates a design that birds innately avoid, reducing collisions with the windows. If you look very closely at the glass, you will notice a pattern that looks like a spiderweb. This is an example of biomimicry—the emulation of nature's patterns and systems—in green building design.



## CIRCADIAN LIGHTING

To support user comfort in the Keller Center, lighting in the building emulates the full spectrum of light that the sun emits throughout the day. **Artificial lighting that mimics the sun's color temperature** helps regulate our circadian rhythm (our internal clock), which controls many of our physical, mental, and behavioral states.

