



# City of Downey, California

*Downey, California*

## Master Planning

MMC was retained by the City of Downey to lead a team in developing a series of planning documents including a *Strategic Plan* with mission and vision, a *Governance Plan*, and supplementary staffing and operating plans for a new Space Science Learning Center being planned on a portion of the former 160-acre Boeing/NASA site. Funded by a \$4 million grant from NASA, the Learning Center, now known as the Columbia Memorial Space Learning Center (CMSLC), is intended to honor the legacy of the aerospace program based in Downey. CMSLC will focus on interactive space science education and distance learning in partnership with the Challenger Learning Center, Los Angeles County Office of Education, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and the Aerospace Legacy Foundation. MMC assisted a planning task force in establishing the size and components of the project which also will be uniquely centered on the visitor experience. Working documents called for approximately 35,000 square feet of exhibit, programming, and office space.

In mid-May 2002 the Downey City Council directed the City staff to implement the *Strategic Plan* developed for CMSLC. Up to \$625,000 was budgeted to hire an executive director, retain an architect to program the space requirements, retain a fundraising consultant, and to incorporate the 501(c)(3) support organization. In the summer of 2004 the City Council appropriated \$6 million to build CMSLC. For updates on this project, refer to the CMSLC website, <http://streamer.lacoe.edu/DSSLC/>.