

M02.2 - Provide Connection to Place

Professional Narrative

WELL Building Standard™ version 2 (WELL v2™)

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT:

This document is intended to serve as a guide on how to create a project professional narrative to support occupant well-being by incorporating the natural environment throughout the project and integrating design that celebrates the project's unique identity.

This document is meant to demonstrate an acceptable degree of detail for

- precertification documentation submission
- documentation submission

For precertification documentation submission:

To achieve WELL Precertification, project teams may submit intent-stage or implementation-stage documents for pursued features, or any combination of the two. An intent-stage document is typically a draft document that has not yet been implemented in the actual project, while implementation-stage documents describe final and implemented strategies. Intent and implementation-stage documents should be similar in terms of level of detail. For final WELL Certification documentation approval, all documents are required to be implementation -stage. To learn more about intent-stage vs. implementation-stage documentation, review the [precertification guide](#) in our knowledge base.

Intent-stage language is indicated in this sample document with **green text and in parentheses**. For an intent-stage professional narrative the document should consist of specific strategies that the team intends to implement. This document cannot simply state that the feature requirements will be implemented; the documentation should include adequate detail such that a WELL Reviewer will be able to confirm the document complies with all of the WELL feature part requirements.








For documentation submission:

The level of detail is up to the discretion of the project team, but the documents must include specific details demonstrating that the actual requirements have been enacted in the project boundary. The Feature cannot be demonstrated solely through a confirmation that the requirements have been or will be implemented.

This document and similar tools are intended to assist projects in their pursuit of WELL v2 but use of this document and/or similar tools are in no way a guarantee of achievement of any rating, certification or other designation, and no representation or warranty is made regarding the likelihood of achieving any rating, certification or other designation, , and IWBI shall have no liability resulting from the use or content of this document or similar tools or resources or from any action taken or inaction occurring in reliance on this document or similar tools or resources.

Note: The below document is based on the Q1-Q2 2024 addenda of the WELL Building Standard™ version 2 (WELL v2™). Project teams are required to implement the feature requirements from the addenda version assigned to their project or any more recent addenda version.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT:

- ☐  Read the [below feature requirements](#) (or the feature requirements from the [addenda version assigned to your project](#), as relevant) and determine how your project addresses each requirement.
 - a. If your project is a WELL Core project, read through and ensure that your project follows the “WELL Core Guidance.”
 - b. Make sure to apply the feature requirements appropriate to your project’s space types. For example, if your project has both dwelling units and other space types, ensure your project is applying the requirements under “For Dwelling Units” to the dwelling unit spaces and applying the requirements under “For All Spaces except Dwelling Units” to the other space types. Check out the [WELL v2™ digital standard](#) for the exact language on your project’s space types.
- ☐  Refer to the [below example document](#) to get an idea of how to set up your documentation.
- ☐  Collaborate with your stakeholders to gather the [relevant documentation](#) that demonstrates the project’s compliance with the feature. Some examples of relevant documentation include:
 - a. a letter from a hired professional outlining services provided
 - b. the project’s floor plans
 - c. a modeling report
- ☐  Create a technical document using existing documentation where relevant, annotating it to clarify where feature requirements are met. Some examples of annotating include:
 - a. highlight the sections relevant to WELL requirements
 - b. circle or add boxes around particular data
 - c. add notes to confirm WELL requirements
 - d. add labels to draw attention to particular sections
 - e. provide an explanation of the connection to WELL requirements using a different colored font
 - f. check out the [WELL Documentation Annotation Guide](#) for more
- ☐  Name the document so that it is easily identifiable. Some examples for naming include:
 - a. name the document using the WELL feature code
 - b. name the document using the WELL feature name
 - c. name the document using the WELL document type
- ☐  Review the document you’ve created and ensure that all the necessary WELL requirements are fully and clearly addressed.
 - a. Note: the level of detail is up to the discretion of the project team, but the document must include specific details demonstrating that the actual requirements have been enacted in the project boundary. Features cannot be demonstrated solely through a written confirmation that the WELL requirements have been or will be implemented.
- ☐  Upload the document to the scorecard in the WELL digital platform, after you’ve confirmed that the document fully and clearly addresses all the necessary WELL requirements.



FEATURE PART REQUIREMENTS

For All Spaces except Dwelling Units

The project integrates design elements that address the following:

- a. Celebration of culture (e.g., culture of occupants, workplace, surrounding community).*
- b. Celebration of place (e.g., local architecture, materials, flora, artists).*
- c. Integration of art.*
- d. Human delight.*

WELL Core Guidance:

Meet these requirements in non-leased spaces.

The below sample documentation is intended to provide guidance in creating a Connection to Place professional narrative. It is not a template. You may note included components that are not required to demonstrate compliance with this Feature.

Example document for Feature 2 Part 2

The following example is for a new construction 2-story office building.

[Company] Professional Narrative – Provide Connection to Place

Location: [project address]

The design team integrated **(intent-stage: will integrate)** “Connection to Place” related elements throughout the entire office space, focusing on the spaces with most traffic and usage. Please see details below for where each of the WELL M02.2 elements can be found **(intent-stage: will be found)** in the space. The team has made sure **(intent-stage: will make sure)** that the items below are viewable from every vantage point of the regularly occupied space.

1. Celebration of culture:

- Ex: On the walls of the reception area of [PROJECT], there is **(intent-stage: will be)** a photo collage of key milestones in the history of the company that includes imagery specifically of key historic events including the date that this branch was opened.
- Ex: Artwork displaying local neighborhood traditions, cuisine and **historic landmark sites** is located **(intent-stage: will be located)** throughout the employee dining area.
- Ex: In the reception area of [PROJECT], the company logo has been **(intent-stage: will be)** artfully incorporated into the floor patterns.



2. Celebration of place:

- Ex: A mural of the local iconic park was commissioned **(intent-stage: will be commissioned)** for the east wall of the dining area, completed by a famous local muralist [NAME]. Also, photographs of local plants, animals, and flowers are displayed **(intent-stage: will be displayed)** throughout the hallways.
- Ex: Each room in the [PROJECT] office is named **(intent-stage: will be named)** after a famous leader in the local community, and each room has **(intent-stage: will have)** a small plaque summarizing the important historical influence of that individual.
- Ex: In the reception area of [PROJECT], a local sculpture artist was commissioned **(intent-stage: will be commissioned)** to create an abstract piece of artwork using locally-sourced materials to inspire those who enter the office.
- Ex: Artistic photographs of **locally harvested food** and other crops are framed **(intent-stage: will be framed)** and hung throughout the project.



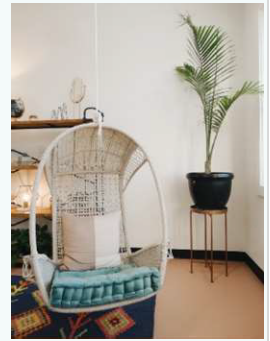
3. Integration of art:

- Ex: Employees of [PROJECT] are encouraged **(intent-stage: will be encouraged)** to bring in their photographs of their favorite place in nature, and the photographs are hung **(intent-stage: will be hung)** around the office in order to integrate art and make employees feel at home in the space.
- Ex: A rotating gallery of local art is installed **(intent-stage: will be installed)** in the common room at [PROJECT] to celebrate the robust and eclectic art scene. Background about the artist is provided **(intent-stage: will be provided)** below each piece, and employees enjoy viewing and learning more about the new installation each month.
- Ex: When screens around the office aren't being used for presentations or announcements, they rotate **(intent-stage: will rotate)** through a series of images of famous pieces of art from around the world. Each image includes **(intent-stage: will include)** a caption with the current location of the art piece, in case occupants wish to find out where to visit them in person.
- Ex: A local muralist was brought in **(intent-stage: will be brought in)** to paint a **meaningful mural** on the east side of the building facing the parking lot. Each occupant can see it **(intent-stage: will be able to see it)** every morning as they enter the building.



4. Human delight:

- Ex: Employees are provided (**intent-stage: will be provided**) a social space for [PROJECT] to rest, interact with coworkers, play ping pong, and enjoy time away from their desk. This break area includes (**intent-stage: will include**) a cabinet full of board games. Additionally, employees are encouraged (**intent-stage: will be encouraged**) to bring in items from home to personalize their desks.
- Ex: On their first day, employees of [PROJECT] are provided (**intent-stage: will be provided**) with a “plant budget” to allow them to purchase flowers or a plant to personalize their desk space. Employees can enjoy caring for their plant and watching it grow over time.
- Ex: In the break area, there are (**intent-stage: will be**) a series of indoor ceiling hung swings (like the one pictured) for occupants to enjoy.



The following example is for an existing hospitality project undergoing minor renovations.

[Project] Professional Narrative – Provide Connection to Place

Location: [project address]

The [NAME OF PROJECT] has been a first in class hotel since [DATE]. We pride ourselves on an excellent, relaxing, rejuvenating and top-notch health and well-being experience. The location already had many elements in place that provide connection to place before the project decided to pursue WELL certification. A few more elements have been added as part of minor renovations to elevate the project’s already strong connection with the local community and ecosystem. Below is a summary of “Connection to Place” related elements included in the project.

MAIN LOBBY

1. Celebration of culture:

- The [NAME OF PROJECT] has a culture of respecting nature, a reflection of the culture of the local community. A respect of nature is shown in the interior plants and flowers, artwork (the photograph above shows a showcase piece behind the reception desk) of local greenery, and walls that open out to the local exterior greenery, allowing fresh air to constantly flow through the lobby. The library (to the right of the front lobby desk) includes a section of books detailing historical local culture of the community as well as brochures for local cultural destinations that guests may want to know more about and explore.



2. Celebration of place:

- This lobby has been designed in the style of the historic buildings. Design elements that reflect the local are the patterned floor tile (made by local artisans), the style of floor lamps (which replicate the local annual festival’s lanterns), the style of ceiling (modeled after the local historical building’s style of ceiling), and framed images on the columns of local landmarks and gardens. Also, during temperate weather (80% of the year) the east and west walls are open to the exterior, featuring native flora and fauna.

3. Integration of art:

- There is a large art installation behind the front lobby desk, as well as smaller framed art pieces by local artists hung on lobby columns. [PROJECT] also considers the ceiling woodwork as an art installation for guests to enjoy.

4. Human delight:

- The main chandelier hanging from the raised ceiling above the central lobby table was designed primarily for the purpose of human delight. It contains twelve (12) separate paper lamps, made to look like lamps floating down from the sky.

GUEST ROOMS

1. Celebration of culture:

- Culturally, the hotel and local are very environmentally conscious. There is a card located in each room explaining the environmental attributes of the room, including: sustainable woods, sheets and curtains made locally from bamboo, an optional change of sheets and towels (rather than changed and laundered every day), daylighting, radiant heated flooring, low-energy use lighting and appliances.



2. Celebration of place:

- Each room has large windows to the exterior so that guests can see views of the local nature surrounding the building. Rooms include artisan woodwork pieces made by local woodworkers, including the low tables at the bottom of the bed. They also all include hand-made bed runners made by a local women's non-profit.

3. Integration of art:

- The bathrooms include a series of hand-painted tiles from local artists. Also, each room has a framed photograph from a local photographer of a local park.

4. Human delight:

- The towel folded like a bird on each bed contributes to human delight. Also, in first floor rooms, the entire exterior wall consists of doors that can be opened to a patio for a true outdoor / indoor experience.

BACK OF HOUSE – EMPLOYEE AREAS

1. Celebration of culture:

- There is a wall in the dining area where postcards sent to employees from happy guests and photographs of the project over the years are hung up.
- Each month a trophy for employee of the week is passed on to another employee and they can keep it on their desk. An employee of the month photo is hung on the wall.



2. Celebration of place:

- Framed artwork displaying the local neighborhood traditions, cuisine and historic landmark sites are hung on walls throughout the employee back of house office area.

3. Integration of art:

- There is a mural painted by a former employee on the north wall of the employee office of a nature scene from the hotel grounds.

4. Human delight:

- Employees are encouraged to bring in magnets from their travels to decorate the refrigerator in the breakroom.
- There is an old full-size Ms. Pacman arcade game in the employee breakroom for employees to enjoy on their off-time.

CORRIDORS

1. Celebration of culture:

- At the end of major hallways, there is a series of framed artwork. Some of the pieces include an artistic rendition of the hotel's logo.

2. Celebration of place:

- Wood floors are made from sustainably and locally harvested wood, crafted and installed by local woodworkers.

3. Integration of art:

- At the end of major hallways, there is a series of framed artwork, commissioned by local artists. In the employee areas, certain pieces of artwork were created by a previous employee.

4. Human delight:

- Hotel guests get to pick from a series of five types of key card designs (with artwork from different locations in the hotel featured on the back). They can keep the key card after they leave to remember their delightful vacation!



TIPS FOR MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

- Organizations participating in WELL at scale, should indicate which locations are pursuing this feature, and then submit the specific details for the locations selected for an audit.