Students likely did a double take at USC Village on Wednesday when they saw Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti noshing on a Nutella and strawberry crepe in the dining hall.

He was a freshman for a day, hanging out in the residences at McCarthy Honors College with USC President C. L. Max Nikias and, of course, posing for selfies with students.

But he also got to see how the community takes advantage of the new development, perusing Trader Joe’s and stopping by the community room, which was hosting local high schoolers creating banners that will go up on the University Park Campus in honor of Black History Month in February.

Even though Garcetti, who previously taught at USC, gave remarks at the USC Village gala in October, it was his first official tour of the development, which has seen several new retailers open in recent months.

Dan Moran, senior associate director of USC Village housing, left, and USC President C. L. Max Nikias, center, give Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti a tour of USC Village.

In the dining hall, the mayor and the university’s president get a taste of USC Village. Photos by Gus Ruelas
(from left) Senior Vice President for University Relations, Tom Sayles; USC President C. L. Max Nikias; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti; Peter Devereaux and Brent Miller of Harley Ellis Devereaux architecture firm.

Nikias and Garcetti visited the USC Hecuba statue, residential halls, and the USC Village Fitness Center.

President Nikias and Mayor Garcetti visited the Village Community Room, where USC graduate students created artwork celebrating Black History Month, along with high school students in a partnership with LA Commons.

Photos by Gus Ruelas