



DESIGN ASSISTANCE

The following nonprofit organizations and government agencies offer design, planning, and development assistance programs to communities.

American Architectural Foundation Sustainable Cities Design Academy

The Sustainable Cities Design Academy provides technical assistance to civic leaders who are engaged in public-private development projects that will engage the community they serve and support innovative infrastructure systems and long-term financial solvency.

Number of Events per Year: 4

Program Scale: Parcel through community plan

Focus Topics: Site plans, green infrastructure and financial planning analysis, community engagement

Program Website: www.archfoundation.org

Contact:

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Program Director

American Architectural Foundation

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American Institute of Architects Design Assistance Team Program

The Design Assistance Team Program has engaged over 500 professionals from over 40 disciplines to provide millions of dollars in professional pro bono services to more than 200 communities across the country. The program offers technical assistance and process expertise to help communities develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future.

Number of Events per Year: 8 to 10

Program Scale: Neighborhood to regional scale

Focus Topics: Sustainability, urban design, planning, economic development, environment, transportation and transit, ecology, historic preservation, water

Program Website:

www.aia.org/about/initiatives/AIAS075265

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American Planning Association Planning Advisory Service

Program Scale: Community, national, international
Focus Topics: All topics related to community planning
Program Website: www.planning.org/pas/

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 American Planning Association
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Greening America's Capitals

Greening America's Capitals is a project of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Transportation to help state capitals develop an implementable vision of distinctive, environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green building and green infrastructure strategies.

Number of Events Per Year: 3 to 5
Program Scale: Small areas; such as corridors, intersections, plaza, or small collection of parcels
Focus Topics: Green infrastructure, green building, civic space, brownfield redevelopment, urban waters, housing, transportation
Program Website:
www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greencapitals.htm

Contact:
 Clark Wilson
 Office of Sustainable Communities
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Community-Based Planning Initiative

The Lawyers' Committee provides pro bono attorneys from top law firms with expertise in the relevant topic areas to Design Assistance Teams working on projects affecting low-income and minority communities.

Program Scale: Parcel through community plan
Focus Topics: Land use, community economic development, environment, historic preservation, transit, water, affordable housing, sustainability, urban design, commercial corridors
Program Website:
www.CommunityBasedPlanning.LawyersCommittee.org

Contact:
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American Planning Association Community Planning Assistance Teams

The Community Planning Assistance Team initiative pairs a multidisciplinary team of expert planning professionals with community members, key stakeholders, and relevant decision makers to address challenges including, but not limited to, social equity and affordability, economic development, sustainability, consensus building, and urban design. Projects focus on localities with a demonstrated need for assistance, where planning resources and expertise may not otherwise be available.

Number of Events Per Year: 4 to 6
Program Scale: Varies
Focus Topics: Economic development strategies, transit-oriented developments, parks and waterfronts, urban design guidelines, affordable housing, sustainability plans, water management issues
Program Website:
www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams/

Contact:
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 American Planning Association
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American Planning Association International Programs

Number of Events Per Year: Varies
Program Scale: Community, national, international
Focus Topics: Sustainability, energy, water, management, economic development
Program Website:
www.planning.org/international/index.htm

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National Endowment for the Arts The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design

The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design aims to enhance the quality of life and economic viability of rural areas through workshops focused on design, planning, and creative placemaking.

Number of Events Per Year: 4

Program Scale: Rural communities

Focus Topics: Downtown revitalization, land conservation, greenway design, gateway enhancement, public art

Program Website: www.rural-design.org

Contact:

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Project for Public Spaces

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Smart Growth America Governors' Institute on Community Design

The Governors' Institute on Community Design advises governors and state leaders as they seek to guide growth and development in their states. The Institute brings together leading practitioners and academicians in the fields of government, design, development, and regional economics to help each state's executive team make informed choices as they shape the future of their states.

Number of Events Per Year: 4 to 6

Program Scale: State

Focus Topics: Smart growth, sustainability as a tool for rural economic development and placemaking, transit-oriented development, regional planning, transportation and land use planning

Program Website: www.govinstitute.org

Contact:

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Program Manager

Governors' Institute on Community Design

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National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with American Architectural Foundation and U.S. Conference of Mayors Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD)

Since 1986, the Mayors' Institute has helped transform communities through design by preparing mayors to be the chief urban designers of their cities. The Institute achieves its mission by organizing sessions where mayors engage leading design experts to find solutions to the most critical urban design challenges facing their cities.

Number of Events Per Year: 6

Program Scale: Cities, projects vary in scale from 2-3 blocks to several hundred acres

Focus Topics: Urban redevelopment, waterfront design and development, transportation corridor design, transit station area design, city infrastructure

Program Website: www.micd.org

Contact:

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Mayors' Institute on City Design

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Urban Land Institute

Advisory Services Program

Advisory services panels provide strategic advice to sponsors on land use and real estate development issues. Panels link developers, public agencies, and other sponsors to the knowledge and experience of Urban Land Institute and its membership.

Number of Events Per Year: 15-20 Panels

Program Scale: Central cities, urbanized suburbs, institutional uses, planned unit development

Focus Topics: Transportation and land use, redevelopment, revitalization, infill, urban design, real estate finance, disaster assistance, economic development, public leadership

Program Website:

www.uli.org/CommunityBuilding/AdvisoryService.aspx

Contact:

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Urban Land Institute

Daniel Rose Fellowship Program

By providing public officials with access to information, best practices, peer networks, and other resources, the Rose Center seeks to foster creative, efficient, practical, and sustainable land use policies.

Number of Events Per Year: Around 9

Program Scale: Central cities

Focus Topics: Transportation and land use, redevelopment and infill, public leadership

Program Website: www.uli.org/rosecenter

Contact:

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*For updates or additions, contact Jen Hughes, hughesj@arts.gov.
Photo credits: American Planning Association, Mayors' Institute on City Design, Urban Land Institute.*