

HGA

MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY ACTION PRO BONO DESIGN WORKSHOP

A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Table of Contents

This guide introduces our Community Action Pro Bono Design Workshop and serves as a resource for organizations exploring how collaborative design can advance their mission.

WELCOME

01 | A Letter from Community Action

WHY DESIGN MATTERS

02 | Why Design?

03 | Design Can Help You...

OUR APPROACH

04 | Where This Journey Began

05 | Our Promise to You

WHAT WE CAN BUILD TOGETHER

06 | Where Design Can Take You

07 | Imagine What's Possible

08 | Is This Workshop Right For You?

OUR WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

09 | How We Choose Community Partners

10 | What Your Journey Will Look Like

11 | Two Days of Possibility

12 | FAQ

READY TO BEGIN?

13 | Ready to Imagine What's Possible?

14 | Beyond the Workshop



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A WELCOME FROM COMMUNITY ACTION

Dear Community Partners,

Thank you for the work you do every day to strengthen your community! Whether you are leading a nonprofit, educating the next generation, advocating for your neighbors, celebrating culture, protecting the environment, or creating places where people feel a sense of belonging, your work begins with a belief that your community can be stronger, healthier, and more connected. You see possibility where others see challenges, and your compassion, perseverance, and dedication are what make meaningful change possible.

We know that bringing those ideas to life is rarely easy...

Transforming a vision into reality requires more than passion alone. It requires building trust, bringing people together around a shared purpose, communicating ideas in ways that inspire others, and creating momentum that carries a project from aspiration to action. Design can be a powerful part of that journey, not because it has all the answers, but because it helps people ask better questions, uncover opportunities, and create a shared vision for what comes next.

That belief is what inspired us to create the Minneapolis Community Action Pro Bono Design Workshop!

Each year, our team of architects, interior designers, landscape architects, engineers, graphic designers, planners, and researchers volunteers their time to partner with organizations like yours. We begin by listening. We learn from the people who know their communities best, ask thoughtful questions, explore possibilities together, and create practical design tools that help communicate your vision, engage your stakeholders, and build momentum toward implementation.

Most importantly, this workshop is not about designing **for** communities. It is about designing **with** communities. We believe the most meaningful ideas rarely come from a single person or profession. They emerge through conversation, curiosity, and collaboration. You bring invaluable knowledge about the people you serve, your mission, and your aspirations for the future. Our role is to help bring those ideas into focus, uncover new opportunities, and translate your vision into compelling stories, graphics, and design concepts that others can understand, support, and help bring to life.

Whether you are just beginning to imagine what is possible or preparing to take the next step, we hope this guide offers encouragement, inspiration, and a glimpse into how collaborative design can help move your mission forward. More than anything, we hope this is the beginning of a relationship. It is a privilege for our team to learn from organizations like yours, and we would be honored to partner with you as you continue the important work of strengthening your community.

With gratitude,



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WHY DESIGN?

DESIGN TURNS VISION INTO ACTION

Every day, you're making decisions that shape the future of your organization. You're listening to your community, balancing priorities, building partnerships, pursuing funding, and looking for new ways to expand your impact. Whether you're imagining a new building, improving an existing space, launching a new program, or simply asking what comes next, you're already doing the work of design.

Design isn't just about buildings. It's a way of exploring ideas, bringing people together, and creating a shared understanding of where you're headed. It helps your team ask meaningful questions: *What challenges are you trying to solve? Who needs to be part of the conversation? How can your spaces, programs, and resources better support the people you serve? What opportunities haven't yet been explored?*

As your ideas become clearer, design helps transform conversations into concepts, concepts into shared understanding, and shared understanding into momentum. It gives people something they can see, react to, and build upon together. Along the way, it creates practical tools that help communicate your vision to community members, board members, donors, funders, and decision-makers.

The most meaningful projects are never defined solely by the places they create. They are defined by the lives they touch, the relationships they strengthen, and the opportunities they make possible.

Because at its best, design isn't simply about creating places. **It's about creating possibility.**

DESIGN CAN HELP YOU...

MOVE YOUR MISSION FORWARD

Design is a powerful tool for turning ideas into action. Whether you're building support for a new initiative, engaging your community, or preparing for future growth, design creates clarity, builds momentum, and helps others see what's possible.

You know your community better than anyone else. Our team listens first.

Together, we'll transform your ideas into a shared vision that inspires others to believe in it, support it, and help bring it to life.

Understand

- Clarify Your Vision
- Explore New Possibilities

Engage

- Center Community Voices
- Bring Partners Together
- Build Community Support

Advance

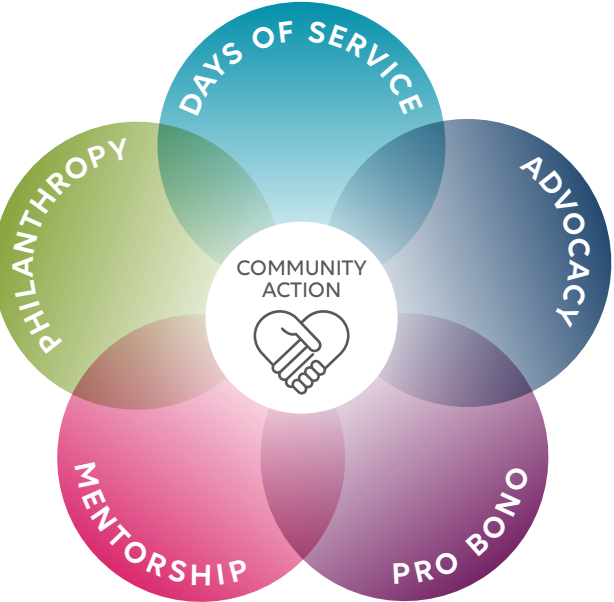
- Strengthen Funding & Grant Applications
- Advance Fundraising Efforts
- Make More Confident Decisions
- Build Organizational Capacity
- Inspire Action

WHERE THIS JOURNEY BEGAN

THE CHALLENGE

Every year, our team meets organizations doing extraordinary work across Minneapolis. Again and again, we hear a similar story.

Leaders have bold ideas. They understand their communities, recognize unmet needs, and can clearly articulate the impact they hope to create. What they often lack isn't passion or commitment. It's the time, resources, or design support needed to transform those ideas into a shared vision that others can see, support, and help bring to life.



THE RESPONSE

We believed there had to be another way to support their work.

Not by arriving with answers, but by listening first. By bringing together architects, designers, engineers, planners, researchers, and creative thinkers to work alongside community organizations, explore possibilities, and create practical tools that help move their missions forward.

From that idea, the Minneapolis Community Action Pro Bono Design Workshop was born!



TODAY

Today, our team partners with organizations across Minnesota on projects ranging from community centers and educational spaces to cultural institutions, outdoor learning environments, affordable housing, and neighborhood initiatives.

No two organizations are alike, and neither are the workshops we create together.

What remains constant is our commitment to listening first, building relationships, and helping community leaders transform their ideas into shared visions that inspire action.

A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE

The Minneapolis Community Action Design Workshop is one expression of a much larger commitment to strengthening communities through design.

Across HGA, our employees volunteer their time and expertise through pro bono design, community partnerships, advocacy, philanthropy, mentorship, and volunteer service. Together, these efforts reflect a shared belief that design can be a force for positive change.

When you partner with our team, you're joining a community of people who believe that the strongest projects begin with listening and are shaped alongside the communities they serve.



** Numbers reflect Community Action program impact from January through December 2024*

Minnesota Organizations We've Had the Privilege to Partner With:

- Annunciation Church
- Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
- Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation
- American Indian OIC
- Agape Movement
- Hired
- Leonardo's Basement
- East Metro Civic Alliance
- Rise
- Center for Irish Music
- Rural Innovation Center
- Minnesota African American Heritage Museum & Gallery
- Disciplines Ministry Church
- Close-knit
- Driftless Region Youth Flight
- Friends School of Minneapolis
- Inner City Tennis
- The Works Museum
- Camp Fire Minnesota
- Ecolibrium 3
- Como Community Center
- Roger Up
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts
- Face to Face Academy
- Afghan Cultural Society of MN
- Camp Ajawah
- St. Paul Ballet
- YWCA St. Paul
- Mudluk Pottery
- All Seasons Canine
- International Spanish Language Academy



OUR PROMISE TO YOU

WE BEGIN BY LISTENING

Every community already has the ideas, passion, and leadership to create meaningful change. You know your community better than anyone else, and every decision you make is grounded in the people you serve.

Our role isn't to define your vision. You bring the lived experience, relationships, and deep understanding of your community. We bring design thinking, creative facilitation, and a multidisciplinary team ready to work alongside you. It's to listen first, ask thoughtful questions, and help transform your ideas into clear, visual tools that build understanding, strengthen partnerships, and create momentum.

When you partner with our team, we make a simple commitment: we'll approach your work with curiosity, humility, and respect. Together, we'll explore possibilities, test ideas, center community voices, and create a shared vision that helps move your mission forward.

Every community has the vision to shape its future. Our role is to help make that vision visible so others can help bring it to life.

OUR VALUES



COMMUNITY FIRST

We begin by listening to the people who know their community best.



PARTNERSHIP

We work alongside you because the strongest ideas are created together.



EQUITY

We create space for every voice to be heard, valued, and reflected in the process.



STEWARDSHIP

We invest our time where it can create lasting community impact.



POSSIBILITY

Together, we imagine what comes next.



WHERE DESIGN CAN TAKE YOU

DESIGN SUPPORT SHAPED AROUND YOUR MISSION

No two organizations begin in the same place. You may be imagining a new facility, rethinking an existing space, strengthening a program, preparing for fundraising, or simply exploring what comes next.

Rather than following a one-size-fits-all process, we'll shape the workshop around your goals, your community, and where your organization is today. Together, we'll identify where design can create the greatest value and build the tools you need to move your vision forward.

Every workshop is different. Together, we'll focus on the stages that create the greatest value for your organization.



DEFINE WHAT IS POSSIBLE

Every project begins with your ideas. Together, we'll explore your aspirations, uncover opportunities, and begin shaping a shared direction rooted in your mission and the people you serve.

Together we might explore:

- Visioning and goal setting
- Understanding organizational and community needs
- Programming and space priorities
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Early planning and concept development
- Exploring future growth or new uses

OUTCOME: You'll leave with a shared vision that aligns your staff, board, partners, and community around what's possible.

UNDERSTAND OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Before making major decisions, it helps to understand the opportunities already within reach. Together, we'll explore your existing assets, identify challenges, and evaluate possibilities so you can move forward with confidence.

Together we might explore:

- Existing building or site evaluation
- Preliminary feasibility
- Site and context analysis
- Space utilization
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Sustainability opportunities
- Comparison of potential locations or approaches

OUTCOME: You'll gain confidence in the opportunities, tradeoffs, and priorities that will shape your next steps.

MAKE THE VISION VISIBLE

Design helps transform ideas into something people can see, understand, and respond to. Whether through sketches, diagrams, renderings, or storytelling, we'll create visual tools that invite conversation, build alignment, and inspire action.

Together we might explore:

- Conceptual floor plans
- Site or landscape concepts
- Interior environment concepts
- Diagrams and experience maps
- Sketches and renderings
- Environmental graphics or wayfinding ideas

OUTCOME: You'll leave with visual tools that help communicate your vision and support meaningful conversations with your community, board, and partners.

HELP OTHERS SEE AND SUPPORT THE FUTURE

Great ideas create change when others believe in them. Together, we'll develop the tools that help communicate your vision, strengthen support, and build momentum toward funding, partnerships, and implementation.

Together we might explore:

- Fundraising and donor materials
- Grant-support graphics
- Community presentation materials
- Stakeholder engagement tools
- Project narratives and visual storytelling
- Phasing and priority diagrams

OUTCOME: You'll be equipped with practical resources that help turn today's conversations into tomorrow's action.



IMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE

No two organizations begin in the same place, but each one begins with a vision. These stories show how collaborative design helped our community partners build clarity, strengthen support, and create momentum in ways that reflected their unique goals.

Creating a Place Where Community Can Gather and Grow

COMO COMMUNITY CENTER | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Every neighborhood deserves a place where people can gather, learn, create, and connect. Community leaders envisioned transforming a former church into a welcoming destination centered on arts, education, recreation, and neighborhood connection. They needed a way to explore possibilities, build excitement, and communicate that vision to the broader community.

Together, we created visual tools that helped people see what was possible. Conceptual designs, branding, and engagement materials supported fundraising efforts, community outreach, and ongoing conversations, helping build momentum around a shared vision for the center's future.

The partnership extended well beyond the workshop. HGA staff joined neighborhood volunteers to help install portions of the landscape, reinforcing a shared commitment to the project and the community it was created to serve.



WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: A shared vision that united neighbors, strengthened community support, and created momentum toward a vibrant gathering place where people can connect, learn, and thrive.

Creating a More Inclusive Home for Creativity

INTERACT CENTER FOR THE VISUAL + PERFORMING ARTS | ST. PAUL, MN

Every artist deserves a space where creativity can flourish. Interact envisioned a more inclusive environment where artists with disabilities could create, collaborate, and thrive. They needed a way to evaluate opportunities, communicate their vision, and build support for future improvements.

Together, we explored planning strategies, accessibility improvements, and creative solutions that reflected the organization's mission and the needs of its artists. Visual concepts and planning tools helped strengthen fundraising efforts, support lease negotiations, and guide long-term decision-making as the organization planned for its future.



WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: A clearer path forward that strengthened organizational support, secured critical resources, and helped Interact create a more accessible, inspiring home for the artists and community it serves.

Creating a Welcoming Place for Opportunity

AMERICAN INDIAN OIC | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Every student deserves to feel welcomed, supported, and connected from the moment they arrive. American Indian OIC envisioned transforming a key community gathering space into a more welcoming and culturally grounded environment for students, staff, and community members.

Together, we developed visual tools that helped bring that vision to life. Space planning, programming, and design concepts supported fundraising efforts and helped communicate the organization's commitment to creating an environment rooted in culture, opportunity, and belonging.

WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: A compelling vision that helped secure a \$1.2 million grant, creating momentum toward a campus where students, staff, and community members feel welcomed, connected, and supported.



Creating a Permanent Home for Community and Culture

AFGHAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA | ST. PAUL, MN

As Minnesota's Afghan community grew, so did the need for a permanent place to gather, celebrate traditions, and preserve cultural identity for future generations. The organization envisioned a welcoming home where community, culture, and belonging could flourish.

Together, we developed visual tools that helped communicate that vision to supporters and funders. Conceptual designs and planning materials became powerful storytelling tools that strengthened fundraising efforts and inspired confidence in the organization's future.

WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: A vision that helped secure a \$500,000 grant and created momentum toward a permanent home where Minnesota's Afghan community can gather, celebrate, and belong.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

FACE TO FACE ACADEMY | ST. PAUL, MN

Some of life's most meaningful learning happens beyond the classroom. Face to Face Academy envisioned an outdoor learning environment where students could explore, gather, and connect through nature-based education.

Together, we created site concepts and programming ideas that helped reimagine underused outdoor spaces as flexible environments for learning, restoration, and community. The vision provided a roadmap that guided implementation over time while supporting volunteers and community partners as the project continued to grow.

WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: An outdoor learning environment that continues to grow through community partnerships, creating lasting opportunities for students to learn, explore, and thrive.



Expanding Opportunities for Outdoor Learning

CAMP FIRE MINNESOTA | EXELSIOR, MN

Camp Fire Minnesota envisioned breathing new life into a historic summer home while expanding opportunities for outdoor learning, environmental stewardship, and year-round programming for young people and families.

Together, we explored possibilities for adaptive reuse, programming, and long-term campus planning. What began as a pro bono workshop became a shared vision for the future and ultimately grew into an ongoing design partnership supporting the organization's long-term goals.

WHAT BECAME POSSIBLE: A trusted partnership that transformed an early vision into continued investment, expanded programming, and a long-term roadmap for connecting more young people with nature.



IS THIS WORKSHOP RIGHT FOR YOU?

EVERY MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP BEGINS WITH CURIOSITY.

The strongest Community Action partnerships don't begin with finished plans. They begin with organizations that care deeply about their communities and are asking thoughtful questions about what comes next.

Whether you're imagining a new space, strengthening an existing program, exploring future growth, or simply looking for a partner to help clarify your vision, this workshop is designed to meet you where you are. You don't need a building project to benefit from this workshop. Organizations come to the workshop at many different stages of their journey.

You don't need to have all the answers before you apply. In fact, many organizations come to the



This workshop may be right for your organization if:

- ✓ You're a nonprofit, school, neighborhood organization, or mission-driven community group.
- ✓ You're exploring an opportunity where collaborative design could help create clarity.
- ✓ You're open to new ideas and different perspectives.
- ✓ You're excited to work alongside an interdisciplinary team.
- ✓ You're ready to invest time in a collaborative process.
- ✓ You're looking to build momentum around a vision and not just create drawings.

TOGETHER, WE OFTEN EXPLORE:

Instead of focusing solely on buildings, we look for projects that have the potential to strengthen communities.

Projects may involve:

- Community gathering places
- Arts and cultural spaces
- Educational environments
- Outdoor Learning and Recreation
- Housing and Neighborhood development
- Health and wellness initiatives
- Adaptive reuse
- Public space improvements

You don't need all the answers
before applying.

Often, discovering the right
questions is where the most
meaningful design work begins.

HOW WE CHOOSE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

HOW WE BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Every year, we have the privilege of meeting organizations doing extraordinary work across our communities. While we wish we could partner with every organization, each workshop is intentionally sized to foster meaningful collaboration, dedicated support, and lasting relationships.

There is no “perfect” application.

Rather than looking for the biggest budgets or the most developed projects, we look for organizations with a clear commitment to their communities and an openness to exploring ideas together.

Our goal is to build a workshop cohort where every organization and every volunteer learns from one

another while creating meaningful momentum. We look for partnerships where collaborative design can strengthen communities, clarify vision, and help organizations move forward.

EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS

If your organization isn't selected this year, we hope you'll stay connected.

Many of our community partners have applied more than once, using each application as an opportunity to refine their ideas, strengthen partnerships, and continue building momentum.

Sometimes the timing simply isn't right. That doesn't mean the vision isn't.



ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS

Is your organization ready to actively engage throughout the partnership?

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Will this project positively affect the people and communities it serves?

LONG TERM MOMENTUM

Will this work continue creating momentum beyond the workshop?

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

OPPORTUNITY FOR DESIGN

Can collaborative design help move this vision forward?

DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS

Each workshop brings together organizations with diverse missions, perspectives, and lived experiences.

COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP

Will organizational leaders actively engage throughout the partnership?

WHAT YOUR EXPERIENCE WILL LOOK LIKE

A COLLABORATIVE JOURNEY FROM APPLICATION TO ACTION

Every organization's journey is unique, but every workshop begins the same way: by listening.

From your application through the workshop and beyond, our team works alongside you to understand your goals, explore possibilities, and create practical tools that help move your vision forward. The process is flexible because it is designed around your organization.



1. APPLY & SHARE YOUR STORY

Tell us about your organization, your community, and the opportunity you're exploring. You don't need a fully developed project! Many of our strongest partnerships began with a question rather than a solution.

The application does not need to present a fully developed project. Some of the strongest partnerships begin with an important question, an emerging idea, or a need that has not yet been translated into a clear design direction.

2. BUILDING THE WORKSHOP TEAM

The Minneapolis Community Action team thoughtfully reviews each application to build a workshop that creates meaningful value for both the participating organizations and our volunteer design teams.

Selected organizations are contacted to confirm interest, clarify priorities, and begin preparing for the workshop.

3. MEET YOUR TEAM

You'll be paired with an interdisciplinary team selected to match the unique goals of your project. Throughout the process, one team member serves as your primary point of contact.

4. WE'LL LISTEN FIRST

Before the workshop begins, we'll spend time learning about your organization, your community, and what success looks like from your perspective.

This phase may include:

- A site visit
- A virtual or in-person kickoff meeting
- Review of background materials
- Conversations with key stakeholders
- Confirmation of workshop priorities

This early preparation helps ensure the workshop begins with a shared understanding of the project.

5. CO-CREATE

During the workshop, you'll work alongside our team to explore ideas, test possibilities, and refine a shared vision.

The workshop may include:

- Collaborative working sessions
- Visioning and priority setting
- Rapid concept development
- Review of options and alternatives
- Feedback conversations
- Refinement of preferred ideas

Organization representatives are active participants throughout the process. Their knowledge, experience, and perspective directly shape the work.

6. SHARE AND REFLECT

At key points during the workshop, the team pauses to share progress, gather feedback, and confirm that the emerging work reflects the organization's mission and goals.

The final presentation is not intended to mark the end of the conversation. It provides an opportunity to reflect on what was learned, identify the strongest ideas, and discuss how the work might support the organization's next steps.

7. TAKE YOUR VISION FORWARD

After the workshop, you'll receive a tailored package of design tools, concepts, and presentation materials that can help support fundraising, community engagement, strategic planning, or future implementation.

Materials vary by project and may include:

- Conceptual plans or diagrams
- Renderings or sketches
- Programming and planning information
- Engagement or presentation material
- Site or building analysis
- Fundraising and storytelling graphics
- Recommendations for next steps

TWO DAYS OF POSSIBILITY

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE WORKSHOP

Expect lively conversations, lots of sketch paper, sticky notes, laughter, and more than a few moments when someone says, “What if...?”

These two days are intentionally immersive, collaborative, and creative. You'll spend time working alongside designers, exploring ideas, testing possibilities, and building a shared vision for your organization's future. While every workshop is different, each one balances focused team work with collaborative discussions, informal conversations, and opportunities to reflect together.

We ask partners to:

- Designate one or two primary participants.
- Join pre-workshop conversations and the site visit.
- Participate actively throughout the workshop.
- Invite additional voices when helpful.
- Provide open and candid feedback.

You bring the mission, community knowledge, and lived experience.

We bring design expertise and a collaborative process.

Together, we create something neither of us could accomplish alone.



Day One

BREAKFAST MEET & GREET (PROVIDED) 8:30 AM
MEET YOUR TEAM & EXPLORE IDEAS 9 AM - 11 AM
DESIGN TEAM WORK SESSION 11 AM - 12 PM
LUNCH BREAK (PROVIDED) 12 PM - 1 PM
DESIGN TEAM WORK SESSION 1 PM - 4 PM
(OPTIONAL) CREATE TOGETHER 3 PM - 4 PM
CELEBRATE PROGRESS 4 PM - 6 PM

Day Two

BREAKFAST MEET & GREET (PROVIDED) 8:30 AM
DEVELOP CONCEPTS 9 AM - 11 AM
DESIGN TEAM WORK SESSION 11 AM - 12 PM
LUNCH BREAK (PROVIDED) 12 PM - 1 PM
DESIGN TEAM WORK SESSION 1 PM - 3 PM
REFINE IDEAS 3 PM - 4 PM
CELEBRATE TOGETHER PROJECT SHARE 4 PM - 6 PM

During some portions of the workshop, your design team will work independently to develop and test ideas. While they do, you're encouraged to recharge, connect with other organizations, or simply enjoy a break. Those focused work sessions allow the team to return with new ideas ready for discussion together.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO WE NEED A FULLY DEVELOPED PROJECT?

No. Many of our strongest partnerships began with an idea, a question, or an opportunity rather than a fully developed project.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Mission-driven nonprofit organizations, schools, neighborhood organizations, and community groups serving the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area.

IS THERE A COST TO PARTICIPATE?

No. Participation in the Design Workshop is provided as a pro bono service through HGA's Community Action program.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE CONSIDERED?

Projects involving buildings, sites, community spaces, strategic planning, engagement, and other design-related opportunities.

DO WE NEED TO OWN THE PROPERTY?

No. Some organizations are still evaluating sites or exploring future opportunities.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE WORKSHOP?

Many organizations continue using the workshop materials to support fundraising, strategic planning, community engagement, or future design efforts.

WILL WE RECEIVE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS?

No. Workshop materials are conceptual tools intended to support planning, engagement, fundraising, and future project development.

WHO OWNS THE WORK?

The workshop materials are intended for your organization's use in advancing the project.

CAN PREVIOUS APPLICANTS APPLY AGAIN?

Absolutely. Organizations are welcome to reapply as projects evolve.

HOW MANY ORGANIZATIONS ARE SELECTED?

Typically four to six organizations are selected each year, depending on project scope and volunteer capacity.

READY TO IMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE?

Every meaningful community project begins with people who care enough to imagine something better.

People who see possibility. People who ask, "What if?"

If your organization is ready to explore new ideas, strengthen community partnerships, and build momentum around a shared vision, we'd love to begin that conversation with you.

The Community Action Design Workshop is more than a two-day event. It's the beginning of a partnership rooted in listening, collaboration, and the belief that great ideas grow stronger when they're created together.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- 1 APPLICATIONS OPEN:**
Late July 2026
- 2 APPLICATIONS DUE:**
September 3, 2026
- 3 ORGANIZATIONS NOTIFIED:**
September 11, 2026
- 4 COMMUNITY ACTION DESIGN WORKSHOP:**
October 12 and October 26, 2026



<< APPLY HERE



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Organizational information
- Project description
- Community impact statement
- Existing photos or drawings (if available)
- Primary contact information

Average Application Time: 30–45 minutes

HAVE QUESTIONS?

We're happy to talk through your ideas before you apply!



KAITLIN SCHALOW,
COMMUNITY ACTION CO-DIRECTOR
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Every community has the vision to shape its future. We'd be honored to partner with you as you imagine what's possible next.

BEYOND THE WORKSHOP

THE WORKSHOP IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

The Community Action Design Workshop is intentionally designed as the beginning of a much longer journey. While the workshop itself lasts only two days, the conversations, relationships, and ideas that emerge often continue shaping organizations long after the workshop concludes.

Together, we'll create practical tools that help your organization continue moving forward. Whether you're engaging your board, building community support, pursuing funding, or refining long-term priorities, the work created during the workshop is intended to support the next chapter of your journey.

One of the most meaningful outcomes of the workshop isn't a drawing or a presentation. It's shared understanding. Ideas that once felt difficult to explain become visible. Different perspectives begin to align around a common vision. What once felt uncertain begins to feel possible.

TURNING VISION INTO ACTION

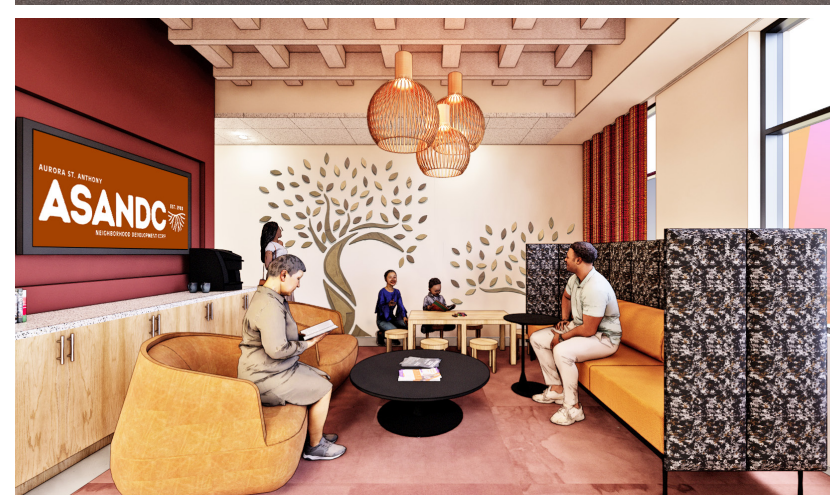
Every organization's journey is different. After the workshop, community partners often use the work to:

- Engage community members and stakeholders
- Build alignment among staff and boards
- Strengthen grant and fundraising efforts
- Develop partnerships with agencies and organizations
- Refine priorities and implementation strategies
- Evaluate funding and phasing options
- Prepare for future architectural or engineering services
- Communicate a long-term vision with clarity

The workshop does not guarantee that a project will be funded or built. Instead, it provides organizations with stronger tools for making informed decisions, telling their story, and inviting others into the vision.

Every community already has the ideas, passion, and leadership needed to create meaningful change.

Our hope is that this workshop helps make those ideas visible, strengthens the partnerships around them, and builds the momentum needed to bring them to life.





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