



Charter for the Minnesota Design Team (MDT) Committee

Mission

The mission of the Minnesota Design Team (MDT) Committee is to use design and community development principles to help Minnesota communities, particularly those in rural areas, develop and act upon a shared vision of their future.

Purpose

- To create awareness of the role of design in the development of communities and highlight the positive impacts design and planning have on a community's quality of life.
- To help with the preservation of a community's identity by constructing a sustainable vision leveraging existing community assets.
- To demonstrate a commitment to community participation and grassroots initiatives.
- To provide architects and other design professionals learning, mentoring, and leadership opportunities as they work with communities.
- To serve as a resource to Minnesota communities and AIA Minnesota on topics of community planning, downtown or neighborhood revitalization, livable communities, and public spaces.
- To partner with other organizations who share similar goals to assist communities in planning and achieving their future.

The Committee's purposes are, therefore, programmatic and advisory in nature.

Type of Group

Standing Committee (serving a continuing purpose).

Authority Delegated or Retained

No financial authority is delegated to this committee by the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors.

Area(s) of Focus (organizational activity area, program(s) and/or topics)

The main area of focus is visits of MDT volunteers to Minnesota communities – particularly those located in Greater Minnesota and/or small cities -- to provide design and community planning support through community engagement activities.

Topics of focus include:

- Community empowerment through a comprehensive engagement process
- Community design and planning
- Sustainable development
- Downtown revitalization
- Affordable/workforce housing

- Vibrant, livable communities
- Tourism, recreation, transportation, economic planning

Membership/Volunteers

As a multi-disciplinary committee, the participation and involvement of a broad group of design and community development professionals is an important part of MDT, particularly in the community visits. The composition of the Committee should include architects and individuals from related disciplines. A portion of MDT Committee members and volunteers are unlikely to be or to become AIA Minnesota members. The MDT Committee will work to actively recruit AIA Minnesota members, and members of related fields, to engage in the Committee and its activities.

Leadership

Leadership consisting of two (2) co-chairs and a co-chair elect, who are AIA Minnesota members in good standing – and at least one of whom has the designation of Assoc. AIA or AIA, with the others potentially Allied members -- and selected in accordance with the AIA Minnesota Policy on Committees. Facilitation of the Committee meetings will be regularly led by the outgoing co-chair, with the incoming co-chair or the co-chair elect serving as facilitator, if necessary.

Staff Support

The Executive Vice President will allocate AIA Minnesota staff time in the support of regular Committee meetings and community visits, including: communications to AIA Minnesota members, communities and other past, current and potential volunteers from disciplines outside architecture; website content maintenance; supply storage; and other assistance as needed and appropriate. AIA Minnesota staff will also ensure that a physical meeting space is available and that opportunities for remote participation (via conference call, video-based, or Internet-based remote technology) are pursued for all Committee meetings, and information related to these remote opportunities are shared with Committee members, and with others, as appropriate.

Activities, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Offer and conduct Minnesota Design Team visits to communities in Minnesota;
- Regular meetings of the MDT Committee and of MDT volunteers;
- Offer educational retreats and programs related to community engagement, design, and development;
- Provide mentoring, learning, and leadership opportunities for design professionals;
- Conduct marketing efforts to potential community clients;
- Work in collaboration with other design professions and community and economic development organizations;
- Serve as an advocate for the creative and effective use of architecture and other design disciplines in the planning and design of livable, sustainable communities; and
- Maintain efforts that are budget neutral on an annual basis.

Primary Author(s)

John Barbour, FAIA
Samantha Crosby
Hans Muessig, AIA Minnesota Allied Member
Stephan Roos, AIA Minnesota Allied Member
Jeremy Stock, AIA
John Workman
Mary-Margaret Zindren

Date this charter was approved initially by the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors

September 20, 2019

Anticipated date of charter review / potential revision by the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors, with input from group leadership and staff

September 2022



Anna Pravinata, AIA
AIA Minnesota Secretary