

2020 LIVABLE COMMUNITIES DESIGN EXCELLENCE WORKSHOPS

LCDA and LCDA-TOD Prospective Grant Applicants



Project: Bimosedaa
Community: City of Minneapolis
Developer: Beacon Interfaith
Architect: LHB
Award: 2019 LCDA-TOD

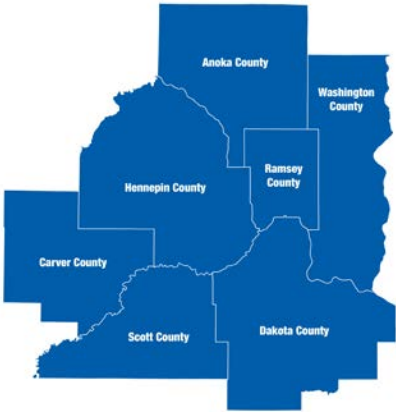


February 2020

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Livable Communities Design Excellence Workshops

The Metropolitan Council offers Design Excellence Workshops for prospective applicants to the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) and Transit-Oriented Development (LCDA-TOD) programs in an effort to improve the planning, design, and impact of the proposed projects. A panel of local experts including urban designers, landscape architects, architects, planners, and community development leaders are convened to review project plans and provide feedback to prospective LCDA and LCDA-TOD grant applicants. The review provides the opportunity for applicants to strengthen their project to best meet Livable Communities Act (LCA) priorities.

LCA Priorities:

LCA funding assists cities with the implementation of their community development objectives and comprehensive plans in ways that:

1. Interrelate two or more of the following: development or redevelopment, affordable housing, and employment growth;
2. Intensify land uses and lead to more compact development or redevelopment;
3. Achieve a mix of housing opportunities; and
4. Encourage public infrastructure that connects communities, attracts investment, and provides project area residents with expanded opportunities for employment.

Workshop Goals:

- Build the capacity of applicants to best meet LCA goals
- Provide clarity regarding LCA program expectations
- To elevate the quality of projects funded through LCA programs

Workshop Structure:

The 2020 Design Excellence Workshops will be hosted as a single session in which prospective LCA applicants will introduce the project and its challenges to the expert panel. Panelists will provide insight and feedback on those issues, overall design strategies, drawings/plans, and its relation to community context. Projects that are at earlier stages of development can submit less refined materials and projects farther along in their development will be expected to have more detailed drawings and project materials.

Prospective applicants will select from the following categories for targeted feedback. The expert panel will respond to the entire project and may highlight additional issues.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Intensity, density & form | F. Sustainability & resilience |
| B. Public realm & landscape | G. Affordability, housing & jobs |
| C. Fit in context & neighborhood | H. Street life, placemaking & art |
| D. Connectivity & access | I. Community needs & engagement |
| E. Transit & mobility | |

Workshop Requirements:

- Submit a complete 2020 Design Excellence Workshop application found at the end of this document along with a current project site plan to LCDA and LCDA-TOD staff via email by **12:00 p.m. February 21, 2020.**
- Rank your preferred workshop dates and times on the application form. You will be notified of your participation by **February 26, 2020** and participants will be assigned one 45-min session.
- Workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon of **March 19 and 24, 2020**
- Workshops sessions will be interactive design charrettes between the development team and members of the expert panel.
- A Minimum of one landowner representative, one designer, and one representative of the City is required to attend the 45-min session. Full development teams (City Staff, Developer, Urban Designer, Architect, and/or Consultant) are highly encouraged to attend.
- The following documents must be submitted electronically, in pdf format to LCA staff via email by **12:00 p.m. March 13, 2020.** The same documents must be brought in hard copy to the workshop:

(Items 1-3 should be in large format. Items 4 & 5 should be no smaller than 11x17 and 5 copies)

1. To-scale site plan concept(s) showing the project intent with as much detail as known as well as detail of adjacent properties. Projects farther along should include all ground floor uses, vehicular and pedestrian entrances, public and semi-public spaces. Site plan alternatives are allowed and encouraged.
2. To-scale contextual aerial or plan labeled with existing conditions of the site and key surrounding elements within sight and within walking distance including but not limited to all public realm elements such as parks, trails, plazas, etc as well as transit stations and stops.
3. To-scale aerial or map of the broader project area and neighborhood labeled with all community assets, amenity areas, and key connections such as transit hubs, regional centers, and employment centers.
4. To-scale street, site, and building section and elevation drawings that illustrate precisely how buildings meet the ground, the articulation of the façade and the interior uses of the building, as well as the design of the spaces between buildings if more than one, **if available.**
5. Ground perspectives from any adjacent streets and any three-dimensional models or representations (such as hardcopy renderings or SketchUp models on flash drives), **if available.**
6. Relevant sections/chapters of the City's Comprehensive Plan such as future land use plans, height maps, public realm plans, design principles or sustainability goals; applicable zoning maps / overlay requirements; and any relevant small area plans or station area plans.

On the day of your workshop the full development team should be prepared to briefly present these materials, how the project fits into the context of its surroundings and how it both meets city priorities and demonstrates LCA goals.

The expert panel will provide feedback to the full development team and suggest concepts, changes, and drawings for your consideration. After the workshop prospective applicants will receive a summary of this input.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I participate?

Workshops are optional for prospective LCA applicants. City staff must submit a design workshop application by the due dates below. There are a limited number of spots, and LCDA-TOD applicants are given priority.

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

Prospective applicants to the 2020 or 2021 LCDA and LCDA-TOD Development programs. This includes an LCA Participating Community's city staff along with the project's developer and designer team. A Minimum of one landowner representative, one designer, and one representative of the city is required to attend the workshop. Full development teams (city staff, developer, urban designer, architect, and/or consultants) are encouraged to attend.

- City staff: spread the word! Please send this opportunity and information packet to potential development partners and project managers.
- Developers: contact city staff and let them know you are interested in participating.
- Designers: work with your developer and city partners to identify the design opportunities and challenges that the panelists could help address.

Q: What projects are eligible?

Projects may be at any stage of design development to participate in the workshops. However, they will ideally be early enough in their design development where challenges and/or questions can be presented to the expert panel and their feedback can lead to meaningful changes in the project. Contact LCA staff with questions.

Q: What if the City and/or developer decides not to submit an LCA application for a project after they participated in the workshop?

LCA wants to encourage participating communities to engage with our grant programs in the early stages of their prospective projects. We understand that projects encounter delays for a number of reasons and that designs evolve with those changes and over long timeframes. **However, we ask you to only submit projects for the workshops if there is genuine intent of submitting an LCA application within the next year.** The workshops represent a grant of pro-bono services by the volunteer panelists worth approximately \$2000-\$4000 per community application. This is offered as a free service to grant applicants seeking public funding, while adding immeasurable value to those projects that communities bring forward.

How do the workshops impact my application?

Participation in the workshops, and incorporation of any feedback from the workshops is completely voluntary. Historically, project teams that have participated in the workshops have found them extremely beneficial in project development and those projects have better competed for funding. The panelists are experts in urban design and well versed with LCA principles and scoring related to universal, pedestrian- and transit-oriented design principles, enhancing the public realm, and design supporting transit ridership.

Q: Who do I contact for more information?

Stephen Klimek, LCDA-TOD Program | 651-602-1541 | stephen.klimek@metc.state.mn.us

2020 LCA Design Excellence Workshop Application



Development Project Information

Project Name	
Street Address / Intersection	
City/State/Zip Code	
Anticipated Start Date & Duration	
Project Mission and Objectives What is the potential demonstration value and desired community impact that will guide the projects development	

LCDA or LCDA-TOD Application

Are you planning to submit an LCDA or LCDA-TOD application for this project, and in what year, 2020 or 2021?

☐ LCDA-TOD ☐ LCDA ☐ 2020 ☐ 2021

Preferred Workshop Date

Rank each option with your project team's preferred date (1 first choice – 4 last choice, 0 if unavailable). You will be assigned one 45-min workshop session from your preferred dates once the number of participants is confirmed.

☐ Thurs, March 19 (Between 8:30a and 12:30p) ☐ Tues, March 24 (Between 8:30a and 12:30p)
☐ Thurs, March 19 (Between 12:30p and 4:30p) ☐ Tues, March 24 (Between 12:30p and 4:00p)

Contact Information

	City Staff:	Developer Staff:
Name & Organization		
Street Address		
City/State/Zip Code		
Work Phone		
E-Mail Address		

Design Assistance

Which of the following areas could your project use design assistance to better meet LCA goals? (Check all that apply)

☐ Intensity, density & form ☐ Connectivity & access ☐ Affordability, housing & jobs
☐ Public realm & landscape ☐ Transit & mobility ☐ Street life, placemaking & art
☐ Fit in context & neighborhood ☐ Sustainability & resilience ☐ Community needs & engagement

Additional Information

Please attach a current site plan of your proposed project to this application and use the space below to provide additional information regarding to your project, its features, opportunities and challenges, and its fit with LCA goals.

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