



Message from the Chair

Design is often called upon to resolve competing interests and priorities and a key issue in design review is creating space through the approval process for creative and meaningful solutions, to elevate design quality by championing good design, and to balance between the design values and interest in tension. Through the work of the Committee (EDC), we continue to elevate the standard of urban design within Edmonton and positively impact the built landscape - supporting inclusive, vibrant and durable spaces for all.

Purpose of the Annual Report

This annual report has been developed to meet the requirements of Bylaw 18156 - Council Committees Bylaw, which sets out the annual reporting requirements for Council Committees. Under Bylaw 18156, all Council Committees will:

- Report to Council at least annually.
- Approve a work plan that aligns with Council's strategic objectives and the Council Committee's mandate, including a reporting of what resources were provided in the previous year and the anticipated resource requirements for the upcoming year.
- Report to Council and during its annual report to Council, a Council Committee must present the work plan as well as a summary of the status of the previous year's work plan.

Mandate of Edmonton Design Committee (EDC)

The mandate of EDC will be to improve the quality of the City's urban design by providing:

- (a) recommendations regarding development applications; and
- (b) advice regarding urban design policies and principles.

Report on 2023 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

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| Goal 1 | Reviewing Development Applications (Ongoing) <i>Reviewing development applications (rezoning applications, development permits and City projects) in accordance with EDC Bylaw 20673, EDC Standards and Procedures, and the EDC Principles of Urban Design</i> |
| Key Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023 EDC reviewed 8 Rezoning (5 Formal, 3 Informal) and 14 Development Permits (10 Formal, 4 Informal) • In 2023 EDC reviewed 6 formal City project submissions: Warehouse Park; Beaver Hills Park; Police Seized Vehicle Lot Administration Building; Blatchford Fire Station; 81 Avenue Reconstruction; 107 Avenue Public Park |
| Summary of Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC meets twice monthly to review these submissions • EDC and Administration continually identify potential refinements to the EDC Standards and Procedures to improve the efficiency of the Committee and the effectiveness of its recommendations • Standards and Procedures review to be undertaken in 2024. Refer to Attachment 3 - EDC 2024 Work Plan for additional information. |
| Goal 2 | Creating Improved Onboarding / Training Tools <i>Creating tools to ensure new EDC Members receive sufficient training on the Committee's mandate, scope, processes and procedures.</i> |
| Key Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration, with the support of the Committee, created onboarding and training tools for new EDC members |
| Summary of Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC discussed requirements for onboarding and training of new members (April 18) • Administration drafted new onboarding tools with the support of EDC (April-May) • New Committee members onboarded (May 2) • EDC conducted a follow-up on the onboarding and training process and tools (July 4) |
| Goal 3 | Reviewing the EDC Principles of Urban Design <i>Reviewing the Principles of Urban Design to ensure they align with current City policy and reflect the present focus of the Committee.</i> |
| Key Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC Sub-committee drafted new Principles of Urban Design that are currently being refined with the support of Administration. Refer to Attachment 3 - EDC 2024 Work Plan for additional |

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| | information. |
| Summary of Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDC held a special meeting to review the Principles of Urban Design (August 1) • EDC Sub-committee drafted new Principles of Urban Design (August - October) • EDC reviewed the draft Principles of Urban Design prepared by the Sub-committee (October 3) • EDC Sub-committee is currently refining the Principles of Urban Design with the support of Administration (November - Current) • Industry engagement is currently being planned with the goal of test implementing the new Principles of Urban Design in May 2024. Refer to Attachment 3 - EDC 2024 Work Plan for additional information. |
| Goal 4 | <p>Industry Engagement <i>Engaging with industry to evaluate the effectiveness of the 2022 EDC Standards and Procedures and review the revised Principles of Urban Design.</i></p> |
| Key Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry engagement has been delayed to early 2024 to coincide with the Principles of Urban Design (Goal 3) and proposed 2024 work plan items. Refer to Attachment 3 - EDC 2024 Work Plan for additional information. |
| Summary of Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |
| Goal 4 | <p>Councillor Luncheon <i>An informal setting for the Mayor and City Councillors to meet EDC Members recognize outgoing Committee members.</i></p> |
| Key Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023 Councillor Luncheon was postponed to 2024 due to the limited capacity of Administration to support the planning and hosting of this event |
| Summary of Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |

In addition, EDC supported the 2023 Edmonton Urban Design Awards by identifying a Committee Member (Adrian Benoit) to sit on the planning committee. Adrian attended monthly meetings of the planning committee and contributed strategic advice that was critical to the success of the 2023 Awards program and Awards Gala.

2023 Meeting Summary

| Meeting | Summary - Key Topics and Motions |
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| January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Informal review, 1 Formal review |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Informal review, 2 Formal reviews Committee discussion on EDC representation at upcoming Edmonton Urban Design Awards (February 7) |
| March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Informal reviews |
| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Formal reviews Committee discussion on the process for onboarding new members (April 18) |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Formal reviews Onboarding and training session with new members (May 2) |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Informal reviews 2023/24 Elections for Chair and Vice-Chairs (June 6) |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Informal reviews, 2 Formal reviews Committee follow-up on onboarding and training (July 4) |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Formal reviews Special meeting to review the Principles of Urban Design (August 1) |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Informal reviews, 1 Formal review |
| October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Informal reviews, 1 Formal review Committee reviewed the draft Principles of Urban Design prepared by the Sub-committee (October 3) |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Formal reviews The Office of the City Clerk presented a summary of the changes to Advisory Committees of Council (November 7). |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Informal reviews, 3 Formal reviews |

Membership and Appointment Information

| Edmonton Design Committee (EDC) 2023-24 Membership List | | | |
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| Name of Public Appointee | 1st Appointed | Term Ends | Max Term |
| Craig Dorward - Architect | May 1, 2023 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2031 |
| Emma Dunn - Architect | May 1, 2023 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2031 |
| Neal LaMontagne - Post-Secondary Faculty | May 1, 2022 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2030 |
| Jonathan Monfries - Development Industry | May 1, 2023 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2031 |
| Melinda Tindall - Member at Large | May 1, 2022 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2030 |
| Tai Ziola - Vice-Chair - Architect | May 1, 2021 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2029 |

| Edmonton Design Committee (EDC) 2023-24 Membership List | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|----------|
| Name of External Appointee | 1st Appointed | Term Ends | Max Term |
| David Brown Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA) | May 1, 2018 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2026 |
| Jared Candlish Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) | May 1, 2022 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2030 |
| Kevin Dieterman Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA) | May 1, 2021 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2029 |
| Clodia Kanna The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) | May 1, 2023 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2031 |
| Janice Mills - Chair Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) | May 1, 2018 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2026 |
| Nick Pryce Alberta Professional Planners Institute | May 1, 2022 | Apr 30, 2024 | 2030 |

Reports and Communications

Reports by EDC to Council

1. N/A

Correspondence submitted to Council

For formal rezoning submissions, copies of EDC recommendations are typically attached to Council Reports provided to Council by Administration. In 2023, Council received copies of EDC recommendations attached to the following Council Reports:

1. ATCO North Yard LDA22-0251- Public Hearing on April 3, 2023
2. Malmo LDA22-0353 - Public Hearing on April 24, 2023
3. Upper Vista LDA22-0402 - Public Hearing on June 26, 2023
4. Mill 99 LDA22-0070 - Public Hearing on June 26, 2023
5. Balfour Manor LDA23-0063 - Public Hearing on July 10, 2023

EDC requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council:

1. N/A

Concluding Remarks

The current composition of the Committee generally provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the review of projects from an urban design perspective.

In the day-to-day activities, the Committee as a whole has functioned efficiently and effectively, making meaningful recommendations to Administration and Council.

The EDC Sub-Committee further enhances the ability of EDC to deliver on its Council mandate, while responding to industry feedback and creating alignment with current best practices, ConnectEdmonton, The City Plan Big City Moves, and Council Priorities (i.e. Community Safety and Well-being, Arts and Culture, 15 Minute Districts, Mobility Network, Economic Growth, Climate Action and Energy Transition).