

## Edmonton Design Committee - 2024 Annual Report

### 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.
- During its annual report to Council, 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 is 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 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Reviewing Development Applications</b> (Ongoing)
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024 EDC reviewed 4 Rezoning (2 Formal, 2 Informal) and 27 Development Permits (17 Formal, 10 Informal)</li> <li>In 2024 EDC reviewed 7 City Project submissions: Garneau Affordable Housing; Ambleside Integrated Site; Walker Fire Hall; Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy (OSPRS); Mary Burlie Park; Southeast Transit Bus Garage</li> </ul>
<b>Summary of Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDC meets twice monthly to review these submissions</li> <li>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</li> <li>Standards and Procedures review to be undertaken in 2025. Refer to Attachment 3 - EDC 2025 Work Plan for additional information.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Updating EDC Standards and Procedures</b>
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication with key stakeholders<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Engagement with 25+ members of the design and development industry through online survey and one-on-one interviews</li> <li>Updated EDC Standards and Procedures (final draft form)</li> </ul>
<b>Summary of Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two rounds of stakeholder engagement</li> <li>Final draft of updated EDC Standards and Procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Updating the EDC Principles of Urban Design</b>
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication with key stakeholders<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Engagement with 25+ members of the design and development industry through an online survey and one-on-one interviews.</li> <li>New EDC Principles of Urban Design (final draft form)</li> <li>To complement these new Principles, the Committee has also developed a new EDC Submission Guide (final draft form) that includes improved submission and evaluation processes.</li> </ul>
<b>Summary of Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two rounds of stakeholder engagement</li> <li>Final draft of new EDC Submission Guide, including new Principles of Urban Design</li> </ul>

Goal 4	Initiating a Review of the EDC Boundary
<p><b>Key Results</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with key stakeholders<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Engagement with 25+ members of the design and development industry through an online survey and one-on-one interviews.</li> <li>• Four <b>potential</b> changes to the EDC boundary (i.e. Bylaw 20673) and scope of review identified:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realigning the EDC boundary to that of Centre City Node and Primary Corridors</li> <li>• Reviewing projects adjacent to major transportation corridors</li> <li>• Reviewing all large site rezonings (regardless of proximity to a transit centre)</li> <li>• General improvements to the process for exempting projects from EDC review</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Summary of Progress</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two rounds of stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Various geographies / methodologies identified and evaluated</li> <li>• Four potential changes to the EDC boundary (i.e. Bylaw 20673) and scope of review identified</li> <li>• <i>Finalizing these changes and recommending a Bylaw amendment will be the focus of the Committee's 2025-26 Work Plan (see also Attachment 3)</i></li> </ul>

Note 1

External stakeholder groups included the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA), Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA), Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI), Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA), BILD Edmonton Metro, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA), Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), Edmonton Construction Association, Media Art Design Edmonton (MADE), and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC).

In addition, during the 2024-25 term the Edmonton Design Committee:

- Continued to improve its onboarding process, creating additional resources for new Committee members; and
- Made a presentation to the Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC) in the interests of furthering an understanding of the respective Committees and promoting potential coordination and collaboration in the future.

## 2024 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting Summary

Meeting	Summary - Key Topics and Motions
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Informal reviews, 2 Formal reviews</li> <li>• Subcommittee provided an update on the 2024 EDC Work Plan</li> </ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Informal review</li> </ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Formal reviews</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Formal review</li> <li>• Discussion on the updates to the Standards and Procedures (Apr 16)</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Informal reviews, 2 Formal reviews</li> <li>• Onboarding and training session with new members (May 7)</li> <li>• 2024/25 Elections for Chair and Vice-Chairs (May 21)</li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Informal review, 5 Formal reviews</li> <li>• Special Meeting to discuss the Mandate and Permanency Review, and the EDC 2024/25 Work Plan and Industry engagement extension (Jun 17)</li> </ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Formal reviews</li> <li>• Committee reviewed the draft Principles of Urban Design (Jul 16)</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Informal reviews, 2 Formal reviews</li> <li>• Committee discussed the EDC boundary/scope of review (Aug 6)</li> <li>• Special meeting to review the What We Heard Report (Aug 20)</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Informal reviews</li> <li>• Presentation by S. Caryle on DC1/rezoning applications (Sep 3)</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Informal reviews, 2 Formal reviews</li> <li>• J. Mills provided the Committee with an update on her presentation to the Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC) (Oct 1)</li> <li>• Special Meeting to review the EDC Work Plan Appendices A, B &amp; C (Oct 29)</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Formal review</li> <li>• Phase 2 EDC Work Plan engagement began (Nov 4)</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Informal review, 3 Formal reviews</li> <li>• EDC representation on 2025 Edmonton Urban Design Awards (Dec 3)</li> </ul>

## Membership and Appointment Information

Edmonton Design Committee (EDC) 2024-25 Current Membership List			
Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Craig Dorward - Architect (Vice-Chair)	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Greg Freer - Architect	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Neal LaMontagne - Post-Secondary Faculty (Vice Chair)	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Jonathan Monfries - Development Industry	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Melinda Tindall - Member at Large	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
David Brown - Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA)	May 1, 2018	Apr 30, 2026	2026
Kevin Dieterman - Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA)	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2026	2029
Janice Mills - Edmonton Arts Council (Chair)	May 1, 2018	Apr 30, 2026	2026
Karen Oxley - Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI)	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Nick Pryce - Alberta Professional Planners Institute	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Raj Subramanian - The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA)	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032

## Reports and Communications

### Correspondence submitted to Council:

For formal rezoning submissions, copies of EDC recommendations are typically attached to Council Reports provided to Council by Administration. In 2024, Council received copies of EDC recommendations attached to the following Council Reports:

1. Brentwood Townhomes Redevelopment- LDA23-0254 - Public Hearing April 2, 2024
2. Varsity-LDA24-0112-Public Hearing September 9, 2024

## 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).