



# **Edmonton Design Committee 2021-22 Annual Report**

April 13, 2022



**EDMONTON  
DESIGN  
COMMITTEE**



## EDMONTON DESIGN COMMITTEE 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Edmonton Design Committee (EDC) was established by Edmonton City Council in 2005. EDC operates under City of Edmonton Bylaw 19784 with the mandate to “...improve the quality of Urban Design in the City of Edmonton”.

## 2. POLICIES, PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

In addition to the direction outlined in the Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw 19784, EDC has developed Standards and Procedures to evaluate development and rezoning applications and to ensure best practices in alignment with other City Policy, Council Bylaw, and Municipal Government Act. These Standards and Procedures were developed in consultation with internal and external stakeholders and provide for a consistent review and evaluation process.

The EDC operating under Bylaw 19784 continues to:

- Provide input to the City with respect to urban design principles, guidelines, and policies;
- Accept submissions and provide recommendations to Urban Planning and Economy (UPE) on development permit applications, as required by Bylaw 12800, and on any other developments with potential design impact on the City, at the discretion of the City Manager or Council, within the established EDC boundaries;
- Accept submissions and provide recommendations to Council on comprehensive rezoning applications, including Direct Control Provisions, Special Areas Zoning; and Major Commercial Corridor Overlays within the established EDC boundaries;
- Accept submissions and provide recommendations to Council on comprehensive rezoning applications for Large Site Infill and Significant Transit Oriented Development;



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- Review and provide recommendations on development applications, public projects or special projects in the City of Edmonton at the request of Council or the City Manager;
- Review Formal Applications and Informal Consultations and provide recommendations to the Applicant;
- Make recommendations to Council as to changes to this bylaw; and
- Make recommendations to Council as to changes to other existing bylaws and City policies relevant to urban design.

### **EDC Principles of Urban Design**

The EDC Principles of Urban Design were developed to express the aspirations of the Committee and facilitate a meaningful conversation with Applicants to support exemplary urban design in Edmonton. The three overarching principles relate to urbanism, design excellence, and scale, connections and context.

### **Interacting with Applicants**

The Committee interacts with Applicants in two main ways:

**Formal Submissions** coincide with Development Permit and Rezoning Applications. These are required of all projects which fall within the geographic boundary (See Appendix 1), as well as all City projects. Formal submissions are open to the public and generally occur as follows:

- Submissions are received by Administration and posted on the EDC website for public viewing and Committee review 10 days prior to the meeting date.
- The Applicant makes a 10 minute presentation to the Committee summarizing the project and its response to the Principles of Urban Design;
- Approved public speakers may make presentations to the Committee, and the Committee may ask questions of the speakers;



- Committee members may ask questions of the Applicant for clarification purposes;
- Following the presentation the Committee deliberates in public on the merits of the submission. The outcome of this deliberation is a recommendation of “support” or “non-support”. This correspondence is forwarded to Administration and the Applicant within 48 hours. Correspondence regarding rezoning projects is appended to Council Reports prepared by Administration.

Applicants can also opt for an **Informal Pre-consultation** prior to a Formal Submission. These presentations, which are not open to the public, allow an applicant to come to EDC for preliminary advice with respect to a development that is being considered. These presentations are not part of the formal meeting; therefore, no written record of this portion of the meeting is kept.

In an Informal Pre-consultation, the Applicant and EDC can have an open dialogue, allowing Committee members to speak more informally, offer suggestions to improve the project, and clarify the principles and standards that will be expected during a Formal Submission.

In the opinion of the Committee, the Informal Pre-consultation process is extremely valuable. The conversations better prepare Applicants for Formal Submissions. Applicants who attend a Pre-consultation are typically more successful at gaining approval at the Formal Submission.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

The EDC consists of twelve members appointed by City Council representing various design professions (AAA, APPI, APEGA, ALA), the Edmonton Arts Council, Post-Secondary Education, the development industry, and the community at large. Listed from most recently appointed to longest serving, the current EDC is comprised of the following members:



**Ken Liu**

**Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta  
(APEGA)**

***2021 - Current***

Ken is the Principal Engineer of Invistec Consulting Ltd with 29 years experience. He is a civil engineer specializing in urban planning and land development in Edmonton and surrounding municipalities. Ken currently serves as a standing member of the Discipline Committee of APEGA and was the Past-Chair for the Discipline Committee between 2018 to 2020. Ken joined the EDC in May 2021.

**Kevin Dieterman**

**Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA)**

***2021 - Current***

Kevin Dieterman has been practicing in the fields of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design in Edmonton for almost twenty years. He brings a depth of experience based on his work on the design and implementation of urban parks and public spaces, streetscapes, institutional campuses, low impact development stormwater management systems, and commercial sites. With a strong focus on placemaking and sustainable urbanism, Kevin focuses on creative design solutions for each project he undertakes. His diverse experience includes complex assignments at various scales and with large multidisciplinary teams. He is a founding member of the High Level Line Society and is passionate about seeing Edmonton continue to develop into a well-designed and sustainable city. Kevin joined the EDC in May of 2021.



**Tai Ziola**

**Registered Architect (AAA)**

***2021 - Current***

As an architectural Principal with DIALOG, Tai lends her expertise to a wide range of residential, institutional, and commercial projects. Tai believes that we thrive best in collaborative networks and robust communities, and that truly hearing and incorporating the perspectives of diverse stakeholders are a core part of the design process. Her definition of a successful project is when the ambitions of the design and the aspirations of the community are both realized. Tai is an advocate for the role of architecture and urban design in improving the livability of our cities. She consistently connects with stakeholder groups, clients, and members of the broader community in her role as project leader and facilitator. Tai joined the EDC in May 2021.

**Adrian Benoit (Vice-Chair)**

**Registered Architect (AAA)**

***2019 - Current***

Adrian is a registered architect and Principal with GEC Architecture with over 10 years of architectural and urban design experience in Alberta and Manitoba. He holds a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Environmental Design degrees from the University of Manitoba. Adrian's experience ranges from large-scale mixed-use developments, to affordable and permanent supportive housing, to major recreation and civic improvement projects. Adrian joined the EDC in May 2019.

Adrian is also a member of the EDC Subcommittee.

**David Brown (Vice Chair)**

**Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA)**

***2018 - Current***

David is currently the Landscape Architecture - Division Manager for McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., (Edmonton). David has close to 30 years



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of public and private landscape architectural experience in both Ontario and throughout Western Canada. David has been a full member of the Alberta Association of Landscape Architects since 1992, and in 2010 was made a Fellow Landscape Architect in the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects - the highest honour for a professional Landscape Architect in Canada. David has undertaken a broad range of planning, design and implementation assignments as a professional landscape architect. His project experiences are multi-disciplinary, including urban planning and design; recreation, open space and tourism; environmental planning; institutional; industrial; commercial and LEED™ building and sustainable/Low Impact Development projects. David joined the EDC in May of 2018.

### **Janice Mills (Chair)**

#### **Edmonton Arts Council (EAC)**

##### ***2018 - Current***

Janice is an Associate and a Senior Architectural Contract Administrator with DIALOG and holds a Masters of Structural Engineering from the University of Alberta. Janice possesses an enthusiastic drive to meaningfully improve the wellbeing of our communities and the environment that we all share by upholding the integrity of design. Good design has the power to engage, inspire, unite and connect communities. Janice holds a position on the Edmonton Public Arts Committee which develops visions and objectives for the Percent for Art program and makes recommendations regarding the City of Edmonton Public Art Collection. She holds a position on the 104<sup>th</sup> Street Steering Committee which provides a mechanism for residents and businesses along 104<sup>th</sup> Street to build a great community and advocate for the community they want. Janice joined the EDC in May of 2018.

Janice is also the Chair of the EDC Subcommittee, which developed the new Standards and Procedures in collaboration with Administration.





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### **Adam Zepp**

#### **Development Industry Representative**

##### ***2017 - Current***

Adam is a lifelong Edmontonian who is extremely passionate about the city he lives in. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a civil engineering degree in 2011 and is currently working at Stantec as a Land Development Engineer. His strong belief in the importance of integrating environmental oversight with planning, led him to complete his LEED certification. Recently, Adam became a Stantec Brand Ambassador and frequently attends community events as a representative of Stantec. Adam joined the EDC in May of 2017.

### **Outgoing Members and Vacancies**

The following members will be concluding their terms or vacated their positions during the 2021-22 term:

### **Dnyanesh Deshpande**

#### **Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI)**

##### ***2016 - 2021***

Dnyanesh has reached his maximum term after serving six consecutive years on EDC, after joining the EDC in May of 2016. This position is currently under recruitment by the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI).

Dnyanesh holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Pune University, a Master of Urban Design from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad and a Master of Urban Planning from McGill University, Montreal. He has also served as Principal Urban Designer for the City of Edmonton from 2006 to 2010. His diverse experience and passion for Planning afford him a unique understanding of all aspects of urban development, from architecture to urban design to land use policy planning.



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### **Tim Antoniuk**

#### **University of Alberta**

***2017 - September 1, 2021***

Tim provided notice to the EDC Chair, Vice-Chairs and Administration Liaison of his intent to step down from the Committee, effective September 1, 2021. Tim noted time commitment as a reason for his departure. This position is currently under recruitment by the Office of the City Clerk.

Tim is an Associate Professor in the Industrial Design Program at the University of Alberta teaching classes in emerging design and business models, design for sustainability and materials and manufacturing processes. Initiating his design career three decades ago as a professional windsurfer, he formed one of Canada's most winning windsurf sail manufacturing companies, Whirlwind Sails; then in 1992, went on to co-found one of Canada's most recognized furniture design/retail groups, Hothouse Design Studio. Tim has developed the Micro Habitation Lab (mHLab) at the UofA where he is exploring transformability, expandability, modularity and movability of products and architectural elements in micro suites (230 sq ft).

### **Marcelo Figueira**

#### **Citizen at Large**

***2016 - 2021***

Marcelo has reached his maximum term after serving six consecutive years on EDC, after joining the Committee in 2016. This position is currently under recruitment by the Office of the City Clerk.

Marcelo has a Masters in Environmental Design (Planning) and a B.A. in Urban Studies from the University of Calgary, and a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from FAAP, Sao Paulo - Brazil. Having lived and worked in Alberta for 13 years, he has obtained a working knowledge of the local context and an understanding of political sensitivities in urban design and planning.



**Svetlana Kaznacheeva**

**Registered Architect**

**2016 - 2021**

Svetlana has reached her maximum term after serving six consecutive years on EDC, after joining the EDC 2016. This position is currently under recruitment by the Office of the City Clerk.

Svetlana is an architect with over 20 years of experience in designing buildings of different types and scales, as well as urban development, site analyses, and master planning. Her passion is in the quality of architecture and its future impact on the environment and its inhabitants. Trained internationally, she made her career twice: initially in Europe and the second time in Canada.

**Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI)**

The updated Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw 19784 added an additional APPI position.

**Succession Planning**

As noted above, four members will be leaving EDC at the end of this term (2021/2022)

- Svetlana Kaznacheeva, Registered Architect (AAA)
- Marcelo Figueira, representing the Citizen at Large
- Tim Antoniuk, representing the Postsecondary Faculty Member
- Dnyanesh Deshpande, representing the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI)

With the additional APPI position, this brings the number of vacancies needing to be filled to five.



As identified in the recent Chair Membership report, a number of considerations related to succession planning have been identified:

- **Time commitment** - Current committee members continue to identify 'workload' as one of the most significant requirements of the Committee. Aside from regular attendance at bi-monthly meetings there is a large amount of preparation time required for each meeting as Committee Members review up to 3-5 projects packages every 2 weeks.
- **Staggered Committee Membership Terms** - AAA, AALA and APPI membership terms should be staggered to provide consistency and knowledge transfer opportunities (i.e both AALA or APPI planners should not leave at the same time if possible).
- **Citizen at Large member** - The committee recommends that this position be a community member 'at-large' (vs. a planner or other design professional).
- **Conflict of Interest** - People need to be able to vote freely regardless of affiliation / relationship. The adoption of a 'public facing' model for EDC may create difficulties recruiting people to work in this environment.

## 4. ACTIVITIES

### Meetings and Presentations

Presently, EDC meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, typically reviewing three to five applications at each meeting. Periodically, an extra meeting will be scheduled to review applications in a timely manner and reduce any backlog. Additional time is required by Committee members to review the development packages prior to the meeting.

During the 2021-22 term, EDC reviewed **35** Formal Submissions (compared to 42 in the previous term). Of these submissions:



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- **31** received a motion of support (88%) (\*)
- **4** received a motion of non-support (11%)

\* 19 motions of support included conditions.

The Committee also reviewed **24** Informal Pre-Consultations.

Over the course of the term, EDC met **23 times** with the average meeting being approximately **3.5 hours** in duration (compared to 4.0 hours in the previous term).

### 5. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The 2021-22 EDC Annual Work Plan focused on completing the new EDC Standards and Procedures, a project undertaken by Administration in partnership with EDC. Other initiatives such as the Annual Council Luncheon continued to be paused due to COVID-19.

#### New EDC Standards and Procedures

The development of new Standards and Procedures is being undertaken to ensure the continued efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the Committee.

CR\_7736 Edmonton Design Committee Policies and Procedures, which was presented to Urban Planning Committee on February 2, 2021, identified the need to develop new Standards and Procedures, and to prepare a new Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw. A new Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw 19784 was approved by City Council on August 30, 2021.



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The EDC Subcommittee worked diligently with Administration throughout the remainder of 2021, and on December 3, 2021, new Standards and Procedures were approved by the City Manager.

The EDC Subcommittee has identified possible tasks in the 2022-23 term to include:

- Development of training and onboarding materials and resources for new Members
- Review and updating of the EDC Principles of Urban Design
- Review and updating of the EDC Geographic Boundary to better align with the nodes and corridors framework identified in The City Plan and District Plans.

## 6. BUDGET INFORMATION

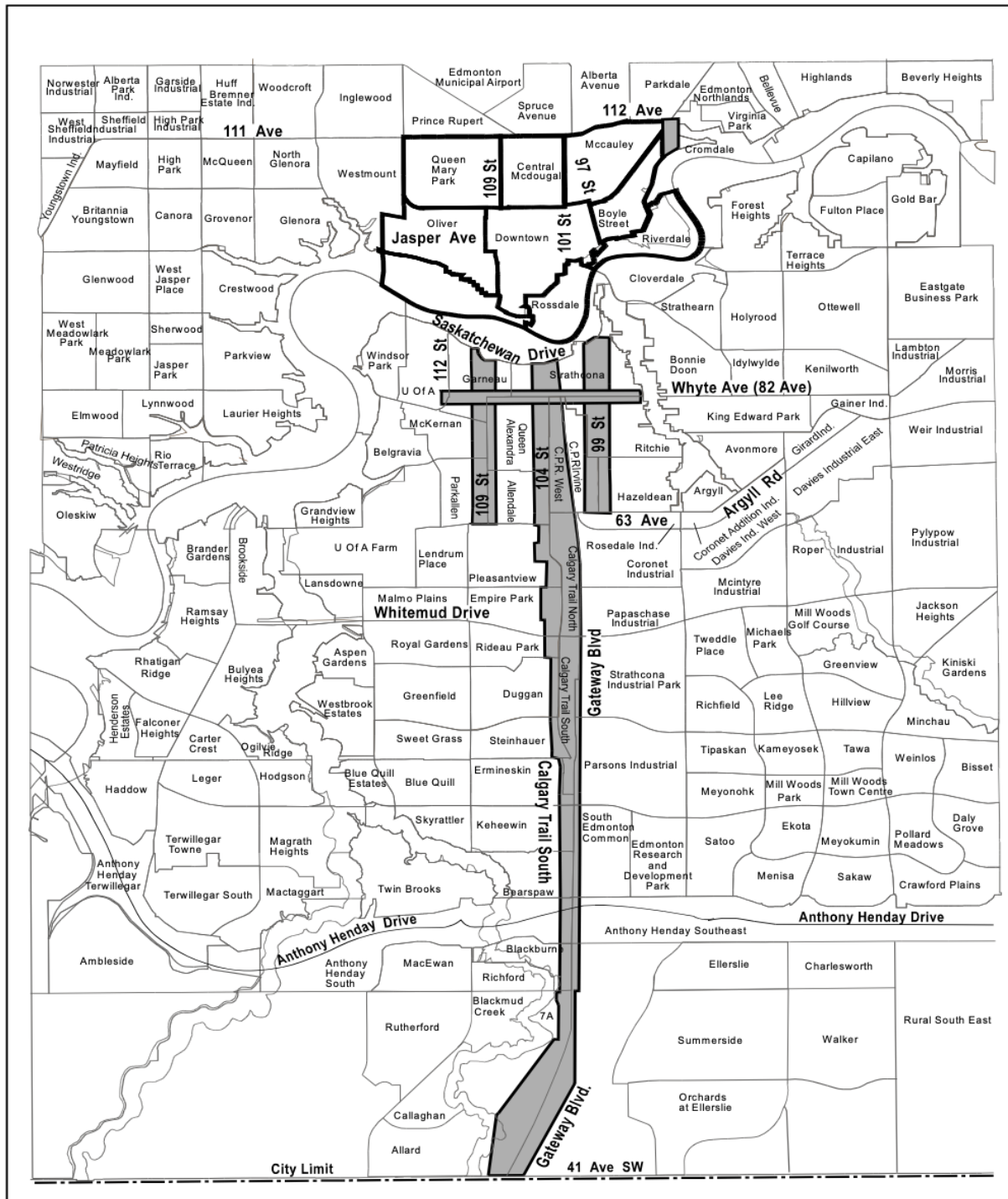
Administration is primarily responsible for managing the budget of the Edmonton Design Committee, including requirements for hosting, recognition and other general expenses.

The 2022 EDC budget allocation is included in Appendix 2.



End of report

## Appendix 1 / EDC Geographical Boundary



(S.3, Bylaw 14844, January 30, 2008)



## Appendix 2 / 2022 EDC Budget

The annual budget for the Edmonton Design Committee is as follows:

Item	2022 Budget (1)	Notes
Honoraria	\$84,400.00 (2)	
Hosting	\$4,317.00	
Courier	\$3,250.00	
Volunteer Recognition	\$500.00	
Printing	\$1000.00	

### Notes

- (1) This is the approved operating budget which represents the 12 month period beginning January 1, 2022.
- (2) Costs for honoraria vary depending on the number of Members in attendance and the length of meetings. Committee Members receive a \$100.00 honorarium per meeting (\$125.00 for the Chair) . For meetings that exceed 5.0 hours in duration, members receive a \$200.00 honorarium (\$250.00 for the Chair).