

AIA/APA/ASLA Urban Design Panel

Portland and Oregon Chapters of the American Institute of Architects, American Planning Association and American Society of Landscape Architects

Date: May 1, 2014
To: Portland Design Commission
RE: **Position Paper of the AIA/APA/ASLA Urban Design Panel**

The **American Institute of Architects**/Portland Urban Design Panel (UDP) has had a long and distinguished history of involvement in both enhancing the quality of Portland's urban environment and supporting City staff and commissioners' endeavors to raise design awareness. The UDP is comprised of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who gather to review projects and policies related to our built environment, and have long included **American Planning Association** (APA) and **American Society of Landscape Architects** (ASLA) members. With approval of the Portland AIA Board, the UDP was established to provide relevant professional advice and testimony to project teams, local government agencies and the City of Portland Commissions for Design, Development, Planning, and Historic Preservation.

As the UDP has moved beyond its traditional boundaries, it has become clear that its governance should reflect the integrated nature of the urban issues facing the City and our region. In order to amplify its relevance and voice in the years to come, AIA/Portland joined forces in 2012 with the Oregon Chapters of the American Planning Association and American Society of Landscape Architects to create an umbrella organization to jointly administer the AIA/APA/ASLA UDP and other collective endeavors.

As that collaboration continues to grow both at the national level and local level, we are pleased to expand our interdisciplinary engagement as the **AIA/APA/ASLA Urban Design Panel** here in Portland. All three professional organizations have current Board representatives on the Executive Committee of the UDP, providing direct feedback among the organizations concerning current projects and future opportunities.

Executive Committee of the AIA/APA/ASLA Urban Design Panel

Paddy Tillett, FAIA, FAICP*

Brian Campbell, FAICP

Mauricio Villarreal, ASLA

Robert Boileau, AIA, AICP

John Spencer, AICP

Kurt Lango, ASLA

Stefanie Becker, AIA**

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Date: May 1, 2014
To: Portland Design Commission
Re: Discussion Agenda

Problem Statement (*understand*):

Have an initial conversation between the Portland Design Commission (DC) and the Urban Design Panel (UDP) to better understand how the UDP can help improve the Land Use DAR/Design Review process. Explore how the UDP can provide assistance to the design community and Design Commission and also can help the design review process become more efficient.

Discussion Points (*explore*):

“Early Touch”

- “Fix what we have”... consider ways to simplify and speed up the ADR process (45 min., limited drawings), so that applicants will use it before investing in Design Development. How can UDP help?
- UDP is involved in at the early stage prior to the submittal of the DAR (sketch and massing studies only)
- Guidelines...identify an objective basis for UDP advice to applicants. In the past we have used the Downtown Design Guidelines to define the limits of topics on which we advise.
- Need clear understanding and benefit for initial early stage process for UDP from DC.

“Light Touch”

- UDP would function as an additional review during early stages of the DAR process, bullet point summary of our comments and advice, no public testimony.
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“Heavier Touch”

- We could weigh in during DAR/DR process...could conflict with public process.
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Possible Outcomes (*decide*):

- UDP to create a letter providing recommendations and future action items to the DC.
- UDP to provide a Design Workshop following the May 30th City Club Friday Forum with the past and present Design Review Chairs to explore discussion points and similar topics in greater depth?