



Mayors' Institute on City Design

MICD Programs

MICD.ORG
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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS





Lead with Design





Mayors' Institute on City Design

With a belief in the power of city design to transform communities, the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) educates mayors to be the chief urban designers of their cities.

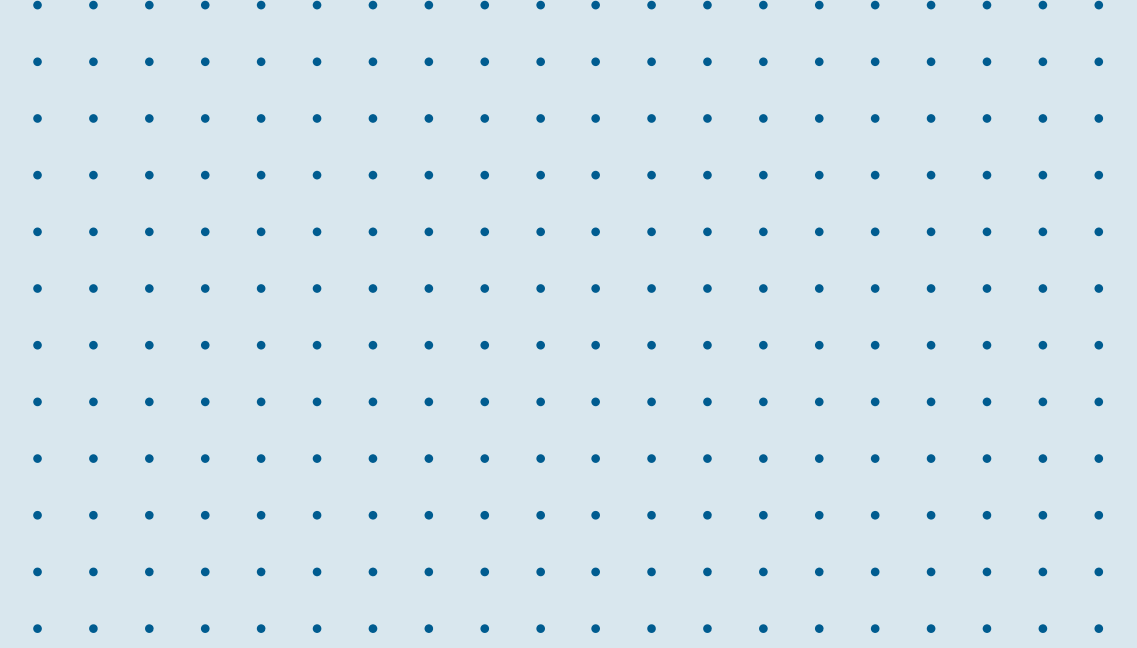
MICD is a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the United States Conference of Mayors. Since 1986, we've offered collaborative learning programs and resources to mayors in order to make a purposeful, positive impact on America.



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



MICD Programs



Institute Sessions

Institute Sessions are the core of MICD. At these collaborative workshops, mayors engage with design leaders to find solutions to the most critical planning and design challenges facing their cities. Sessions are organized around case study projects: Each mayor presents a project from their city and receives feedback from other mayors and design leaders.

MICD Just City Mayoral Fellowship

The MICD Just City Mayoral Fellowship is a unique, highly interactive, semester-long program that brings together a small group of mayors and their staff to directly tackle injustices in each of their cities through planning and design interventions.

Virtual Seminars

Virtual Seminars are engaging and interactive learning and discussion opportunities for small groups of mayors and city staff. Each one-hour seminar features a deep-dive presentation on a single timely topic from a design expert, followed by a moderated group discussion among the attending mayors and city staff.

Alumni Advising

MICD Alumni Advising helps mayors continue addressing the complex challenges facing today's cities, beyond the traditional Institute Session model. This program matches mayors and two of their staff members with two design experts with niche expertise relevant to the project at hand.



Institute Sessions

Our flagship program since 1986.

Institute Sessions are the core of MICD. At these collaborative workshops, mayors engage with design leaders to find solutions to the most critical planning and design challenges facing their cities.

Each mayor presents a project from their city and receives feedback from other mayors and design leaders. Past projects have included the following topics: neighborhood revitalization, transportation planning, arts and culture, district visioning, main street and commercial corridor redevelopment, affordable housing, equitable development, historic preservation, and sustainable development.

Dates

2.5 DAY WORKSHOPS

Location

HOST MAYORS AND INSTITUTIONS
VARY



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MICD is a transformational opportunity for elected officials to break away, focus, and truly ideate on specific urban challenges. This is an incredible program that serves as a model for how to pair expert professional counsel with driven & passionate public leaders.

ANTOINE BRYANT | DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, CITY OF DETROIT

RESOURCE TEAM: MICD NEW ORLEANS 2022

HOSTED BY TULANE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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Institute Sessions

PAST PROJECT

Bethlehem SteelStacks

BETHLEHEM — PA

MAYOR JOHN CALLAHAN (2004-2014)

Redeveloping a once-neglected brownfield site into a vibrant public space with active cultural and economic impacts

“What MICD did for me was put in place some broad principles and some goals for how to redevelop [the] site. Not only was it instrumental in helping us move forward with a plan for... one of the most difficult sites you can imagine to develop but it also taught me... broader principles of planning and design that I’ve applied throughout the city.”



Institute Sessions

PAST PROJECT

Huntington Innovation Project

HUNTINGTON — WV

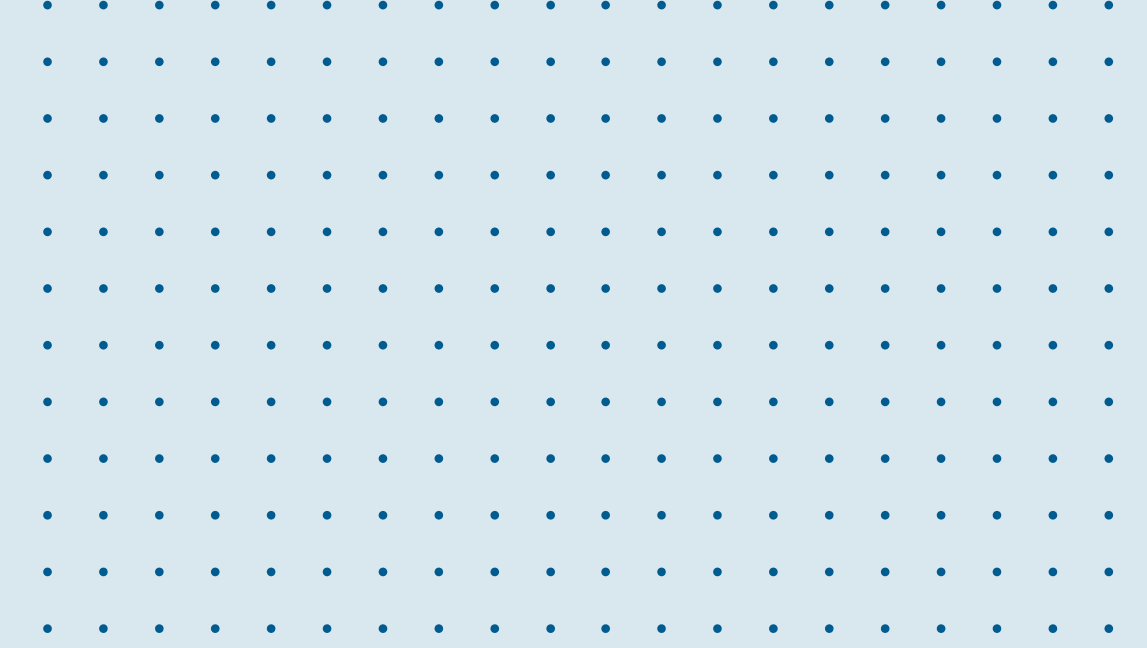
MAYOR STEVE WILLIAMS

Mayor Williams brought to MICD the desire to revitalize key neighborhoods and increase high-speed internet access.

After MICD, Mayor Williams led the creation of the award-winning Huntington Innovation Plan, a bold strategy to revitalize three neighborhoods, which he has leveraged for over \$12 million in additional grant funding.



Alumni Advising



Matching alumni mayors with design leaders for in-depth follow-up.

MICD Alumni Assistance and Advising programs help alumni mayors continue addressing the complex challenges facing today's cities.

MICD matches recent alumni mayors with a pair of nationally renowned design experts to advise the mayor on their selected city design challenge. Each pair of experts will advise the mayor and a small team of their staff, with a strong focus on immediate next-step recommendations and implementation strategies.

Dates

TWO 1-HOUR MEETINGS

Location

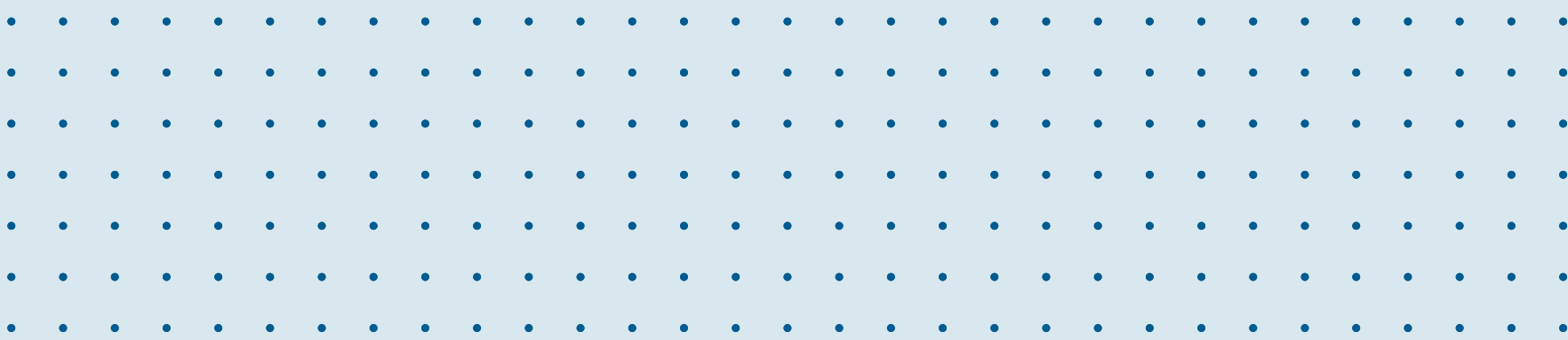
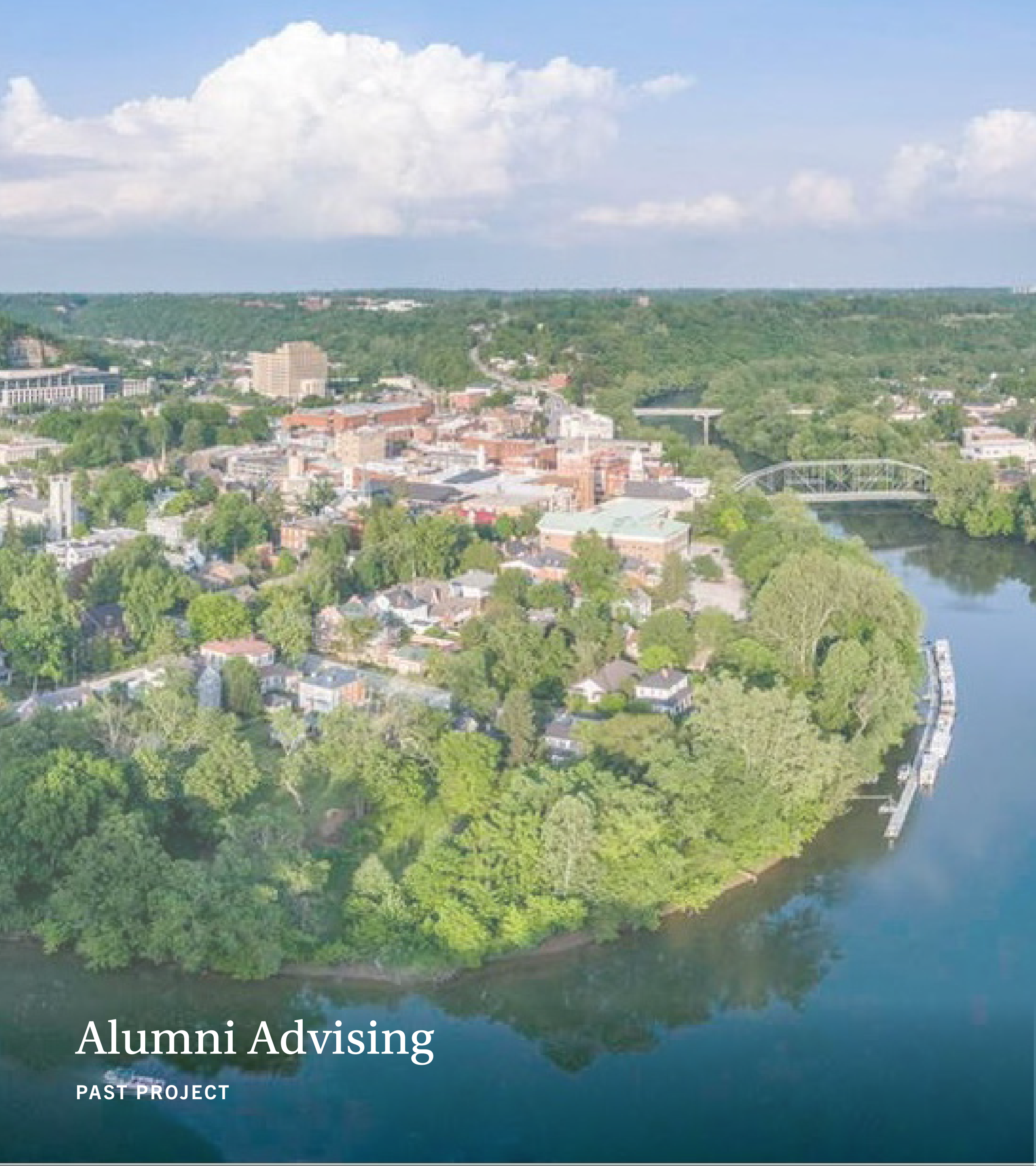
VIRTUAL

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For myself and staff, it was an exciting opportunity to think about things another way, when we're entrenched in the history, context, and how things have been.

MAYOR HEIDI LUEB | TIGARD, OR
MICD TAMPA 2023, MICD ALUMNI ADVISING

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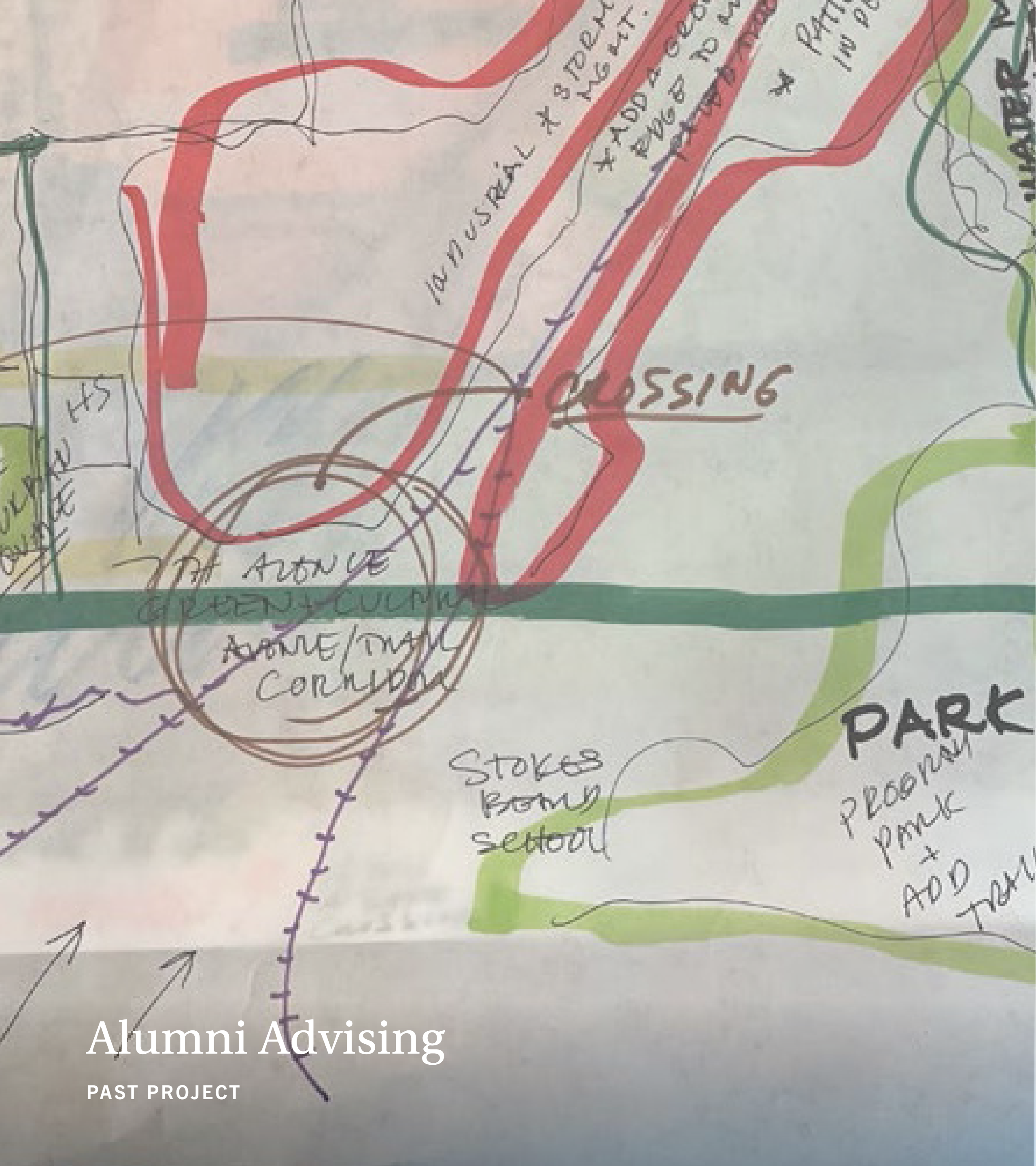
Envisioning waterfront development for all

FRANKFORT — KY
MAYOR LAYNE WILKERSON

Leveraging city-owned property along the Kentucky River in the shadow of historic redlining and urban renewal

The recommendations:

- + Adopt a vision framework plan, like the RiverFirst plan in Minneapolis, to guide all projects toward the goal of embracing the river as the city’s “front porch”
- + Set up an independent authority with the power to assemble property and negotiate development
- + Partner with a nearby tourist attraction to hold temporary events that draw people to the riverfront



Alumni Advising

PAST PROJECT

Building a “Seamless City”

COLUMBUS — MS
MAYOR KEITH GASKIN

Leveraging anticipated federal funding for a Superfund site to best benefit the surrounding residents

The recommendations:

- + Start with a community visioning exercise that dusts off past plans and gets people excited about a clear vision
- + Include requirements for a great public realm and interaction across building/parcel lines in RFPs
- + Start with temporary structures that create immediate transformations and can be expanded over time



MICD Just City Mayoral Fellowship

In-depth training on achieving justice in the built environment.

This unique and highly interactive program brings together a small group of mayors to directly tackle injustices in each of their cities through planning and design interventions.

The 2025 Fellowship will follow a hybrid in-person and virtual format between February and April of 2025. An open call for expressions of interest will be conducted in Fall 2025

Dates

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2025

Location

CAMBRIDGE, MA & VIRTUAL

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The Mayors' Institute on City Design has equipped my city with a *holistic new set of planning and design tools* that have broadened our capacity... to address historic inequities facing some of our highest-need neighborhoods.

MAYOR REX RICHARDSON | LONG BEACH, CA

2024 MICD JUST CITY MAYORAL FELLOWSHIP

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Just City Mayoral Fellowship

PAST FELLOW

From stormwater infrastructure to social infrastructure

PENSACOLA — FL
MAYOR DC REEVES

Upgrading Hollice T. Williams Park from an underutilized, flood-prone area under an interstate to a city-wide amenity that honors a neighborhood lost to urban renewal

The recommendations:

- + Revisit the previous designs to get plans that reflect the community's wants and needs
- + Write a strong RFP that articulates the mayor's bold vision and the project's importance to the community
- + Seek out world-class designers and engagement experts to achieve the generational impacts this neighborhood deserves



Just City Mayoral Fellowship

PAST FELLOW

Supporting economically distressed neighborhoods

ALLENTOWN — PA
MAYOR MATT TUERK

Translating a workforce development project in an immigrant community into the built environment

The recommendations:

- + Build a compelling narrative with a strong identity for this project to rally the community and attract funding
- + Take an asset-based approach, exploring what residents in this neighborhood have and love
- + Target pilot efforts toward creating a “neighborhood main street” on one of the area’s key corridors



Virtual Seminars

Engaging discussions on today's most pressing topics.

Virtual Seminars are engaging and interactive learning and discussion opportunities for small groups of mayors and city staff. Each one-hour seminar features a deep-dive presentation on a single timely topic from a design expert, followed by a moderated discussion among attendees.

Like conversations at MICD, discussions in virtual seminars are “off the record” and designed to promote candid conversation and the open exchange of ideas.

Dates

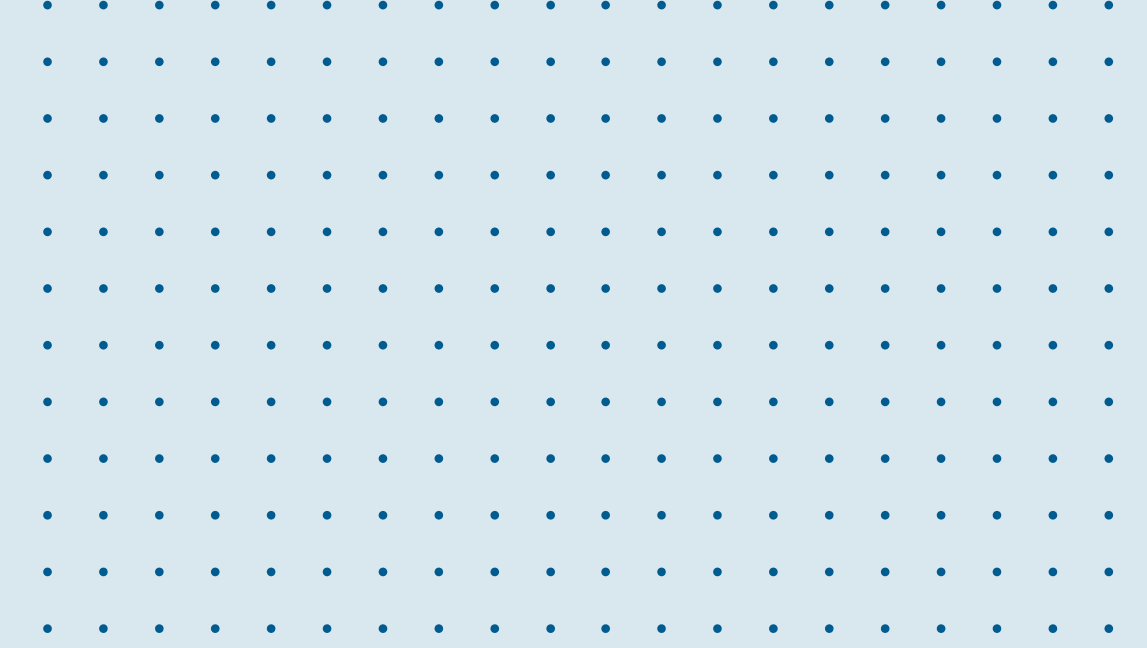
VARIES: 1-HOUR SEMINARS

Location

VIRTUAL



Virtual Seminars



Engaging discussions on today's most pressing topics.

- + Attaining Quality Urban Design through City Leadership
- + Arts, Urban Design, and Mental Health
- + Designing for Health Equity: The 11th Street Bridge Project
- + Achieving Design Excellence and Equitable Outcomes through the RFP Process
- + Designing for Restorative Justice
- + Safe Places, Active Spaces: A Design-Based Approach to Public Safety



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MICD.ORG / INFO@MICD.ORG
202.463.1391

1620 EYE STREET NW 4TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

micd.org

