

Call for Resilient Design Project Ideas

Submission Timeline

- Application Period Opens: February 12, 2024
- Application Period Closes: March 15, 2024
- Selected Projects will be announced by April 01, 2024
- Design Charrette Event: May 16, 2024, at Barre City Auditorium

Introduction

2023 proved a challenging year for Vermont and pushed many communities to their limits. The climate disasters that we faced set in motion a shift in planning and design to focus on resilience.

In an effort to help Vermont towns and communities find solutions, AIA Vermont (AIAVT), a chapter of the American Institute of Architects, is hosting a resilient design charrette for Vermont communities. AIAVT's members seek to provide an afternoon of pro-bono design services to municipalities, community groups, and non-profits that can submit prospective projects centered around resiliency. Projects can be in early, even conceptual stages, and may include things like vacant lots, abandoned or underutilized buildings, and/ or change of use, etc. Projects that are a good fit will most likely be in the very beginning stages, where a site or building has been identified for being developed or converted to increase the resilience of the building or community but little or no design or construction has begun.

We have witnessed where our strengths and weaknesses lie in our towns and can now begin planning for the future with a new frame of mind. Resilient design strategies not only look at how to prevent damage, but also how to recover from it. This complicated issue is one that impacts many Vermonters, if not the entire world, and is influenced by things like population, existing infrastructure, funding, subsidies, taxes, zoning regulations, construction costs, and more. This event offers an opportunity for Vermont communities to work with design experts to generate solutions that can help revitalize and adapt our built environment to better withstand future challenges.

About the Call for Submissions

AIAVT invites submissions from Vermont nonprofits, municipalities, and community-based groups for an afternoon of pro-bono design and planning input for projects related to resilience. Proposals must be for a specific project (i.e. not for ongoing design services for the organization). Selected projects will be invited to take part in an AIA Vermont Resilient Design Charrette event in Barre, VT. Groups are encouraged to submit projects which would benefit from design visioning, while taking into account existing planning and zoning restrictions, to develop strategies for the implementation or creation of resilient amenities to serve its community. Participating groups will come away with a

better understanding of what they might be able to accomplish with their proposed resilient design project. Resilience is defined as the capacity to adapt to changing conditions and to maintain or regain functionality and vitality in the face of stress or disturbance.

1 or 2 representatives of the applying organization will be required to be present at the Resilient Design event to discuss their project. AIAVT will work with the representatives from selected projects to gather the needed background information prior to the day of the charrette. This could include a summary of local zoning restrictions, a satellite image of the property, photos of existing structures, measurements, floorplans, etc.

The received submissions will be reviewed and ranked based on our mission and our capacity.

Services Provided to Selected Projects

We will use our architecture skills and knowledge to work with communities to provide design input for projects related to resilience.

On the day of the event, each selected project will be assigned a team of design professionals, who will meet with the selected project representatives to discuss the project in an interdisciplinary design process called a charrette. The charrette will entail a 2-hour period of discussion, analysis, and development of conceptual ideas. Deliverables will vary as most appropriate for each project but might include hand sketches, narratives, and conceptual drawings. This two-hour exercise can help determine the feasibility of moving forward with a project.

What is a Charrette?

A charrette is a type of participatory planning process that assembles an interdisciplinary team—typically consisting of planners, citizens, city officials, architects, landscape architects, transportation engineers, parks and recreation officials, and other stakeholders—to create a design and implementation plan for a specific project. It differs from a traditional community consultation process in that it is design-based. In addition, and as opposed to traditional planning exercises that can take a long time to be finalized, charrettes are usually compressed into a short period of time.

See details and images from a previous design charrette here:

<https://www.aiavt.org/news-events/news-details/post/aiavt-affordable-housing-event-brings-together-architects-and-vt-towns>

AIA Vermont, the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, is an organization of architectural design professionals dedicated to enhancing the quality of our built environment, and thereby the quality of life. The Chapter endeavors to bring together and serve all who are interested in the art and science of architecture. AIA Vermont aspires to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of the architectural profession, expand the knowledge of all participating in the architectural process and improve the quality of services provided by architectural professionals. Learn more at www.aiavt.org/



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Resilient Design Charrette Application

Please submit this form via email to info@aiavt.org. The inclusion of images of your submitted project can be sent as an attachment to your email.

Organization

Name:

Address:

Contact info of Project Representative(s)

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address:

Project Information

Name/Title:

Location:

Project Description:

Please describe the current property condition and the ideas or goals for how to adapt the project for resilience. Please note if you have received property owner permission to develop or rehab the property. The inclusion of images of your proposed project can be sent as an attachment to your email.

Example Project ideas: Emergency Shelter, Multi-functional Community Center, Affordable Housing, Housing Pods, Landscape Resilience - (parks or wetlands), Child Care Center, Homeless Shelter, etc.



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Forms can be addressed to AIA Vermont's Executive Director, Sarah O Donnell. Please reach out with any questions you may have prior to submitting this form.