



Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan, Design Advisory Panel Appointment

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Appoint the recommended applicants to the Design Advisory Panel (DAP) for the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan.

BACKGROUND

As outlined in the Bethesda Overlay Zone, the Planning Department is seeking to create a representative and balanced Design Advisory Panel to advise and assist in improving the quality of architecture, urban design and landscape design approved in Downtown Bethesda.

On July 27, 2017, the Planning Board approved the distribution of letters to interested parties requesting nominations to participate in the DAP. Letters of interest were sent out to various professional and community groups soliciting nominations, including but not limited to the American Institute of Architects (AIA DC), the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, the Coalition of Bethesda Area Residents (CBAR), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Urban Land Institute (ULI), the Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), the American Planning Association (APA), and the University of Maryland Architecture Department.

PANEL SIZE AND METHOD OF SELECTION

The Design Advisory Panel will have five members. According to the Bethesda Overlay Zone it will be “composed of relevant independent professionals including at least one resident of the Bethesda community.”

The five-member Panel should, at a minimum, have the following expertise:

- One registered architect representing academia and/or other jurisdictions in the region with a design review panel.
- One registered architect from the greater Montgomery County community.
- One member of the development community. This person may be a developer, real estate professional or involved in real estate investment.

- One Bethesda community member who has a professional interest in urban design, architecture, and/or landscape architecture.

Members must be approved by the Planning Board and will serve three-year staggered terms. At initial appointment, two members will serve for two years, two members will serve for three years, and one member will serve for four years. The terms of membership will be staggered from this point onward.

18 individuals expressed interest and submitted applications. Many of those that expressed interest have extensive experience in design and real estate development and possess professional background and training in any number of areas that are central to the design and development of the built environment. Staff has attempted to balance these attributes in arriving at the recommended list.

PROFILE OF RECOMMENDED DAP MEMBERS

The following provides a brief profile of each recommended member. Complete DAP applications are attached.

1. Karl Du Puy, Registered Architect Representing Academia

Karl Du Puy is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland School of Architecture. A practicing architect and urban designer with over 35 years of experience. Mr. Du Puy has worked in New York City as well as the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. For the past 20 years Mr. Du Puy has been involved with Rockville, Maryland's planning efforts as an urban design consultant and as a member of Rockville's urban design review committee. *(recommended term 3 yrs)*

2. George Dove, Registered Architect from the Greater Montgomery County Community

George Dove has a long and distinguished career as an architect, urban designer and planner in the Washington, D.C. metro area. He is currently Managing Principal Emeritus at WDG Architecture, as of October 1, 2017, and was recommended by APA. Mr. Dove will be transitioning away from his long-held role to pursue other interests and looks to join the Bethesda DAP with his complete attention. *(recommended term 2 yrs)*

3. Damon Orobona, Member of the Development Community

Damon Orobona is a partner at the real estate development company Nova Habitat with a diverse skillset in real estate development, planning and law. He was recommended by APA. As a Bethesda resident and former M-NCPPC planner and Montgomery County land use attorney, Mr. Orobona brings a wealth of local development expertise and a passion for a strong Bethesda core. He serves as a current member of the Montgomery County Art Review Panel. *(recommended term 3 yrs)*

4. Rod Henderer, Bethesda Community Member

Mr. Henderer is an accomplished architect and member of the greater Bethesda community and was nominated by CBAR. He was elevated to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows in 2011. A practicing architect with 40 plus years of experience, he is a Senior Vice President of CRTKL, which is a large international architecture and design practice. While the firm has offices worldwide he is based in their Washington office. *(recommended term 4 yrs)*

5. Qiaojue Yu, Registered Landscape Architect

Qiaojue Yu has over 12 years of professional experience in urban planning and design as well as landscape architecture. She is a licensed landscape architect and has been involved in various types of projects, in both public and private sectors, specifically, campuses, residential and retail, public parks, urban plazas, and hospitalities. She currently works at the Landscape Architectural firm of Rhodeside and Harwell. (*recommended term 2 yrs*)

OTHER APPLICANTS

The following provides a brief profile of the other applicants. Complete DAP applications are attached.

6. **Cook, Steve:** A landscape architect with over 30 years of experience, Steve Cook now practices planning, landscape architecture and entitlement work in Montgomery County Maryland where he combines his planning and design skills on mostly mixed use and residential projects. He is a Senior Landscape Architect with VIKA Maryland.
7. **Donohoe, Jad:** Jad Donohoe is a Senior Vice President of The Donohoe Companies, a full-service real estate company located in downtown Bethesda. He serves on and is a past chair of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. He is also secretary/treasurer of the Bethesda Arts and Entertainment District Board, and served on the Woodmont Triangle Advisory Committee for five years.
8. **Elfar, Sherief:** Sherief Elfar is a registered architect and a firm Principal with Torti Gallas. He has specialized experience in large-scale urban infill projects, transit oriented development, and inner-city revitalizations. His expertise also includes entitlement, programming and planning, stakeholder involvement, the preparation of design and construction documents, and construction phase services.
9. **Ellern, Carla:** Carla is a resident of Chevy Chase, MD and an experienced landscape architect. The bulk of her landscape architectural career has been spent at Lila Fendrick Landscape Architecture, a leading local firm, and her own landscape architecture practice. Currently, her main employment is as a Planner in the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, in the County's Rainscapes program.
10. **Gonzalez, Luis:** Luiz Gonzales is a registered landscape architect and an AICP certified planner, with over 15 years of professional practice experience collaborating on multidisciplinary design teams, bringing design excellence to transit oriented, mixed-use, and infill projects. He is a Montgomery County native and has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland and in Costa Rica.
11. **King, Maryjane:** For more than a decade Maryjane King has worked on large-scale international projects in both public and private sectors, addressing issues surrounding sustainability, resilience, and access. She founded the boutique architecture firm, Atelier MjK, in 2013 and has worked on numerous projects in the metropolitan area including a master plan for a 14-acre site, and repositioning of numerous urban sites.
12. **Mar, Toygun:** Toygun Mar is a design leader in SK+I Architecture's mixed-use and multifamily design studio. Mr. Mar serves on the AIA DC Design Excellence committee and he is member of the ULI Washington Housing Council. Toygun has successfully managed large scale mixed use

projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic region with more than 15 years of international design and construction experience.

13. **Medick, Michael:** Michael Medick is a Principal in KTGy's Tysons office. As a registered architect and urban planner, he brings extensive experience in real estate development, community design and revitalization of cities, buildings, campuses and neighborhoods.
14. **Michaels, Deborah:** Deborah Michaels is a 16-year resident, living adjacent to Downtown Bethesda CBD. She is an active participant and Community Leader in Bethesda. She is a proponent of smart growth in Urban Areas to enhance livability for all aspects of the Community.
15. **Powell, Dave:** Dave Powell is currently a Senior Vice President at Cushman Wakefield and has had a career in the public and private sector spanning architecture, urban design, planning, preservation, and real estate development. He has nearly 20 years of experience managing the design and construction of major development projects throughout the Washington, D.C. metro area.
16. **Rashid, Andrew:** Andrew Rashid is a lifelong resident of Bethesda. With over 28 years of experience as an Architect, much of his work involves a mix of building types including Office, Multi-family Residential, Hospitality, and Retail. Just over 4 years ago he opened Rashid Architects which is based in Bethesda.
17. **Straub, Daniel:** Daniel Straub is a landscape architect with over thirty years of experience in both urban planning and landscape architecture. He has recently completed a ten-year term as the professional representative to the Urban Design Advisory Committee for OldTownNorth in Alexandria.
18. **Turner, Bryce:** Bryce Turner is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and chairman of the Board of BCT Architects and DDG; both design and architecture firms headquartered in Baltimore, MD. A registered architect in twenty U.S. states, he has directed the design of projects in five countries within Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.

NEXT STEP FOR THE DAP

Once approved by the Planning Board, the staff will notify the members and an initial DAP meeting will be scheduled.

ATTACHMENT

- A. Design Advisory Panel Applications
- B. Design Advisory Panel Rules of Procedure