

Urban Design Studio

Mission Statement

To operate an in-house design studio from July 2013 to July 2016 for the purpose of updating the City's existing zoning code and producing a Form-Based Code (FBC) to replace it. The FBC Initiative is a Community project authorized by the City Commission in partnership with the residential and business Community.

Description of Operations

The Urban Design Studio (UDS) is staffed by two Urban Design and Planning professionals that are contract employees that report to the City Manager. The Studio is located at 111 S. Orange Avenue in the Federal Building. This space has been set up as a multi-use flex space that enables the production of large maps and graphics necessary for form-based code production. It is a wireless environment and its location in the Federal Building with other meeting and foyer space allows the Studio to host stakeholder groups and studio guests to promote inclusive public participation vital to the project's success. When scheduling permits open studio hours on Friday afternoons are held and utilized by a diverse cross section of stakeholder groups and citizens to learn about the initiative, see work in progress, and to ask the designers questions about the process.

In addition to the code work, the studio has been working with the community, staff and other agency partners to address citywide spatial design issues and opportunities. UDS is also responsible for identifying necessary revisions to the Comprehensive Plan such as Future Land Use Classifications and other Goals, Objectives and Policies necessary for implementation. UDS is under the direct supervision of the City Manager and works with the Deputy City Manager to ensure coordination and inclusion of tasks in the City's Strategic Plan.

Cost Center Expenditures By Category

	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Budget	FY 2015 Continuation	FY 2015 Issues	FY 2015 Totals
Personnel	54,901	255,936	238,410	26,110	264,520
Operating Expenditures	4,490	44,064	61,590	-31,110	30,480
Capital Expenditures	9,404	0	0	5,000	5,000
Totals	68,795	300,000	300,000	0	300,000

Personnel Summary

Actual Positions		2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
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Urban Design Studio

Redistribution of Funding for Increased Scope of Work

We are incredibly pleased with the success of the Urban Design Studio Concept, and community participation. We have been able to complete a great deal of our scheduled tasks, and recognize our role in the City's ongoing initiatives. In the majority of the Catalyst Areas we are working on we have been asked by the stakeholders to expand our study area or include additional work. We have been asked to expedite the redo of the sign code by both the City and the Business Community. This is a significant undertaking that we plan to tackle over the summer in addition to our existing work.

Overview:

Our Contract provides for our Primary Task which is the Form-Based Code. Our work has been expanded to include recommended Implementation Revisions to the Comprehensive Plan such as:

- New Future Land Use Categories for the Implementation of Transect Zones outside the Downtown Area.
- Thoroughfare Types (Street Cross-Sections), modification of Primary/Secondary Street Designations within the Downtown and the creation of the hierarchy outside of the downtown.
- Natural Transect Zone Environmental Goals, Policies, and Objectives
- Flood Zone Adaptation Policies
- Nodal Land Use/Transit Goals, Policies, and Objectives
- City Wide Density Goals, Policies, and Objectives

Our Existing Work Includes:

- Zoning Text Amendment Cycle - revisions to existing Downtown Zone Code with Public Participation Events.
- Transect Zones - Extensive Mapping, data analysis and field analysis combined with Public Participation Events
- Landscape Module including frontyard walls & fences
- Special Regulations Plans - Arlington Park, Water Tower Park, and Newtown Catalyst Areas
- Shopping Center Sprawl Retrofit Standards
- Thoroughfare Types (Street Cross-Sections), modification of Primary/Secondary Street Designations within the Downtown and the creation of the hierarchy outside of the downtown.

EDCM - Bringing certain standards into the:

- Thoroughfare Types - we are developing an Atlas tied to Transect Zones
- Stormwater/Light Imprint Design - We are creating the Matrix of Options tied to Transect Zones
- Signage within Public Rights of Way - We are doing a massive overhaul of the existing Sign Code that will also include Public Right of Way Policies for discretionary signage.

Public Outreach - We have available a Summary of Public Participation Events & Presentations and a Matrix of Additional Tasks and deliverables that have been provided by the Studio since July of 2013.

Summary

We would ask the City to recognize that our workload has increased well beyond our original contract and tasks. We are therefore concerned with our ability to keep up this schedule and pace without some form of additional resources. In an effort to be conservative with the City's resources and to stay on schedule we are requesting a few additional resources as follows:

Interns & Computers- we have been working to include the Universities and their Students in our FBC Initiative. As a result we received a number of inquiries about the possibility of student internship positions for the summer. We have selected two Graduate Students specializing in Sustainability and Urban Design that will begin as Volunteers in May. Although they have offered to work for free we lack computers and software for them to use. We think this is a great way to handle our workload while allowing graduate students to gain experience.

The amount requested is \$24,000 it would cover 2 Interns for 12 months. We are asking for \$5,000 for the two laptop computers and software based on a quote we received from the IT Department.

Travel & Professional Dues - One of the reasons that we were selected for this initiative was our expertise and affiliation with the Congress of New Urbanism. I am an accredited member and Andrew is actually working with other CNU leadership to rewrite the accreditation exam. We are both recipients of the Driehaus Award for our work on the City of Bradenton's FBC. Accreditation status requires attendance at State & Local Congress of New Urbanism Summits each year.

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The Summits also provide the opportunity for peer review of documents and policies we are working on for the City and allow access to cutting edge best practices within the movement. The Amount we are requesting is \$6000.00.

These requests are being presented as issues, however, it is estimated that they can be covered within the initial \$300,000 per year for 3 years planned originally for the Form Based Code initiative by redistributing operating expenses that are not being spent.

Cost of Issue

Personal	26,110
Operating	-31,110
Capital	5,000
Transfers	0
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Total	\$0
Net Cost of Issue	\$0