



# Design Review Board

March 7, 2017

5:30 PM

City Council Briefing Center  
Lower Level, City Hall

**TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Commission Briefing Session:

- |             |  |               |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| 5:30 - 5:35 | 1) Chair Report  | Austin Dickey |
|             | 2) Staff Report  | Omar Akkari   |
|             | 3) Approve <a href="#">February 22, 2017</a> meeting minutes |               |

## Workshop:

NO WORKSHOPS

## Board Business:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 5:35 – 7:30 | 1) <a href="#">Introduction to the 2017 Spokane Mayor's Urban Design Awards (MUDA)</a> (10 min.) <i>General review of the Awards and the Board's Role</i>                             |
|             | 2) <a href="#">Definition of Urban Design</a> (30 min.) <i>Discussion about definition of Urban Design and how that might inform the MUDA submission requirements / Jury Criteria</i> |
|             | 3) <a href="#">Awards Updates</a> (15 min.) <i>Dialogue about potential updates to awards categories</i>  |
|             | 4) <a href="#">MUDA Jury Criteria</a> (45 min.) <i>Discussion about staff revisions / Board revisions to Jury Criteria</i>  |
|             | 5) <a href="#">Review / Finalize Proposed Updates</a> (15 min.)   |

## Adjournment:

Next Design Review Board meeting will be held on March 22, 2017

The password for City of Spokane Guest Wireless access has been changed:

**Username: COS Guest**

**Password:**

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# Design Review Board

**February 22, 2017**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM

## Attendance

- Board Members Present: David Buescher, Austin Dickey, Kathy Lang, Ted Teske, Steven Meek, Anne Hanenburg, Ryan Leong
- Board Members Not Present: Charlene Kay
- Staff Present: Julie Neff, Omar Akkari, Nathan Gwinn; City of Spokane Planning and Development

## Briefing Session:

1. Chair Comments-Austin Dickey
  - None
2. Staff Comments-Julie Neff
  - Next Design Review workshops will be held on March 22, 2017.

January 25, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with suggested changes to the Attendance.

## Board Business:

1. Design Review Board Mission & Purpose:
  - Board members reviewed the Design Review Board's mission statement.
  - Discussed the Board's role throughout the Design Review process.
2. Board Recommendations:
  - Discussed implementing improvements to the Board's recommendation to help strengthen and clarify next steps for the applicants.
3. Draft Options for DRB Updates:
  - Discussed implementing improvements that will strengthen the Boards processes.
  - Overviewed draft options for revising the Design Review Board's work plan.
4. 2017 Mayor's Urban Design Awards:
  - Opened dialogue on the 2017 Mayor's Urban Design Awards.
  - Discussed the current criteria for each Design Award.
  - Discussion to be continued at the regularly scheduled March 8, 2017 meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 PM**

Next Design Review Board meeting is scheduled for **March 8, 2017**

Note: Minutes summarized by staff. An audiotape of the meeting is on file with the Planning & Development Department, City of Spokane.

# 2013 SPOKANE MAYOR'S URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

## Call for Entries

The Mayor's Urban Design Awards recognize and thank people who contribute to Spokane's quality of life and help implement the City's Comprehensive Plan through good urban design. The awards will highlight the importance of creative thought, technical proficiency, and the relationship of good urban design to our city's economic health and overall well-being. These bi-annual awards will be announced by the Mayor during a Spokane City Council meeting. Award winners will receive a Certificate of Recognition and be showcased on the City's Urban Design website.

### Qualifications to Enter

An urban environment is made up of many elements including buildings, bridges, streets, sidewalks, parks, plazas, nature corridors, trees and public art. So ANY project in the Spokane region—large or small, public or private—is eligible for submission and will be considered if it meets the following criteria:

- Completed between January 1, 2008, and August 1, 2013 and has not been previously submitted;
- Can be judged against some or all of the "15 Qualities of Good Urban Design in Spokane" which are consistent with Comprehensive Plan objectives and "Smart Growth" principles; and
- Contributes to the City of Spokane's quality of life.

### Entry Submittal Categories

**Within Spokane City Limits:** 1. Completed Projects. 2. Visions and Master Plans.

**Regional:** 1. Completed Projects. 2. Visions and Master Plans. Examples might include projects located outside the city limits that have been designed to protect the Spokane River or Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, transportation projects, or recreation/tourism projects that directly benefit citizens of the City of Spokane.

### Levels of Awards for Entries Submitted

- **"Mayor's Choice Award"** - highest honor for overall urban design excellence.
- **"Urban Design Merit Award"** - distinguished work in meeting specific criteria for good urban design.
- **"People's Choice Award"** - all entries will be displayed for 3 weeks at River Park Square, thus giving the public an opportunity to vote for their favorite submitted design.

### Spokane Design Review Board Special Acknowledgements

In addition to the awards for submitted projects, Spokane's Design Review Board (DRB) will nominate projects for special recognition by the Mayor. The categories for these DRB Special Acknowledgements will be:

- **"Creative Citizen(s)"** - person or group whose work has enhanced Spokane's urban fabric.
- **"Heritage Project"** - a design that has significantly contributed to Spokane's quality of life.
- **"Shrinking Lilac"** - when it becomes apparent to the DRB that the designer/developer was too modest to submit excellent work.

### Judging

The City of Spokane's Design Review Board will develop recommendations to the Mayor who will make the final selections for the Mayor's Choice and Urban Design Merit Awards. The identities of applicants will be concealed until all judging is complete. Jurors will not review projects with which they've been involved.

**Registration forms are available on the 3rd Floor, City Hall or online.**

**Application deadline, 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 1, 2013.**

**For more information:**

Julie Neff, City Planner  
509-625-6082 or [jneff@spokanecity.org](mailto:jneff@spokanecity.org)



[www.spokanecity.org](http://www.spokanecity.org)

Jennifer Haegele, Administrative Assistant  
509-625-6312 or [jhaegele@spokanecity.org](mailto:jhaegele@spokanecity.org)

# 2013 SPOKANE MAYOR'S URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

## 15 Qualities of Good Urban Design in Spokane

### 1. Community Enhancement

Good design contributes generously to the public realm, and enhances the sense of community pride. It provides opportunities for social interaction and strengthens the self-image and identity of the community.

### 2. Human Scale and Richness

A good urban place recognizes the complexity of human beings – and appeals to the intellect, emotions, senses and spirit. The experience of a place can be enhanced by manipulating its features; for example, using a variety of materials, creating differences in scale, and changes in light. The evidence and use of human dimensions helps people relate to, interpret, and appreciate the built environment. Good places lift the spirits and are pleasing to the eye and mind.

### 3. Human Needs

A well-designed place will consider and provide for all human needs, will offer a variety of choices for how to use the space, and will be convenient, comfortable, safe and accessible.

### 4. Variety

"Variety is the spice of life!" We humans prefer a variety of experiences, and variety is therefore an essential ingredient of good design. Variety of experience implies places with varied forms, colors, textures, lighting, uses and meaning. A variety of uses creates opportunities for people to interact and is particularly important for a healthy community. For example, a variety of uses in the same building or public place helps to ensure that people will be using the area more hours of the day.

### 5. Safety

A good place will be perceived as safe as well as be safe. The physical arrangement of a place can greatly contribute to personal safety. A good place will be designed so that users of activities and spaces are visible rather than concealed. Public areas with pedestrian amenities and buildings with plenty of windows reduce the opportunities for crime against people and property, because they are more people-friendly, they attract activities, and they allow for natural surveillance.

### 6. Public and Private Space

A good place in Spokane will utilize design elements to clearly delineate public, semi-public, and private spaces. A good design will consider its entire site to ensure its proper use and maintenance in the present and the future.

### 7. Flexibility and Adaptability

A good place will be able to accommodate a large range of uses, activities and purposes over the daily and weekly cycle, seasonal patterns, and its lifetime.

### 8. Connectivity

Spokane's citizens have stated that it must be as easy to walk in Spokane as it is to drive. Good places in Spokane will be designed first for pedestrians, next for bicycles and alternative modes of transportation, and then for cars. The design should allow people to have a high number of and access to transportation choices.

### 9. Accessibility

Good public places are accessible to all members of our community. Good places take into consideration universal design principles as well as people from all walks of life.

### 10. Place-making

The result of good design is a strong sense of place and identity. 'Place' nurtures people's health, their happiness, and sense of well-being by connecting to a deeper sense of meaning. Successful spaces become a 'place' when people attach meaning, take ownership, and purposely choose to live and be in these spaces.

### 11. Comprehensible

We can take full advantage of a place only if we can get oriented quickly—we need to be able to understand it, interpret it and have meaning for its use. A good place provides clear points of reference and allows people to construct a mental map so they know where and how to use the space.

### 12. Environmental Sensitivity – Contextual Fit

A good design is sensitive to its setting whether natural or built. It is connected to its surroundings and will improve the quality of the environment(s) of which it is a part.

### 13. Urban Greenscape - Green Infrastructure

Spokane's citizens value the City's urban forest, native habitats, natural landforms, nature space networks, and connecting corridors. A good design will protect and add to these features. The greenscape of the city is an integral part of the urban fabric and is a continuous medium rather than a local or site-related "landscaping/plantscaping" enhancement.

### 14. Sustainability

Urban sustainability includes not only energy use but also economic, social, cultural and ecological concerns. Good spaces in Spokane will contribute to the objective of wise and responsible use of natural resources; and will preserve and enhance the natural environment elements that define Spokane's quality of life.

### 15. Regional Character

Good urban design in Spokane will help people understand the significance of this area including the "lay of the land" and its natural and cultural history. It will retain and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and historic sites that define the Spokane region.

# MAYOR'S URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

## 2017 Updates for Discussion Purposes

### Definitions of Urban Design

How can these awards highlight something different from other professional design awards?

What kind of definition of urban design do we want to define these awards and their criteria?

How might our definition of urban design inform the qualifications to enter and the jury criteria?

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*"Urban design is about how to recapture certain of the qualities (qualities which we experience as well as those we see) that we associate with the traditional city: a sense of order, place, continuity, richness of experience, completeness and belonging. Urban design lies somewhere between the broad-brush abstractions of planning and the concrete specifics of architecture. It implies a notion of citizenship: life in the public realm. It is not just about space, but time as well. Much of what passes for urban design is conceived only for one moment. Good urban design is more than just knitting together the townscape. Urban designers should be configuring a rich network in which buildings come and go: a framework of transport, built fabric and other features, which will create natural locations for things. Urban design structures activities." - Peter Buchanan*

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*Urban design is the process of designing and shaping cities, towns and villages. In contrast to architecture, which focuses on the design of individual buildings, urban design deals with the larger scale of groups of buildings, streets and public spaces, whole neighborhoods and districts, and entire cities, with the goal of making urban areas functional, attractive, and sustainable. - Berkeley Planning Journal 27: 31-55 - "LEED-ND and Livability Revisited"*

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*"Urban design is about making connections between people and places, movement and urban form, nature and the built fabric. Urban design draws together the many strands of place-making, environmental stewardship, social equity and economic viability into the creation of places with distinct beauty and identity." - urbandesign.org*

## Qualifications to Enter

An urban environment is made up of many elements including buildings, bridges, streets, sidewalks, parks, plazas, nature corridors, trees and public art. So ANY project in the Spokane region—large or small, public or private—is eligible for submission and will be considered if it meets the following criteria:

- Within Spokane City Limits or Projects of Regional Significance\*
- Completed between January 1, 2012, and August 1, 2017 and has not been previously submitted;
- Can be judged against some or all of the “10 Qualities of Good Urban Design in Spokane” which are consistent with Comprehensive Plan objectives and “Smart Growth” principles; and
- Contributes to the City of Spokane’s quality of life and improves its public realm.

*\*Examples of Projects of Regional Significance might include: Projects located outside the city limits that have been designed to protect the Spokane River or Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer, transportation, recreation, tourism, or wayfinding projects that directly benefit citizens of the City of Spokane.*

## Levels of Awards for Entries Submitted

- Mayor’s Choice Award  
Our highest honor, awarded to one project from each category for singular adherence to and execution of the principles of good design.
- Urban Design Merit Award  
Awarded to projects which demonstrate truly excellent adherence to and execution of the principles of good design.

### Choice of two approaches:

***Dollar Value Split*** – This approach would help smaller project be recognized by the awards.

- Mayor’s Choice Award | Built Projects Over \$3,000,000
- Mayor’s Choice Award | Built Projects \$3,000,000 & Under
- Mayor’s Choice Award | Visions and Master Plans
- Urban Design Merit Award | Built Projects Over \$3,000,000 (Flexible # Awarded)
- Urban Design Merit Award | Built Projects \$3,000,000 & Under (Flexible # Awarded)
- Urban Design Merit Award | Visions and Master Plans (Flexible # Awarded)

***Public / Private Funding Split*** – This approach would help private projects to be better judged among their peers that are held to the same less stringent design / public process standards.

- Mayor’s Choice Award | Publicly funded projects
- Mayor’s Choice Award | Privately funded projects
- Urban Design Merit Award | Publicly funded projects (Flexible # Awarded)
- Urban Design Merit Award | Privately funded projects (Flexible # Awarded)

□ People's Choice Award

Awarded to the project receiving the most votes tallied both in person (at River Park Square) and online.

□ Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper Urban Design Award | Projects under \$300,000

Projects given this award exhibit a small-scale, iterative, and high-impact approach to improving the public realm. Project in this category implement quick and innovative ways to capitalize on local ingenuity and turn public spaces into treasured community places.

Lighter, quicker, cheaper projects:

- Transform underused spaces into exciting laboratories that citizens can start using right away and see evidence that change can happen.
- Represent an "action planning process" that builds a shared understanding of a place that goes far beyond the short-term changes that are made.
- Leverage local partnerships that have greater involvement by a community and results in places that are more authentic.
- Encourage an iterative approach and an opportunity to experiment, assess, and evolve a community's vision before launching into major construction and a long-term process.

*Concept idea and language taken from the Project for Public Spaces*

<https://www.pps.org/reference/lighter-quicker-cheaper-a-low-cost-high-impact-approach/>

Example Projects

- You Express Studio (YES) - Parklets



- Window Dressing – Vacant Store Front Galleries

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## Design Review Board Special Acknowledgements

- Creative Citizen(s)  
A special acknowledgement given by the Design Review Board to a person or group whose work has enhanced Spokane's urban fabric.
- Heritage Project  
A special acknowledgement given by the Design Review Board to a design project that has significantly contributed to Spokane's quality of life.
- Shrinking Lilac  
A special acknowledgement given by the Design Review Board to an exceptional project not previously nominated for a Spokane Mayor's Urban Design Award.



# 10 Qualities of Good Urban Design in Spokane

## 1. Community Enhancement

Good design greatly enhances public experience and community pride. It provides opportunities for social interaction and strengthens our community's self-image and identity.

## 2. Human Scale and Richness

A good urban place recognizes the complexity of people, appealing to the intellect, emotions, senses and spirit. Our experience of a place is enhanced by manipulating its features, such as using varied materials, creating differences in scale, and changes in light.

## 3. Safety

The physical arrangement of a place can greatly improve personal safety. Good places are designed to make users and spaces visible rather than concealed. Good designs have ample visible, pedestrian amenities or multiple uses that reduce the opportunities for crime against people and property, because they are more people-friendly, they attract activities, and allow for natural surveillance.

## 4. Public and Private Space

A good designs will utilize design elements to clearly delineate public, semi-public, and private spaces. They will also consider their entire site to ensure its proper use and maintenance in the present and the future and minimizes impacts from vehicles, services and utilities, and blank walls on the public realm.

## 5. Flexibility and Adaptability

A good place will be able to accommodate a large range of uses, activities and purposes over the daily and weekly cycle, seasonal patterns, and across its lifetime.

## 6. Connectivity

Good places in Spokane will be designed first for pedestrians, next for bicycles and alternative modes of transportation, and then for cars. The design should allow people to have a high number of transportation choices and access to them all.

## 7. Place-making

The result of good design is a strong sense of 'Place' that nurtures people's health, happiness, and sense of well-being by connecting to a deeper sense of meaning. Successful spaces become 'Places' when people, activate them, attach meaning, and take ownership.

## 8. Comprehensible

A good place provides clear points of reference and allows people to construct a mental map so they know where and how to use the space so that people can easily understand it, interpret it and have meaning for its use.

## 9. Environmental Sensitivity – Contextual Fit

A good design is sensitive to its setting whether natural or built. It is connected to its surroundings, local materials, builds upon our regional identity, and will improve the quality of the environment(s) of which it is a part.

## 10. Sustainability

Urban sustainability includes not only energy use but also economic, social, cultural and ecological concerns. Good spaces contribute to the objective of wise and responsible use of natural resources; and utilize sustainable site planning and construction techniques that reduce pollution and create a balance between built and natural systems that define Spokane's quality of life.