Enterprise

Affordable Housing Design Leadership Institute

Site tour of Eastern Market Corp., 2016
Detroit, MI

The leading forum for mission-driven designers & developers

AHDLI is the leading forum for designers and developers to collaborate on the creation of well-designed homes that are affordable and that contribute to greener, healthier and more resilient communities. Since 2010, AHDLI has successfully trained developers to tackle some of the nation's most challenging development scenarios, while expanding positive outcomes for residents and surrounding communities and actively controlling project costs.

Why attend?

AHDLI connects innovators.

Participants make lasting connections with their fellow top designers and developers from across the country.

AHDLI sparks new methods.

Throughout the forum, peers learn from one another's break-through approaches to wide-ranging challenges.

AHDLI is solution-oriented.

Charrettes focus on real participant projects and the challenges that they have identified.

AHDLI generates collaboration.

Designers and developers have a unique opportunity to collaborate outside the client-consultant dynamic.

What can you expect?

The Institute curriculum consists of five on-line modules that address key design and affordable housing issues and explore real-life case studies, plus a 3-day convening of developers, designers, city officials and policy makers. Through in-person charrettes and interactive workshops, participants exchange feedback on development projects, working through specific challenges related to design, construction, policy and finance.

IMPACT

What do developers say?

"We wanted to attend AHDLI because we knew it would be transformative for our organization. AHDLI is a special opportunity to field some of the best ideas and project-specific feedback from industry thought leaders."

Brent Elrod,
Urban Housing Solutions

What do designers say?

"What I appreciated about the program was the simplicity and power of its premise: focus a concentrated amount time and attention from a wide range of experts on specific affordable housing projects. In the process, help to make them more sustainable, healthy, inclusive and financially successful."

Timothy McDonald,
Onion Flats

What do policymakers say?

"The City of Detroit was deeply involved in the Institute in 2016. AHDLI has the opportunity to influence a broader planning and policy conversation through design. I hope more cities will be able to take advantage."

Maurice Cox, Director of Planning,
City of Detroit

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Institute Curriculum

Format
- 3-day in-person charrette and workshop in Cleveland
- Three 1.5 hour foundational webinars
- Two 1.5 hour follow-up webinars

Key Content
- The Research: the current state of design in affordable housing
- Designing outcomes-driven housing in a constraint driven ecosystem
- Introduction to the High Impact Development Framework
- 9 core design strategies that shape your projects

By participating in the Institute Curriculum, developers will learn...
To identify and achieve resident and community outcomes
To skillfully lead the design process and collaborate with designers
To innovatively respond to cost constraints

Selection Criteria

Mission-driven developers of affordable housing are encouraged to apply.
Applications must show:
- A development project in the schematic design phase that is realistic and buildable
- A track record for completing real estate projects that are well-designed, culturally and environmentally sustainable and rely on meaningful community participation.
- A development team with 2-3 members to participate fully in the Institute, ideally including the Executive Director and/or the Directors of Real Estate (or equivalent). Resident Services/Property Managers are also encouraged to participate.
- Demonstrated leadership capacity, commitment to innovation, and eagerness to learn and implement lessons from the Institute within their organizations.

Participation and Cost

The curriculum and charrette are delivered at no cost to the participant, and all meals and on-site event costs are included. Travel expenses to attend the Institute are the responsibility of the participant. All participants in the in-person Institute are expected to complete the required online sessions. Additional staff may be invited to the online sessions, but may not be substituted for the developer team.

application at: www.enterprisecommunity.org/solutions-and-innovation/design-leadership

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70% of participating developers were better able to make the case to others for well-designed affordable housing.

"Hearing the questions asked of the other developers helped me to think about our project differently and prepare for conversations when we were back at home in the public design review and fundraising processes."

95% stated that they now work more effectively with their designers.

"There were great points on how to engage your architect and explain the complexities of financing on the deal so they understand the financial restraints upfront."

85% reported that they now address design earlier in the development process.

"The feedback from AHDLI and the connection we made to a new architect have had a major impact on the overall site plan and program. Our concept for this project is much more refined and will have a much stronger impact in the neighborhood."