

Design Resiliency--Technical Assistance

For communities ready to act



Design & Resiliency Team (DART) 2017 Application

Sponsored by: American Institute for Architects Center for Communities by Design
New England Municipal Sustainability Network (NEMSN)
Urban Directors Sustainability Network (USDN)

Assistance from: Boston Society of Architects Foundation
The cities of Northampton MA, Dubuque IA, Providence RI, and Seattle WA

Purpose: Pro bono technical assistance to help communities develop a strategic vision and promote community resiliency, usually by focusing on a specific issue and/or geographic area.

Eligibility: Any local government (city, town, special status, county) in the United States or Canada.

What it is: Five-person multidisciplinary teams of public and private sector experts from fields relevant to the community's need (e.g., sustainability, climate change, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, economic development, finance, the arts).

Who: Each multi-disciplinary team is custom-built to serve local needs and opportunities.

Process: Day one community tours, stakeholder focus groups, an evening public workshop, followed by an intense two-day team charrette, a final evening community presentation on the team's findings and recommendations, and a final report.

Requirements: Communities must demonstrate the capacity and commitment to convene diverse community, staff, political leaders, and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative resiliency planning process. Communities must provide appropriate venues for two evening public workshops, concurrent stakeholder meetings and DART working space with access to a copier, internet access and, ideally, a printer and a scanner.

Cost: There is no direct cost to communities to participate. DART funding covers ALL the team time, travel, and out-of-pocket expenses for four DARTs in 2017. DARTs do NOT provide any funding to communities or cover community outreach, venue, and staff time.

Timeline: Applications are due Monday March 6, 2017. Projects selected March 20, 2017. Preliminary site visit with project team leader April-August 2017. Full team DART September -December, 2017.

Questions: Contact Wayne Feiden, FAICP, WFeiden@NorthamptonMA.gov

If your project can benefit from thinking about resiliency, it is eligible.

DARTs will work with community, political and administrative decision-makers and stakeholders during an intensive three-day planning process that could otherwise cost tens of thousands of dollars. A DART helps a community advance resilience solutions through public conversation, a final presentation and a final report.

DARTs catalyze local action with a community-engagement process using outside perspectives and technical assistance on resilience. The process allows communities to focus for a few days on the resiliency picture without local politics and daily demands distracting them from planning for a critically important local issue. There are technical (knowledge base and expertise), political, administrative, and institutional challenges to building consensus on the challenges and needed actions. An outside multi-disciplinary team can galvanize a community by bringing in new expertise, expanding existing conversations, identifying new approaches, and providing support for or refinement of existing approaches. DARTs build the community conversation and advance consensus for the proactive planning, resource allocation, and paradigm shifts needed to address resilience challenges.

In 2016, the DART program earned the APA-MA chapter's Social Advocacy Award. DARTs build on the AIA's five decades of experience fielding 220+ Design Assessment Teams. These programs create design, resiliency and sustainability opportunities building on 1) the multidisciplinary team approach, 2) objectivity of team members, and 3) inclusive public participation and support.

Sample DARTs include:

- Bath, Maine's Cool Little City: Making downtown more resilient and vibrant in light of sea level rise
"The footprint that the DART team left behind in Bath has been massive. Less than six months after the visit, the process and products of the team's visit have simultaneously shaped development in our community and inspired new faces to be part of the planning process. I expect the ideas and concepts to shape my work for years to come." – Andrew Deci, Bath Planning Director
- Provincetown 365: Helping Provincetown MA be a year-round community that accommodates visitors, summer residents, and year-round residents, stemming the loss of year-round housing and declining off-season economic activity. *"The DART's final report and recommendations brought the community together and sparked the biggest volunteer effort to date...the DART articulated the concerns and visions of the community so well."* Gloria McPherson, Provincetown Planning Director
"The DART team is the best thing that has ever happened to this town." Provincetown FaceBook post

See www.DesignResiliency.com for past DARTs and links to the AIA's programs. AIA has a much longer track record with projects that have transformed communities and led to huge direct and indirect investment and policy change. This intense short term strategic planning approach is extremely successful at building community support and collaborations and sparking change.



Design and Resilience Team application
AIA and New England Municipal Sustainability Network
Due (in WORD or PDF) Mon. March 6, 2017 by email to:
WFeiden@NorthamptonMA.gov and copy to ESimmons@aia.org
Late applications considered **only** after evaluating on-time applications

1. Project Summary

- A. Project Title (e.g., *Provincetown 365*)
- B. Name of City, Town, or County
- C. Primary Contact Name, Email, and Phone number
- D. Is community a USDN or USDN regional network member
- E. Project Abstract (one paragraph)
- F. Objective of the DART process (one paragraph)

2. Community Description (maximum 700 words)

- A. Brief history
- B. Population, demographics and economic information
- C. Form of local government
- D. Geography
- E. Important project or contextual information
- F. Regional setting and influences
- G. Brief summaries of relevant planning efforts and reports

3. Problem Statement and Issues Analysis (maximum 1,400 words)

- A. Define and describe the proposed study area (e.g., the entire municipality, a neighborhood, a district, a corridor).
- B. Identify existing barriers (physical, social, economic, political) that limit the community's ability to address its concerns or agree on solutions.
- C. Brief assessment of your community's most significant resiliency needs (e.g., climate adaption, stable natural hazards, public health). Describe any past attempts that have failed to resolve community issues. Include graphic materials as needed.
- D. Identify strategic areas which the DART should focus on and why those areas are critical to the community. Describe how the issues relate at the regional, municipal, and neighborhood scales. Issues can include any aspect of resiliency, as broadly defined (e.g., climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, public and environmental health, social inequities, unstable urban centers).

4. Logistical Requirements

Describe how you will meet the logistical requirements below. There is **no cost** to the community for the Team's expenses but the community must provide:

- A. An extensive and inclusive community outreach prior to the DART.
- B. Appropriate venues for DART's two evening public workshops and afternoon concurrent focus groups.
- C. DART working space with access to a copier, internet, printer and scanner.
- D. Commitment from the Mayor, City Manager, and other top appointed elected or appointed officials to participate in the two workshops.

5. *Community and Educational Partners (INCLUDE letters of support)*

Describe partnerships:

- A. Local colleges (if any), especially programs in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, environmental studies and sustainability. Ideally, students, especially those with graphic skills, will volunteer to help the team.
- B. Local non-profits, service clubs, business organizations, institutions, and faith-based and civil society organizations.
- C. Elected and appointed government officials, public agencies, and neighborhood groups.

6. *Communication and Media Outreach Plan*

Describe how you will reach out to local media outlets, social media and the community to generate media coverage and invite the widest range of stakeholders to the two evening public workshops and afternoon concurrent stakeholder focus groups.

7. *DART Project Timeline*

Explain how the DART timeline can work for your community. Provide the context of larger timelines (e.g, a timeline for a relevant planning process) that are affected by this project. We will work with communities to schedule DART visits, but funding and team member requirements will limit the flexibility in the scheduling.

8. *Supplemental Documents*

- A. Relevant planning documents and/or studies (e.g., zoning or plan excerpts)
- B. Maps/graphics (e.g., useful maps, study area plans, photos/air photos)
- C. Relevant community information (e.g., newspaper articles, tourism materials, economic development materials)
- D. Anything you need to tell your story and describe issues and needs.

Evaluation Criteria

- Commitment and ability to attract diverse stakeholders and community turnout.
- Commitment of political leadership, municipal staff and civil society to act.
- Comprehensive application clearly portraying the community
- Self-evaluation and assessment of relevant issues
- Clarity of problem statement and project objective
- Ability to provide necessary logistical support
- Feasibility
- Membership in USDN or regional network (not required but preference is given)