

Purpose:

The University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC) is committed to increasing the capacity of planning and design to better serve communities. Our work is done through collaboration with our many partners. Through its interdisciplinary strengths, the Design Collaborative connects design to community improvement in a comprehensive way, supported by the kind of collaboration that a university setting can facilitate. The Design Collaborative seeks to make the relationship between citizens and the city (as a physical, social, and economic entity) work better.

Focus & Priorities:

The Design Collaborative's delivery process includes the following two components: the talent and experience of the research center staff as well as the UMDC Studio. The fall and spring studios serve to educate students through engaged scholarship while collaborating with the public on place-based solutions.

Our community engagement process has helped establish our direction and initial focus. The critical community issues that form our current work are centered around the built environment's effect on quality of life through public health, safety, and mobility of Memphians

Priority Initiatives:

To maximize the value of limited resources, it is important to focus on initiatives that closely align with the center's mission and that are most impactful. Characteristics of these priority initiatives are those that:

1. Have the potential for positive catalytic impact on the community
2. Establish and/or strengthened collaborative partnerships
3. Support the educational mission of the center and the University
4. Leverage the Design Collaborative's research focus
5. Provide an opportunity to share positive messaging

Selection Criteria for Project Initiatives:

1. Have a positive catalytic impact on the community at large
2. Engages citizens and stakeholders in the larger project area
3. Establishes and/or Strengthens Collaborative Partnerships (non-profit focus)
4. Is a prototype that can be replicated (not a one off)
5. Provides an opportunity to share positive messaging to our target audiences
6. Maximizes the value and strengths of the Design Collaborative
7. Leverages and advances the UMDC's multi-disciplinary research focus
8. Provides the opportunity to add resource capacity to the UMDC
9. Provides educational opportunities for the center and the community
10. Is located in Delta region with a focus on Memphis (priority in Core City)

If you have a project or initiative that you feel the University of Memphis Design Collaborative can help advance, please contact Andy Kitsinger, UMDC Director at akitsngr@memphis.edu or (901) 210-0774. If we jointly determine that the initiative is potentially a good fit, we will ask that you please prepare and submit a written proposal covering the information below.

Project Name _____ **Location** _____

Primary Project Contact:

Name _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Project Partner(s):

Name _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Limit the responses to the following questions to a maximum of 500 words.

1. Provide a brief project description here including the intended general timeframe or schedule, the budget and the funding source(s):

2. Provide a narrative on how the initiative relates to the purpose and priorities of the UMDC:

3. Describe how the initiative anticipates engaging citizens and stakeholders within the project impact area: