

PEOPLE

MAKE CITIES

CHARLOTTE URBAN DESIGN CENTER

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025



**THE CHARLOTTE
URBAN DESIGN CENTER**

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01 INTRODUCTION



Cities are more than just infrastructure; they are the engines of resilience, upward mobility, and boundless opportunity. These elements converge to create an incredible ballet of conversations, interactions, and shared memories. At the Urban Design Center, we believe that people make cities. That ethos is at the core of our mission and everything we advocate for as designers and planners – to advance the quality of Charlotte’s built environment, to bring public awareness to the importance of urban design, and to build great public places for all to enjoy.

In 2026, I am proud to share that we have done just that. This year also marks a significant milestone as the UDC celebrates 10 years of impact since our founding in 2016. Our success is rooted in the vibrant public realms we help shape and the enduring relationships we continue to build across our community.

Some highlights of this incredibly special year include:

- **Another successful year of our Placemaking Grant:** In our 6th year of the program, we awarded \$230,000 to 16 applicants and celebrated the completion of five projects from previous cycles. This grant remains a vital tool for fostering “place” in neighborhoods across Charlotte. Keep an eye out for our next grant cycle!
- **A year of engagement and education:** We hosted nearly 800 people at 14 events, ranging from pumpkin carvings and movie screenings to trivia and insightful chats with design and public space leaders from across the state.
- **A celebration of excellence:** The UDC was honored five times by our peers and professional associations for our work in planning, design, and creative engagement. These accolades belong to our partners across city departments and the neighborhood leaders who trust us to help implement their vision. I am particularly proud of

the UDC’s second “GOVIE,” awarded to our team for our collaboration with the Corridors of Opportunity. This award, along with recognition from the North Carolina chapter of the American Planning Association, celebrates our creative engagement strategy within the Freedom/Wilkinson Corridor.

If we’ve ever met, you’ve likely heard me say that I have the absolute best job in Charlotte. I am incredibly lucky to lead this program and watch our team excel as they navigate and manage complex planning and design projects. 2026 is shaping up to be an extraordinary year as we anticipate the completion of two new public spaces, expanded placemaking partnerships, and new initiatives to ensure that people and the places they love continue to make Charlotte a more connected and vibrant place to call home.

Please continue reading to discover more of our story. Thank you for your support, your partnership, and your passion for what we do. Be sure to follow us on Instagram @clturbandesign to follow along.

Untill next Year,



Will Linville, AICP, CNUa
Managing Designer, Urban Design Center

02 MISSION & HISTORY

MISSION:

The Charlotte Urban Design Center's mission is to advance the quality of Charlotte's built environment and bring public awareness to the importance of urban design. The center reveals how design influences quality of life and economic resilience and advocates for great public places in a livable city.

PURPOSE AND HISTORY:

The Charlotte Planning, Design & Development Department formed the Charlotte Urban Design Center in 2016 to consolidate its urban design consultation, placemaking, and community engagement services under one roof.

With its physical space rooted in South End, the urban design team offers community members more access to these services, builds on past successes, and continues to excel in design and engagement.

CHARLOTTE TROLLEY



CHARLOTTE
TRANSPORTATION
CENTER

PEOPLE
MAKE
CITIES

CHARLOTTE



03 STAFF



Will Linville
[AICP, CNUa]
Managing Designer



Charlotte Lamb Kuuskvere
[CNUa]
Project Manager &
Urban Designer



Justin Ritchey
[AICP, CNUa]
Project Coordinator &
Urban Designer



Ría Naab
Community Placemaking
Associate



James Faucette
Administrative Officer

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

In 2025, two new team members joined the Urban Design Center. We are excited to have them on board - read more about their professional experience below!

KARA O'HEARN

Kara brings comprehensive academic and practical experience to Charlotte's urban landscape. With a Master of Architecture focusing on Urbanism and a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies with a Minor in Urban Studies and Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, her educational background provides a strong foundation for tackling complex urban challenges.

Her experience teaching studio as a Graduate Teaching Assistant demonstrates her ability to communicate complex design principles and foster creative thinking. In the private sector, Kara has developed expertise in master planning, conceptual design across various scales, zoning overlays, and comprehensive plan work. Her passion lies in using design and analytical skills to create connected communities while thoughtfully integrating natural and urban environments.



Kara O'Hearn
Urban Designer & Planner

DHANYA MAMALLAN

Dhanya holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from Chennai, India—a city known for its rich cultural heritage and dynamic urban life, and earned her master's in urban design from Georgia Tech in 2023. Her academic journey also included time in the Netherlands, where she explored Dutch planning strategies and Water Urbanism.

Dhanya was drawn to the Urban Design Center for its collaborative, community-focused approach. "The Center's hands-on work and its engagement with grassroots projects really resonated with me," she shares. "I believe access to well-designed urban spaces is one of the most important public goods, and I'm excited to contribute to that mission here." She views urban design as a powerful tool for shaping how people live, often in subtle but profound ways.



Dhanya Mamallan
Associate Urban Designer
& Planner

04 STUDIO

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

On October 23rd, jurors, awardees, and guests gathered for the fifth annual Urban Design Awards ceremony at the Urban Design Center's South End Studio. The awards program recognizes and celebrates quality urban design in Charlotte while encouraging continued community discussion about what makes great places. A diverse 10-member jury reviews nominated projects, looking for valuable contributions to the public realm - places that surprise and delight us, are worth revisiting, and help us feel at home in Charlotte. Awards like Urban Design Champion and Neighborhood Champion allow the jury to recognize the contributions of the organizations and individuals responsible for designing, planning, and programming those places. The 2025 Urbies Award recipients are:

- **Great New Development Near Transit: The Pass**
- **Great Walkable Neighborhood: Belmont**
- **Great New Life for an Old Place: Carolina Theatre**
- **Great Public Space: The Rail Trail**
- **Great Placemaking: Purposeful Walk at the Pearl**
- **Great Mobility Project: XCLT Trail**
- **Great Urban Architecture: The Collective on Tuckaseegee**
- **Great Suburban Design: Montford Park**
- **Great Student Project: The Artist Touch**
- **Great Urban Design Champion: David Walters**
- **Great Neighborhood Champion: Ricky Hall**
- **People's Choice Award for Great Urban Design: Camp North End**

THE JURY

- Co-chair, Will Linville, Urban Design Center Program Manager, City of Charlotte
- Co-chair, Daniel Wright, MSRE Graduate Program Director, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Tesho Akindede, Development Analyst, ATCO Properties and Management
- Kyle Baugh, Associate, Kimley-Horn
- Erin Chantry, Design and Preservation Division Manager, City of Charlotte
- Jen Brooks, Project Manager, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation
- Cathy Morrison, Chief Executive Officer, Neighboring Concepts
- Shawn Kennedy, Associate, Prosperity Alliance
- Ming-Chun Lee, Associate Professor of Architecture and Master of Urban Design Graduate Program Director, University of North Carolina at Charlotte





Great New Development Near Transit – The Pass



Great Suburban Design – Montford Park



Great Placemaking – Purposeful Walk at the Pearl



Great New Life for an Old Place – Carolina Theatre



Great Urban Architecture – The Collective on Tuckasegee



Great Walkable Neighborhood – Belmont



**Great Public Space –
The Rail Trail**



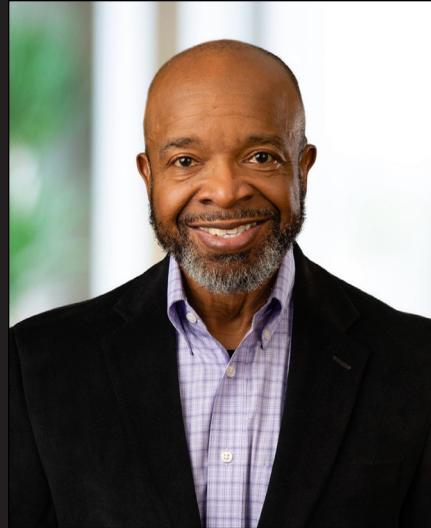
**Great Student Project –
The Artist Touch**



**Great Mobility Project –
XCLT Trail**



**People’s Choice Award for Great
Urban Design –
Camp North End**



**Great Neighborhood Champion
– Rickey Hall**



**Great Urban Design Champion –
David Walters**

**2025
AWARD
RECIPIENTS**

PEOPLE MAKE CITIES

COMMUNICATIONS

Urban Design Center staff have successfully grown the center's digital presence, giving residents even more ways to interact with the Charlotte Urban Design Center. The People Make Cities blog generated 12 unique articles this year sharing industry knowledge, events, and urban design fundamentals. In 2025, over 2,700 people read our blog posts - that's an increase from 2024 of over **850 readers!** Connections, the UDC's quarterly newsletter, continues to share the Urban Design Center team updates on work done in our focus areas: urban design consultancy, the Placemaking Program, and our South End Studio.

The Urban Design Center Facebook and Instagram accounts boast urban design and placemaking content, sharing projects being delivered to you, public events, and opportunities to work with our team!



Join the newsletter mailing list using the QR code!



@clturbandesign

2025 SOCIAL STATS

	INSTAGRAM		FACEBOOK	
POSTS	68		60	
IEWS	136.3K	[+241%]	11.1K	[+110%]
ENGAGEMENT	2K	[+100%]	364	[+24%]
FOLLOWERS	5,113	[+109%]	459	[+11%]

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@clturbandesign



14 EVENTS IN 2025

850+ TICKETS RESERVED

700+ TOTAL ATTENDEES

MOST POPULAR EVENT:
Music Off the Rails!

2025 EVENTS

CALENDAR

- THU** JAN 19 | COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS
08:00 AM
- TUE** FEB 18 | PEOPLE MAKE CITIES MOVIE NIGHT
06:00 PM
- TUE** MAR 18 | CLASSROOM TO CAREER NETWORKING
04:00 PM
- THU** MAY 1 | SOUTH END WALKING TOUR
06:00 PM
- TUE** MAY 19 | POWER PANEL: PORTFOLIO POWER WITH CLT IS CREATIVE
06:00 PM

- THU** JUNE 26 | PEOPLE MAKE CITIES MOVIE NIGHT
06:00 PM
- TUE** JULY 15 | CITY TRIVIA NIGHT
06:00 PM
- TUE** AUG 19 | MUSIC OFF THE RAILS
06:00 PM
- FRI** SEPT 19 | PARK(ING) DAY
ALL DAY
- TUE** SEPT 23 | COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS
08:00 AM

- THU** OCT 23 | 5TH ANNUAL URBAN DESIGN AWARDS
05:30 PM
- THU** OCT 28 | PEOPLE MAKE CITIES PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST
05:30 PM
- THU** NOV 20 | CITY TRIVIA NIGHT
06:00 PM
- THU** DEC 11 | PEOPLE MAKE CITIES MOVIE NIGHT
06:00 PM

Join us next year!



STUDIO PROGRAMMING

The South End Studio opened its doors to host monthly events for community members to join in sharing a passion for creating cities for people. In total, 14 events were hosted at the studio that attracted over 700 attendees who participated in film screenings, city trivia, a career networking event, and more! These events often spark conversations about the built environment and celebrate the amazing work being done to make Charlotte a city for all. In the summer, the studio hosted its first Music Off the Rails event while simultaneously celebrating Placemaking Grant awardees with a local music, light bites and great conversations!

In 2026, the Urban Design Center will proudly continue opening the studio to community members, where we'll be sure to continue providing our most popular urban design-focused events and even new offerings! Sign up for the "Connections" newsletter shared via QR code on the previous page 12 be notified of future events!



05 CONSULTANCY

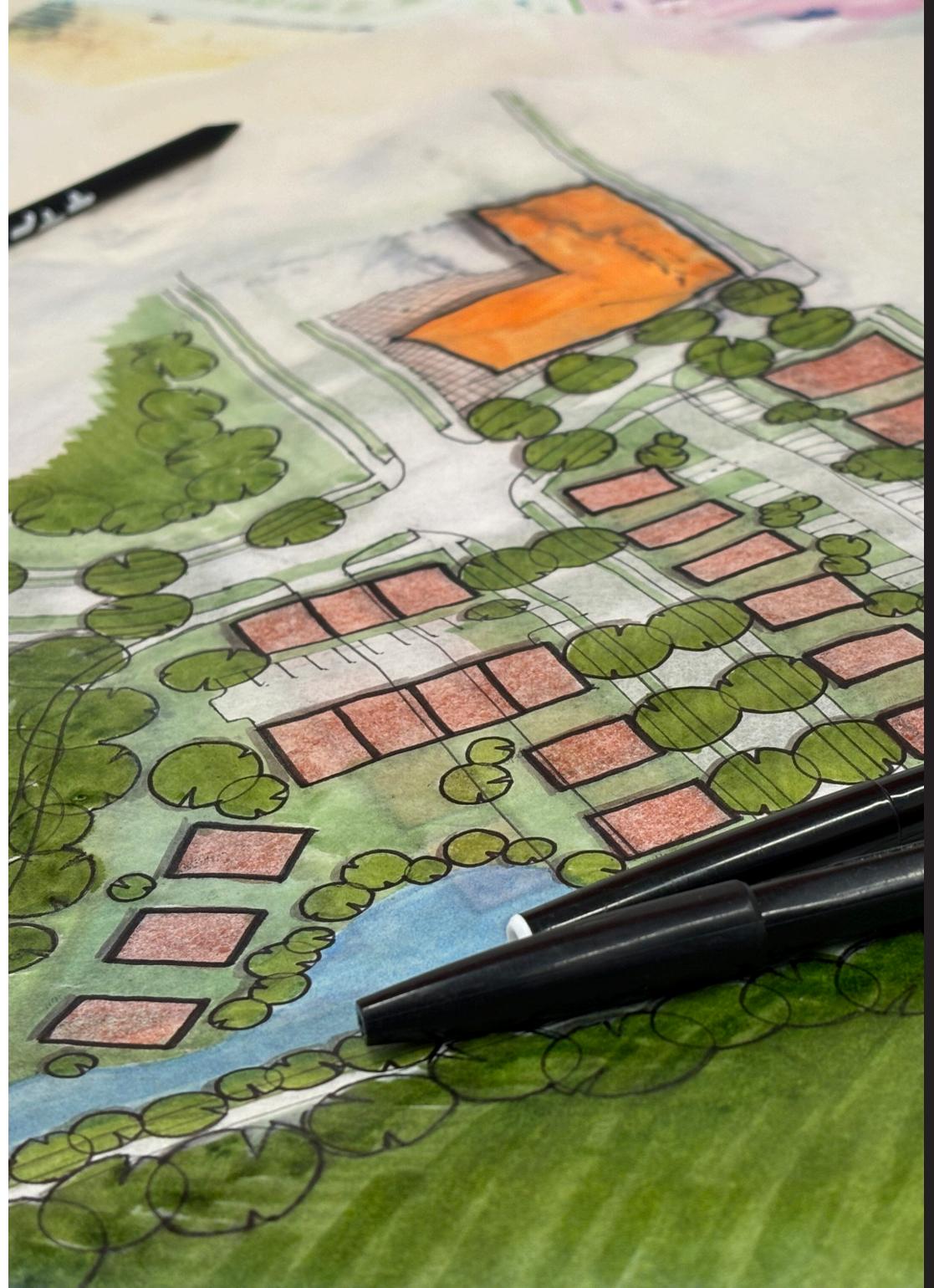
DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO RENDERINGS

The Urban Design Center supported the Planning Department's Rezoning and Entitlements division with design services to understand potential development scenarios in key locations. The UDC team created digital perspective renderings, before and after sections, and a site plan showcasing potential changes to the built environment in multiple locations throughout Charlotte. These visualizations envisioned new, mixed-use neighborhood centers and missing middle housing options, all designed in accordance with the city's updated Unified Development Ordinance.

MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING ANALYSIS

In partnership with Housing and Neighborhood Services (HNS), the Urban Design Center explored housing solutions on city-owned sites across Charlotte. The housing concepts developed were examples of missing middle housing, which are traditionally defined as a variety of multi-family or clustered housing types. Missing middle housing types differ in density and arrangement but are still compatible, through intentional design, with existing neighborhood character.

Several locations throughout Charlotte were thoughtfully designed to fit a mixture of housing types. The intent of these designs are to spur growth that preserves the area's neighborhood's context, envision attainable housing options that differ from traditional detached homes, and to strengthen the community's unique sense of place. These housing arrangements provide alternative solutions to density that build community and meet the need for increased housing.





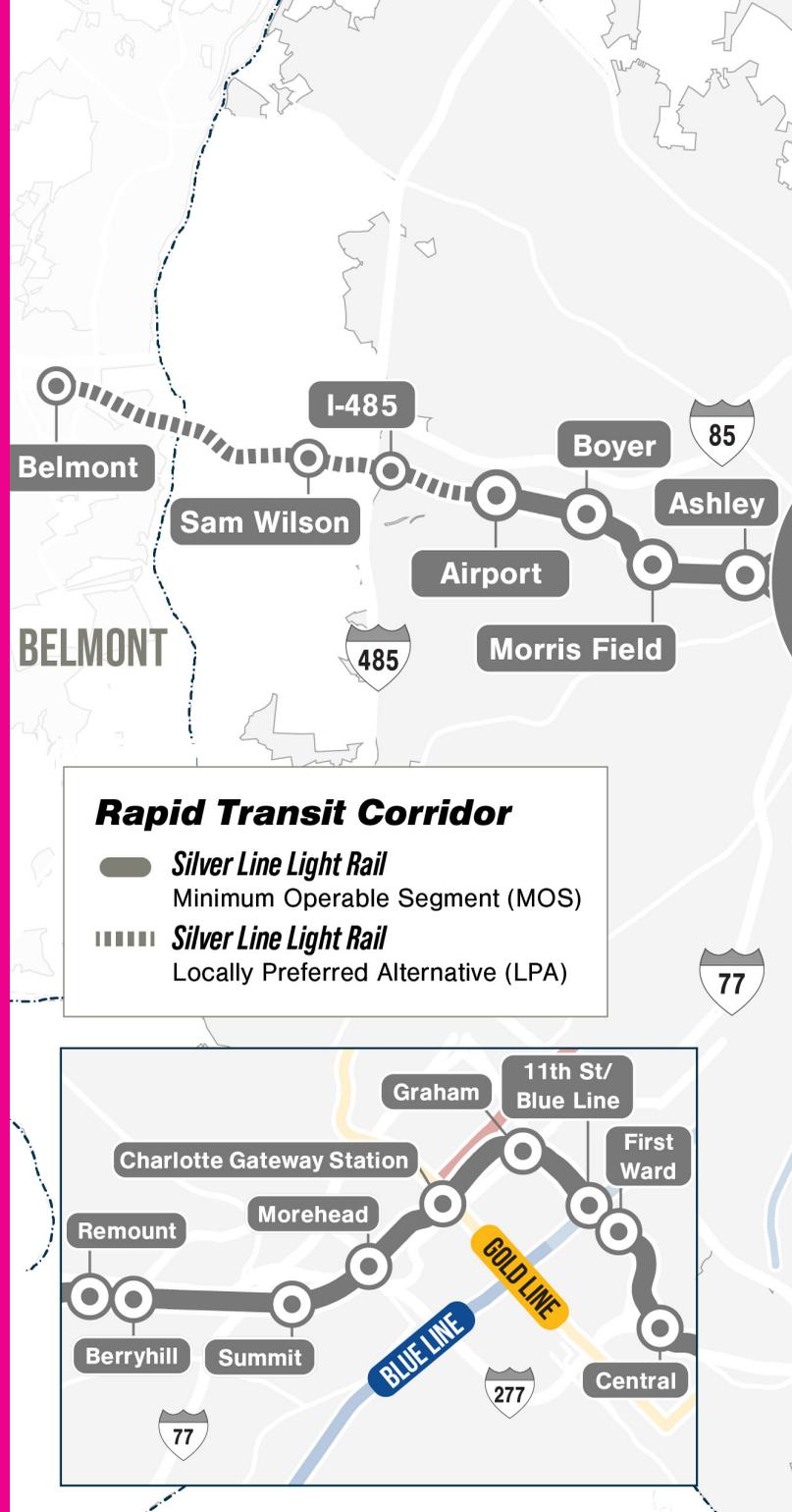
JoAnn Sieburg-Baker

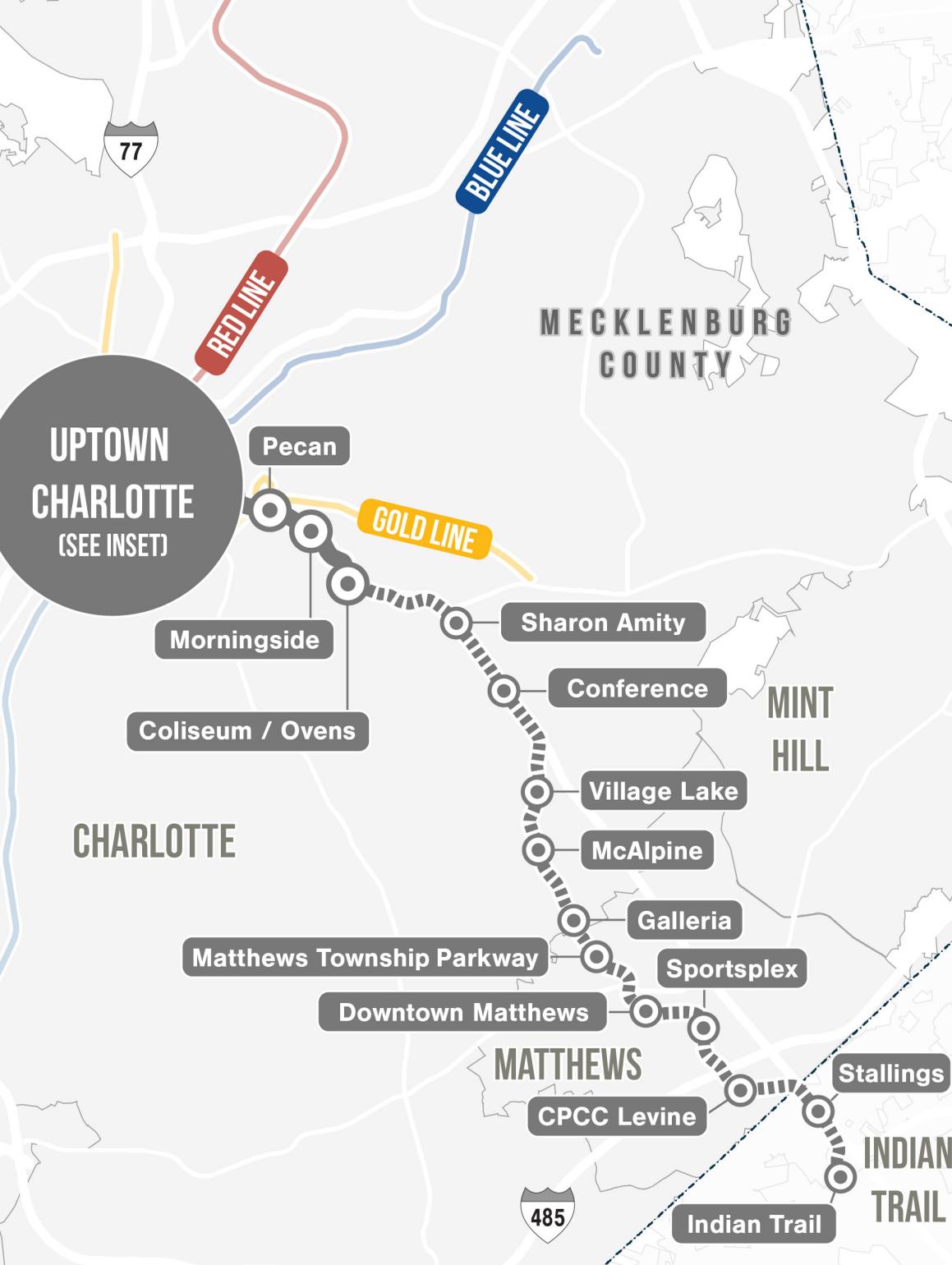
TRANSIT SYSTEM PLAN

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

In partnership with Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), the Urban Design Center designed a comprehensive document that outlined the future of transit investment in Charlotte. The Transit System Plan: Moving Forward Together (TSP) outlines Charlotte's strategy to move forward with a robust transit system that meets the needs of all users.

The plan includes higher frequency and reliability of bus service, enhancements to the rider experience, expansion of the micro transit program, and delivery of the light rail, streetcar, and commuter rail lines. This network came together from previous studies, analysis, design and community engagement.





TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES

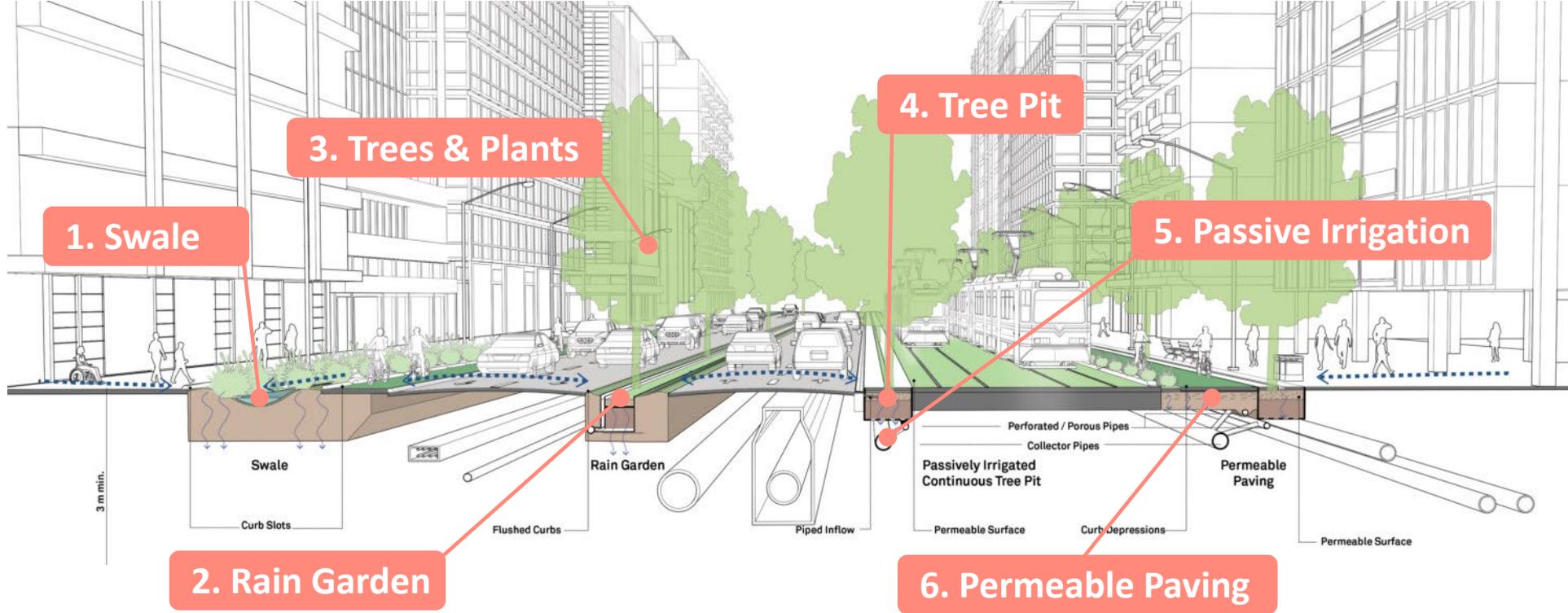
SILVER LINE VISION AND GOALS

With transit funding secured, Charlotte has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape equitable growth along the Silver Line. Led in Partnership with CATS, the Silver Line Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Policy Framework and Implementation Strategy is an effort to ensure this transformative infrastructure investment creates shared opportunity for all residents.

This work builds on two decades of lessons learned. Since the Blue Line opened, the corridor has attracted nearly \$10 billion in economic development - a tremendous success that also brought unintended consequences. Market pressures displaced existing residents and small businesses, pricing many out of neighborhoods they called home.

The Silver Line TOC effort applies these hard-won lessons proactively, identifying strategies to preserve affordability and ensure development benefits everyone, not just newcomers.

This shared framework will directly inform policy recommendations that will be delivered in Summer 2026.



GREEN STREETS - RESEARCH & RECOMMENDATIONS

In late 2025 and in partnership with the Mecklenburg County Soil and Water Conservation Board and Office of Sustainability, UDC staff outlined the value of Green Streets by highlighting case studies and best practices from cities across the US and created a rough outline of how a green street program might function in Charlotte.

The research highlighted demonstrates that green streets deliver far more than a single environmental benefit that mitigates flood risk. Beyond that, they enhance community livability, foster urban biodiversity, and create measurable economic advantages. A “green street” is a form of green infrastructure that strategically integrates vegetation, soil, sustainable materials, and specialized engineered systems into the public right-of-way. This approach represents a critical shift from a linear “gray” infrastructure model—which relies on pipes and drains to move water away from cities - to a regenerative, nature-based system that manages stormwater at its source.



PATTERN BOOKS

The team partnered with Housing and Neighborhood services to develop the region's first missing middle housing pattern book. A housing pattern book is a guide that illustrates preferred architectural styles, building designs, and site layouts for new residential development as well as, infill residential developments within the context of existing neighborhoods. The Pattern Books' purpose is to guide the character of new developments in an already active market, while facing regulatory restraints within North Carolina. These plans offer an accessible way to build contemporary middle density housing that fit the predominant architectural styles of Charlotte's established neighborhoods.

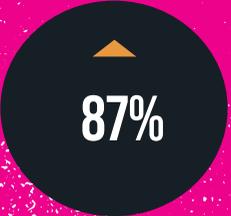
Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) will make up the first set of designs to be housed within the Pattern Book, and are expected in early Spring 2026. ADUs are smaller footprint residences that are built on a lot with a single family house or duplex. This residential type will infill established neighborhoods and offer increased density opportunities that offer community members the flexibility for multi-generational living, to generate income, and offer affordable housing opportunities.

GREENPRINTS

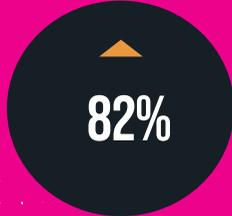
The Urban Design Center, Corridors of Opportunity and Office of Sustainability and Resilience partnered with the Knight Foundation, CleanAIRE NC, and Sol Nation to capture the concerns of the community participants and develop a plan titled GreenPrints. GreenPrints is rooted in the unwavering commitment to Environmental Justice, ensuring that every community, regardless of race, income, or background, has a clean, safe, and healthy environment in which to live, work, and play. Analysis of environmental facts and data was captured through maps and infographics to offer a better understanding of the impacts to the Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry Corridor.

As this corridor is the first in the GreenPrints project, many of the engagement opportunities helped define the GreenPrints initiative and focus areas, as well as corridor-specific public concern and attention. A Pre-Kickoff Meeting with the neighborhood leaders established three overarching interests including Sustainable Homes, Shade Strategies, and Clean Air + Transportation. Additional survey responses from the larger community also prioritized their top climate-related issues of urban flooding, storms, extreme heat, and high winds and hurricanes.

Top Community Priorities (High + Growing Priority) (All Issue Areas Rated as High or Growing Priority by 50%+ of Respondents)



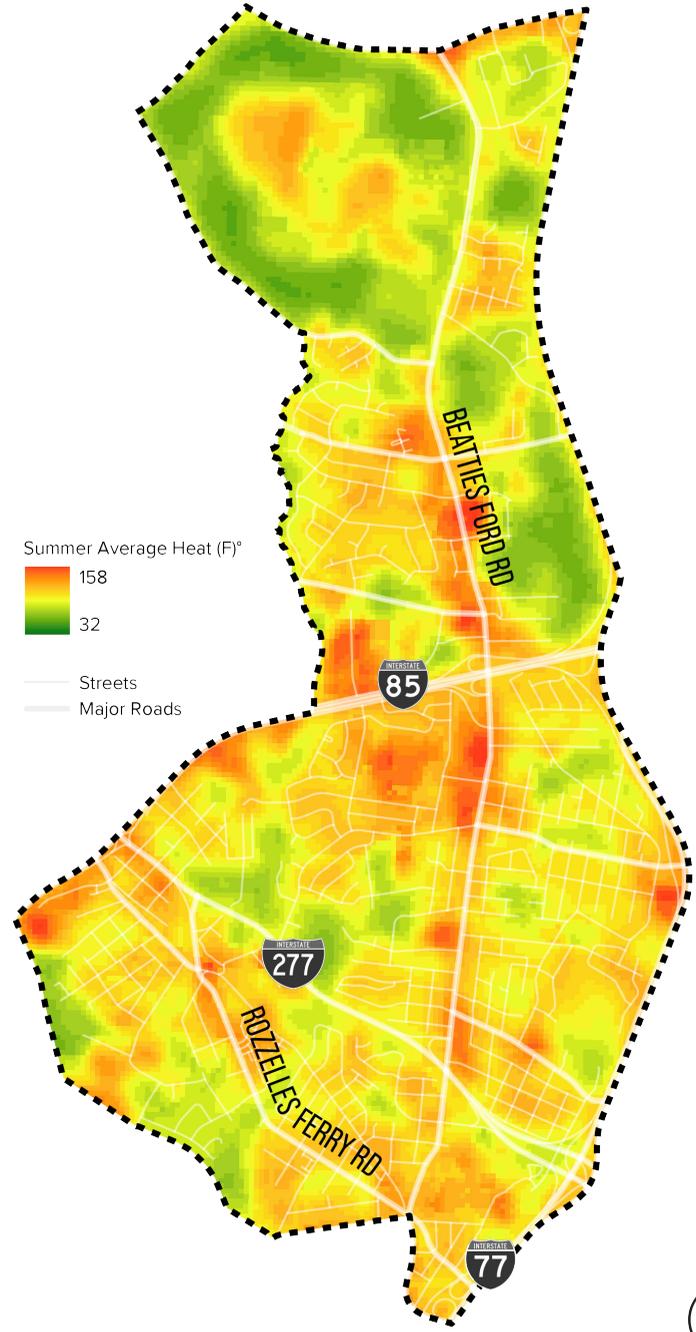
ENERGY BURDEN

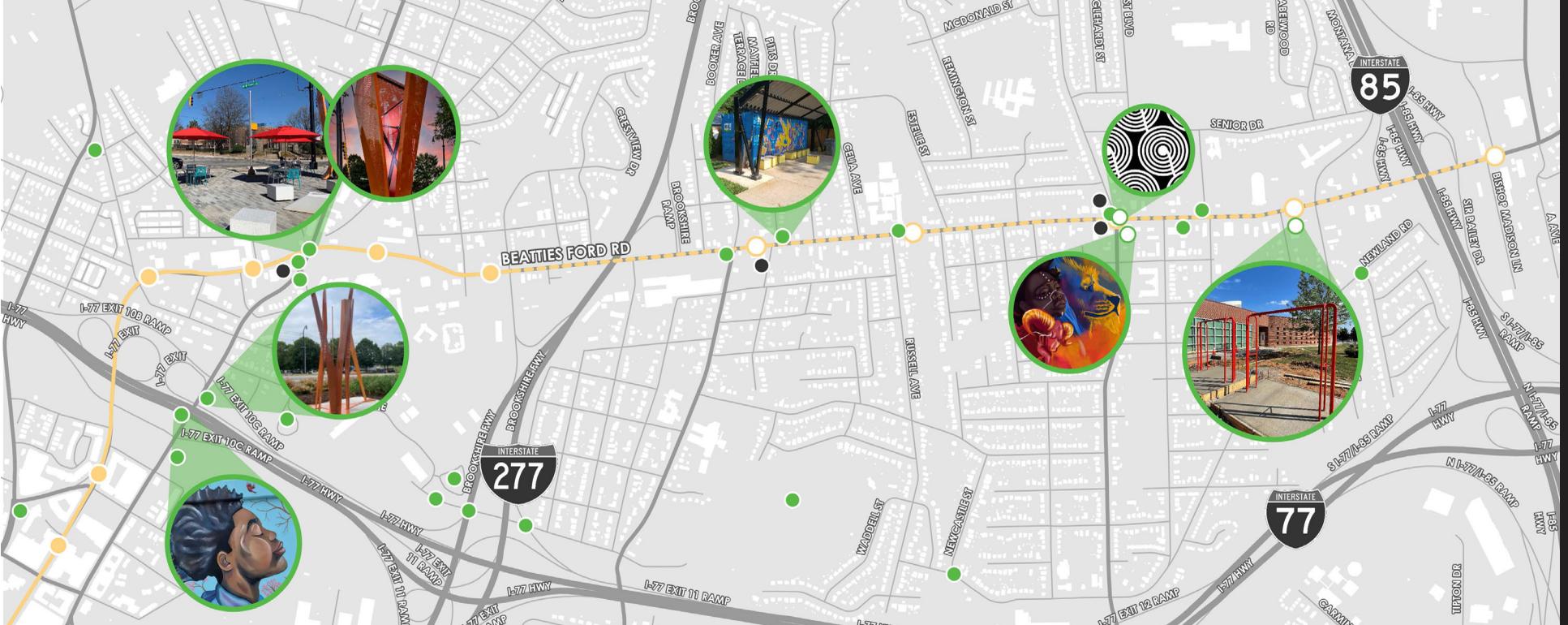


LEGACY POLLUTION



SUSTAINABLE HOUSING





THE BEATTIES FORD/ROZZELLES FERRY CORRIDOR PLAYBOOK

Because of significant recent capital investments inside the corridor (including the LYNX Gold Line) the Corridors and Urban Design Center teams completed a Placemaking and Public Space Playbook (2021) to begin quick-win implementation projects that supported the corridor's neighborhood. It identified locations and project ideas on primarily underutilized public land where the corridor's history and identity can be celebrated. While implementation started with projects that celebrate place, culture and identity, the corridor was lacking a playbook to prioritize near term investments and address stakeholder concerns.

The Corridor Playbook process lasted approximately nine months and involved direct engagement with residents and stakeholders and wrapped in late 2025. Over 2,000 community touchpoints were documented across a five-month engagement timeline, including email and text outreach, flyer distribution, and ongoing attendance at community meetings. This input was used to validate project priorities, refine recommendations across the corridor's six guiding themes, and inform the prioritized list of projects, programs, and partnerships that make up the Playbook's recommendations.



06 PLACEMAKING

The Placemaking Grant Program continued to grow in 2025, receiving over 60 applications. Thanks to the impressive selection of proposals, we partnered with the Office of Sustainability and Resilience and the Corridors of Opportunity program to increase the overall funding available to neighborhoods and organizations.

In 2025, the grant cycle awarded more than \$230,000 to support 16 new projects that will bring vibrant improvements to Charlotte neighborhoods. These initiatives range from traffic calming murals to community gardens.

Our city-led placemaking work within the

Corridors of Opportunity included mural installations at two former motels along West Sugar Creek Road, murals along Beatties Ford Road and a commemorative marker installed along Moores Chapel Road in West Charlotte.



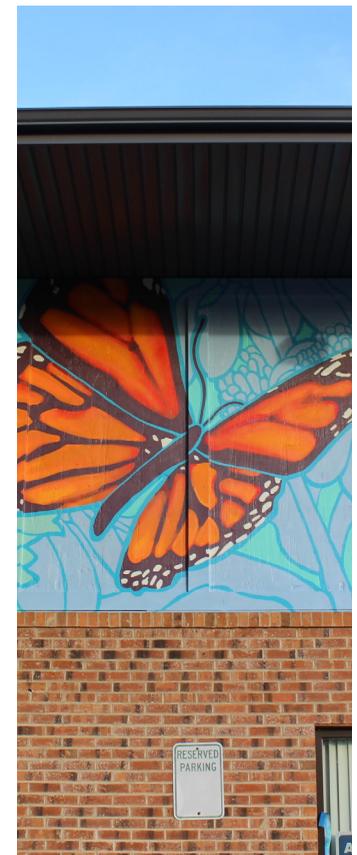
16 community placemaking grants were awarded in 2025 with a total value of \$230,000.



63 local artists were selected for the Creative Pool. Their inclusion in the pool provided placemaking and programming opportunities from the City of Charlotte and other arts organizations.

W SUGAR CREEK MURAL AT MOTEL [CITY-LED]

Two former motels were recently converted into housing by a private development team inside the W. Sugar Creek Rd. corridor. This conversion right sizes the motel market in the area and, in turn, created needed attainable housing for residents. During the creation of the playbook for this corridor, the community expressed the need to share their history and identity while also providing ways to address community trauma and historical challenges. When asked, many community members desired a display that shared their history and the people that have contributed to their community, while also clearly communicating a promising future. The UDC provided technical assistance and project management to the development team. The two murals were installed by Liz Haywood and Jen Hill, both local artists.





FEATURED 2025 PLACEMAKING GRANT PROJECTS

TRADE AND SOLOMON TRAFFIC CALMING MURAL

This community-driven placemaking initiative is designed to improve safety and walkability at the intersection of Trade Street, Solomon Street, and Walford Drive near Charlotte's Five Points Plaza. The project transforms an overly wide, high-speed intersection into a safer, more inviting space through lane narrowing, painted curb extensions, vertical bollards, and a vibrant pavement mural. Led by the Biddleville-Smallwood Community Organization in collaboration with CDOT and local artist Makayla Binter, the mural reflects neighborhood heritage and identity, incorporating symbols like the JCSU Biddle Hall clock tower, monarch butterflies, and motifs celebrating community traditions and greenway access. Developed through extensive public engagement, this project not only calms traffic but also strengthens connections to Five Points Plaza and celebrates the neighborhood's past, present, and future.

PINCKNEY-TO-27TH PASSAGE

The Pinckney-to-27th Street Passage is a community-led effort to create a safe, walkable connection between Villa Heights and North Davidson Street, improving access to local businesses, CATS bus stops, and the LYNX Blue Line at 25th Street Station. The project transformed an overgrown lot into a welcoming walkway with natural landscaping, evergreen borders for privacy, and interactive features like a chalk box for kids and community share stations. Unique engagement activities included a goat-grazing day to clear brush and an Eagle Scout-led tree planting initiative in partnership with TreesCharlotte. Once complete, the passage will serve as both a practical connector and a calming space for residents and visitors.

LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE'S FARMSHARE SHED

Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance (LNA) refurbished an on-site storage unit into a refrigerated space to store fresh produce donations and lay the foundation for a future community garden. This transformation project is within LNA's broader vision for "culturally responsible food access" in the Lakeview neighborhood. By adding insulation and a refrigeration system, the project ensures perishable donations can be stored safely and distributed consistently, extending shelf life and reducing food waste. Beyond food storage, the initiative sets the stage for urban agriculture efforts that will further strengthen local food security. Community engagement was central throughout the process, with residents participating in digital campaigns and in-person events. This project both addresses immediate needs for safe food storage and creates long-term opportunities for neighborhood-driven food production and community resilience.



WEST BOULEVARD COMMEMORATIVE MARKERS [CITY-LED]

Celebrating the history of the West Boulevard Corridor kicked off with the installation of the first commemorative marker illustrated by local artist Jamil Dyair Steele. Dyair's artistic and creative ability, paired with his intimate knowledge of the corridor, meant he was well prepared to design a unique canvas that blends art and history. The installation is near the entrance to Moore's Sanctuary AME Zion Church and highlights the history of the church and its congregation.

Future markers have been fabricated and are awaiting installation in the coming months - all celebrating the rich history of the West Charlotte community.





ROZZ-LAND MURAL [CITY-LED]

The mural, titled “Rozzland Reflections” or “Rozzland,” represents life along Rozzelles Ferry Road in Charlotte’s West End during its 19th and 20th century development. It features images of local transportation, housing, and cultural venues from that era.

A Charlotte local, T’Afo Feimster, painted this mural and has a rich background in the visual arts with experience in story telling by curators exhibits for LATIBAH Collard Green Museum, the Front Porch Theater Group, and the Harvey B. Gantt Center for Arts + Culture.



BEATTIES FORD ROAD MURAL [CITY-LED]

[CITY-LED]

This mural honors the legacy of John P. Kee, Fantasia, and Anthony Hamilton - three iconic vocalists and song writers whose roots, resilience, and artistry reflect the spirit of the Beatties Ford Road community. My desire was to communicate the idea that the success you see in them is the success that lives in you - a reminder that greatness grows right here, and your story is just as powerful.

Abel R. Jackson III is a professional muralist and painter based in Charlotte, North Carolina, with over two decades of experience creating public art that uplifts communities and celebrates cultural identity. Rooted in airbrush, aerosol, and acrylic painting, his work explores themes of unity, resilience, and spiritual awareness.



07 AWARDS

The Urban Design Center experienced an incredible year of work being recognized and honored by peers. This work included a wide spectrum of project types, highlighting the professional range and technical expertise of the Urban Design Center team.

Projects honored include our 3-D City Building Game, the Freedom-Wilkinson Corridor Playbook, Beatties Ford Road Corridor, our updated Placemaking Hub, and Allegra Westbrooks Regional Library's public space. These awards highlight the importance collaborative and community-oriented projects that positively shape our built environment.

THE 3-D CITY BUILDING GAME

APA-NC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Community members of all ages are welcomed into a glimpse of the day in the life of the UDC staff through our 3-D City Building Game. The American Planning Association - North Carolina Chapter recognized our creative engagement efforts in which we teach the urban design basics through city blocks and scaled urban building typologies. Student groups and professionals alike consider the impacts of development near a transit station area while working through scenarios that illustrate real-world community-building issues. The exercise was also showcased as part of a panel discussion in Portland, OR - over 110 planning and design professionals from across the country worked together to build around transit!



FREEDOM-WILKINSON CORRIDOR PLAYBOOK

GOVIES CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

The UDC and COO led the creation of the Freedom/Wilkinson Corridor Playbook (awarded a 2024 APA-NC Marvin Collins Award). The playbook, finished in 2024, developed a shared vision for corridor residents that focused on improving public safety, enhancing the overall appearance of the corridor, prioritizing economic development, and providing mobility options. To inform the implementation recommendations, UDC staff employed photovoice - an engagement method that gives residents and stakeholders disposable cameras to highlight threads of neighborhood fabric that are meaningful to them. The interdepartmental city team that collaborated on the creation of the playbook was awarded a GOVIE for Creative Engagement.



- Beverlee Sanders, Charlotte Communication & Marketing

- Anthony Mendez, CDOT

- Samantha Miller, CDOT

- Tammatha Clodfelter, CMPD

- Walta Blackmon, General Services

- Alexis Gordon, Economic Development

- Arta Osmanaj, Economic Development

- Kelsi Preston, H&NS

- Star Webb-Allen, H&NS

- Andrew Ausel, PD&D

- Erin Chantry, PD&D

- Madison Dugar, PD&D

- Erin Gillespie, PD&D

- Will Linville, PD&D (PM)

- Justin Ritchey, PD&D



THE BEATTIES FORD ROAD CORRIDOR

AIA CHARLOTTE 2025 CITATION AWARD FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECT DELIVERY

A body of work along the Beatties Ford Road Corridor that has been supported and implemented by the UDC and COO teams alongside neighborhood leaders, stakeholders and City departments was honored by the American Institute of Architects' Charlotte Chapter. The Corridor was celebrated for its collaborative efforts amongst multiple implementation efforts that celebrate community culture and identity.

In a half decade, corridor investments total nearly \$6MM in public spaces/programming and quick placemaking wins. Projects include three public spaces, numerous public art installations (murals, culture, etc.), decorative crosswalks and more!



PLACEMAKING HUB

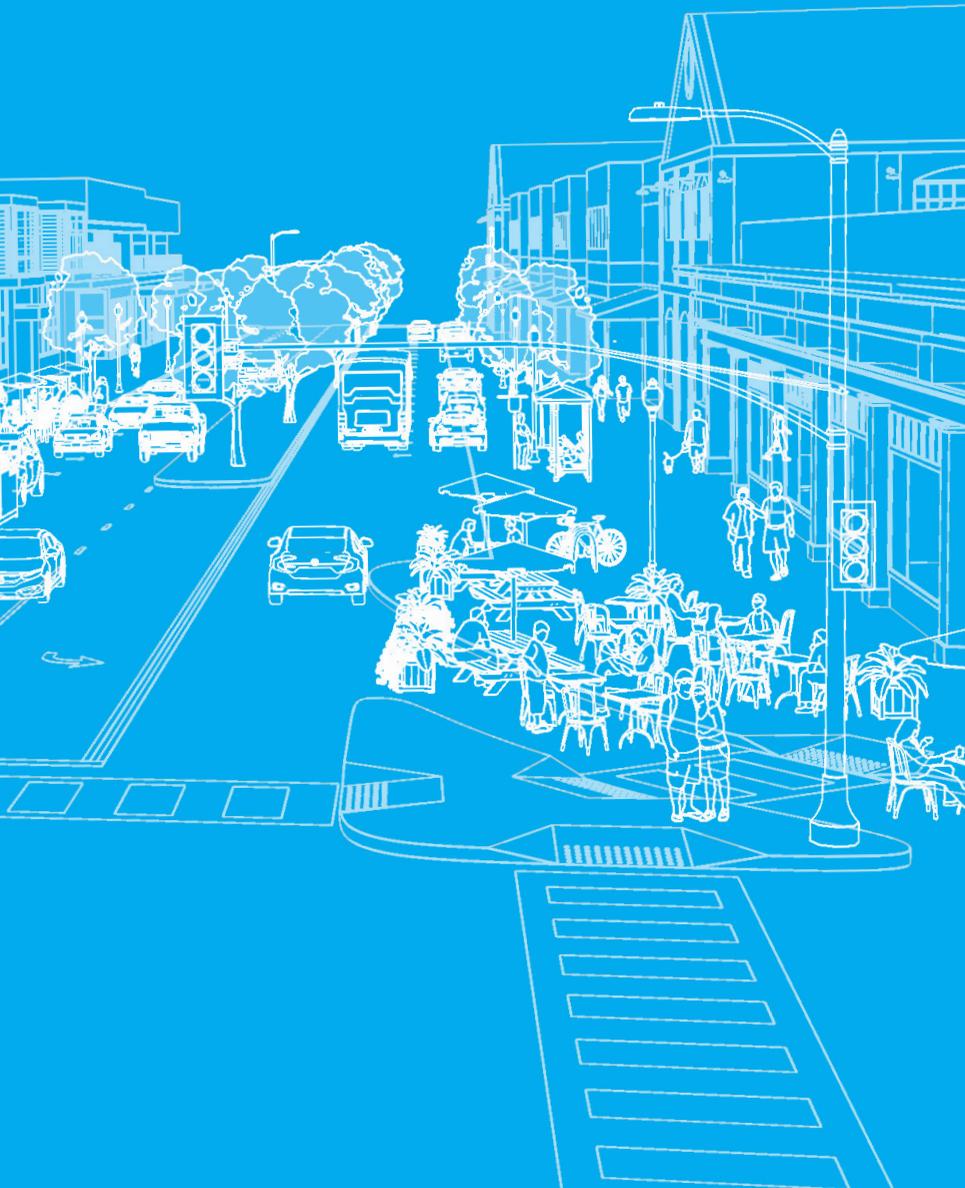
APA-NC IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

The Charlotte Placemaking Hub was awarded a 2025 Marvin Collins award for Implementation and represents a significant investment in ensuring that placemaking in Charlotte continues to be a simple, implementable process that is impactful to the public realm as possible. It streamlines community placemaking tools available throughout the City of Charlotte, including the Urban Design Center, CDOT, Housing & Neighborhood Services, and General Services departments.

The Hub, established in 2018 and directly responsible for the implementation of over 160 placemaking projects across Charlotte, creatively illustrates specific processes, procedures and permitting necessary for communities to enhance their streets and public spaces.. The update streamlines the existing permitting process to consolidate numerous separate applications into one application with two distinct toolkits.

The toolkits support two categories of placemaking: Creating Place and Supporting Art. “Creating Place” includes placemaking projects that create new public spaces or that activate or enhance existing places and streetscapes. These interventions include bicycle parking, bus stop improvements, parklets, pop-up plazas, sidewalk dining, or street furnishings. “Supporting Art” are interventions that incorporate artwork, sculptures and wayfinding into the public realm and may include decorative signage, sculptures, wall murals, street and sidewalk murals, and utility cabinet wraps.





ALLEGRA WESTBROOKS REGIONAL LIBRARY

APA-NC GREAT TRANSFORMATION AWARD

The public space's design was shaped by input from local residents and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Their feedback was incorporated into the final design concept and installed over an 18-month period. At the heart of the design is a signature tree - transplanted from the banks of the Catawba River - that provides natural shade during the summer months. The space also features movable seating, a deck constructed from durable Brazilian hardwood, a mural installation, and a kinetic sculpture (both by local artists).



PEOPLE
MAKE
CITIES



CHARLOTTE
URBAN DESIGN
CENTER

+

 CITY of CHARLOTTE