

the
Neighborhood
DesignCenter

Build Together

Collaborating with East Baltimore neighbors on a first-of-its-kind Designer-in-Residence Program.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS





Overview

The Neighborhood Design Center seeks 3 exceptional community designers to participate in **Build Together**, an intensive, 3-month Designer-in-Residence program in Baltimore, MD funded by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

During Summer 2021 (June 1 to August 31), selected Designers-in-Residence will partner with community members in 3 East Baltimore neighborhoods (Broadway East, Johnston Square, and East Baltimore Midway) to engage residents, identify a site, co-design, and then collaboratively build a quick-turnaround public space intervention.

Projects will be developed with residents and should address a built environment need identified through previous planning efforts in the respective neighborhoods. We're looking for innovative ideas that address the streetscape, landscape, neighborhood history, and more, and projects must be achievable within the \$10,000 implementation budget and the 3-month implementation window.

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Residents will be provided furnished apartments in or accessible to their respective neighborhoods, compensated with a monthly stipend of \$1,200 (with the expectation of about 32 hours of work per week), and offered access to work / studio space at **Open Works**, a local makerspace, and a creative community within the neighboring Station North Arts District.

Through a partnership with **Morgan State University**, an HBCU in northeast Baltimore City, Designers-in-Residence will be invited to present their work through the School of Architecture and Planning. Depending on the qualifications of respective Designers-in-Residence, a limited teaching opportunity may also be available.

Designers-in-Residence will be selected by a jury that includes community members from participating neighborhoods, members of the Neighborhood Design Center staff, and local and national design professionals.

Selected applicants will be notified by April 30th, 2021.



Eligibility

Any adult (21+) with experience partnering with communities to make projects happen in the built environment. There are no specific educational or professional requirements.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED INCLUDE:

- Applicant's experience designing and implementing quality projects in the public realm.
- Applicant's demonstrated ability to work with community members on built projects.
- Preference will be given to applicants from backgrounds underrepresented in the design field, especially BIPOC candidates.
- Applicants training and/or professional experience in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, social design, community design, visual art, or other design and art-related fields.
- Relevant community work/organizing work may be substituted for educational/professional experience.

In our effort to reach a broader pool of applicants than are typically engaged through design and art residencies, we understand that qualified candidates may come from less conventional education and work backgrounds. If you think you'd be a fit for this program but don't meet the eligibility requirements, we still encourage you to apply. **If you have questions, you can email us directly at buildtogether@ndc-md.org.**



How to Apply

To limit the burden on applicants, and reserve major creative decisions until Designers-in-Residence are on the ground and in conversation with community partners, we are not looking for project proposals. Instead, we are interested in your past work. Emphasis should be placed on projects in the public realm that have a clear community benefit.

TO APPLY, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO THE GOOGLE FORM PORTAL:

- **A portfolio** of past work (PDF format of **no more than 30 pages, no larger than 10MB**)
- **A resume** or CV, PDF format, with emphasis on past community work
- **A statement of 300 or fewer words**, in PDF format, describing your interest in and qualifications for this program. Demonstrating an understanding of Baltimore City (or a city of similar scale and social and economic conditions) as well as a perspective on community engagement is preferred.

Applications are due to the Google Form portal by **April 10, 11:59pm.**

Please send other questions about the program or application process to Program Manager Merrell Hambleton at buildtogether@ndc-md.org with subject line “Build Together Application Question.”

[APPLY HERE](#)

About NDC

Founded in 1968, the Neighborhood Design Center is a nonprofit organization that facilitates the development of healthy, equitable neighborhoods through community-engaged design and planning services.

By providing the [tools], expertise, and partnerships necessary to realize neighborhood visions, we support broad participation in the evolution of the built environment.



The Context

The concept for the Build Together program evolved from conversations with NDC community partners, specifically around the challenge of implementing projects.

The core audience for the Build Together project are residents of East Baltimore. Specifically, this program will serve residents of the Johnston Square, Broadway East and East Baltimore Midway neighborhoods of East Baltimore.

Though the area is adjacent to the rapidly developing Station North Arts District, much of East Baltimore is still severely disinvested. In the project catchment area, more than 34% of residential properties are vacant or abandoned, and there are whole blocks of vacant lots. The unemployment rate is 21.7%, almost twice that of Baltimore City as a whole. Due to a history of racially biased planning and lending, much of East Baltimore is severely disinvested and the quality of public spaces has suffered as a result.

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Over its fifty-year history, [the Neighborhood Design Center](#) has established long-standing relationships in East Baltimore.

Recently, we collaborated with East Baltimore Midway (Greater Greenmount Community Association) on a greenspace and streetscaping plan, our partners at the 6th Branch and Unknown Studio helped lead the Broadway East Greenprint (New Broadway East Community Association), and we've partnered with our neighbors in Johnston Square (ReBuild Johnston Square) regularly.

We recommend grounding yourself in the host neighborhoods and possible intervention opportunities by looking at the following planning documents*:

[East Baltimore Midway](#)
[Johnston Square](#)
[Broadway East](#)

**Some documents are still in draft form. Please use them for the purposes of this application only, and do not share them. Thank you.*



[APPLY TODAY!](#)