

Baltimore Inclusive Community Design & Planning VISTA: Morgan State University/Neighborhood Design Center

the
Neighborhood
DesignCenter

Position

VISTA Member (Inclusive Community Planning in Low-Income Baltimore Neighborhoods Project)

How to Apply:

- Register on the My AmeriCorps website:
<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/recruit/registration.do>
- Submit an application for the TMA Morgan State Inclusive Community Planning program:
<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=117208>

Deadline

- Accept applications: March 9, 2023 - May 31, 2023 (*if a strong candidate is identified, application may close before deadline*)
- Interviews dates: with applicants start on a rolling basis in March-May
- Selection Date: AmeriCorps VISTA candidate will be selected end of May/early June
- Program Dates: August 17, 2023 - August 16, 2024 (for a year).

Description

This full-time VISTA service position is dedicated to supporting community-based planning and design projects and improving outreach and engagement in low-income Baltimore City neighborhoods. The VISTA's work will include participating in team-based projects with the Neighborhood Design Center's staff and volunteers, documenting and evaluating existing outreach initiatives, and developing new approaches that better meet the need for inclusive and equitable engagement.

Examples of recent NDC projects in Baltimore include supporting the installation of a new green space for a community center in Harwood, designing a community open space for a vacant lot in East Baltimore Midway, reimagining a fellowship hall for the purpose of a digital equity hub, and planning and implementing an engagement strategy for a vacant school building in West Gate.

Listening to neighbors is always at the heart of NDC's work but it is not always easy to do. The VISTA member will learn from existing approaches and come up with new ones to build and sustain community participation in NDC projects among residents in low-income neighborhoods.

This position is sponsored by Morgan State University's School of Architecture and Planning in Baltimore, MD. The VISTA member will serve with NDC in the organization's Central Baltimore office (2-3 remote days per week permitted). Throughout the service year, the NDC and MSU School of Architecture and Planning will partner to support the VISTA Member with training resources, professional development, and mentorship opportunities.

Responsibilities

This full-time VISTA service position is dedicated to supporting community-based planning and design projects and improving outreach and engagement in low-income Baltimore City neighborhoods. Primary responsibilities for the VISTA member include

- Support outreach activities (e.g. site visits, surveying, tabling, note-taking, meeting with volunteers/residents) on planning and design projects. *May include occasional evening and weekend commitments.*
- Create materials (e.g. fliers, posters) and related resources (e.g. tip sheets, training presentations) to support outreach by other staff and volunteers.
- Research, document, and evaluate existing outreach approaches for design and planning projects at NDC.
- Design and implement new outreach and engagement approaches in collaboration with NDC staff, volunteers, and community partners.
- Support required quarterly and bi-monthly reporting for TMA VISTA Program.

The Neighborhood Design Center is a team-oriented, creative work environment. A flexible mindset and willingness to pitch in are highly valued. NDC's partners lead neighborhood change in low-income neighborhoods in Baltimore MD. The VISTA will spend significant time in the field as well as at the NDC offices.

Qualifications

- A Bachelor's Degree is required for this position.
- **Preference to alumni and students from Morgan State University's Architecture, City & Regional Planning, or Landscape Architecture graduate degree programs**

Additional qualifications include:

- have education/training/experience in one of the following fields: architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, construction management, community development, community organizing, social work, public health or related fields
- have experience with interviewing, surveying, social science or design research, data analysis, and/or community organizing
- have excellent communication skills, including the ability to articulate concepts verbally and in writing
- be energetic and self-directed, with effective time management and organizational skills
- be skilled at working with a diverse set of stakeholders and clients

- be curious and tenacious; be willing to work within complex issues and stay embedded in that complexity
- have a strong personal commitment to community design and social justice

To qualify for AmeriCorps VISTA, you must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident.

Compensation

TMA AmeriCorps VISTA provides service members with:

- a living allowance (\$1,350.16 per month) paid by direct deposit (Learn more at <https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/FY22-County-Living-Allowance-Rates-VISTA.pdf>)
- an Education Award (\$6,895) *or* an End of Service Stipend (\$1,800)
- a travel relocation allowance (if eligible)
- AmeriCorps VISTA Healthcare Allowance (offsets expenses up to \$8,550 for members with insurance) *or* AmeriCorps VISTA Health Benefit Plan

Learn more about VISTA benefits and compensation at <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/vista/benefits>.

Morgan State University is one of hundreds of colleges and universities participating in the Schools of National Service offering a range of education award matches and other financial incentives to support AmeriCorps alumni.

About the Morgan State University School of Architecture and Planning

For over 25-years the School of Architecture & Planning (SA+P) has provided students the opportunity to preview and experience the makings of the built and natural environment in the broader perspective of interdisciplinary learning headed toward responsible leadership. Graduates have joined local firms in various modes of professional practice, while others have accepted positions in state and local government, community groups and organizations, or academic institutions. www.morgan.edu/sap

About the Neighborhood Design Center

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) supports the growth of healthy, equitable neighborhoods through community-engaged design and planning services. By providing the tools, expertise, and partnerships necessary to realize neighborhood visions, NDC supports broad participation in the evolution of the built environment. www.ndc-md.org

NDC projects are collaborations between residents, community stakeholders, design professionals, local government agencies, fellow nonprofits, and its staff. Together it lays the groundwork for improving blocks, renovating parks and school grounds, reclaiming abandoned structures for community use, and revitalizing commercial districts.

NDC believes that these unlikely partnerships provide mutual benefit, offering invaluable on-the-job training and exposure to members of the design community and positioning historically disinvested neighborhoods to attract future investment.

About Transform Mid-Atlantic VISTA Program

[Transform Mid-Atlantic](#) is a coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education. Since 1997, Transform Mid-Atlantic VISTA programs have grown to more than 600 VISTA members working on campuses and in communities across 30 Transform Mid-Atlantic programs.