

Engagement Summary

Stakeholder engagement on the Urban Form Categories was done in accordance with direction from PUD2020-0721 (Guidebook for Great Communities Referral for Additional Direction). The direction indicated Administration would consult with those stakeholders already involved and consulted in the creation of the Guidebook which allowed for testing and feedback on the evolution of the Urban Form Categories. The majority of feedback from stakeholders has been the Urban Form Categories are now easier to use, written in better plain language and respond to concerns that were previously raised. Regular communications have been sent directly to stakeholders and updated on the www.calgary.ca/guidebook webpage.

Multi-Stakeholder Working Group

Administration solicited participation from stakeholders for a four-part working group engagement from August to November 2020. Stakeholders came from existing stakeholder working groups from the Guidebook and four active local area plan working groups (North Hill Communities, Heritage Communities, Westbrook Communities, and Historic East Calgary Communities). Throughout the four engagement events, stakeholders were presented with two iterations of draft Urban Form Categories, with Administration gathering their feedback. Communication with stakeholders was open and transparent by sharing what we heard, how we responded to their feedback, and what feedback we could not address and why. Stakeholders were also informed on the textual amendments through two of the engagement events plus additional e-mail communications. As per PUD2020-0721, public engagement was not conducted with a greater audience outside of this group.

Education and Outreach

Administration continued to do outreach and education over the past six months since July, reaching out to more than 30 different organizations and committees. These groups represent a range of Calgarians including all genders, age groups, cultural and ethnic diversities, as well as, a range of planning experience. While not all groups had time to meet with Administration, 12 of these organizations have met with Administration and feedback was constructive and informative.

Committees and organizations that Administration has met with include:

1. Older Adult Advisory Table
2. Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee
3. Calgary Economic Development
4. Calgary Chamber of Commerce
5. Vibrant Communities Calgary
6. Calgary Alliance for the Common Good
7. Horizon Housing Society
8. Kerby Centre
9. The Alex
10. Attainable Homes Calgary
11. Silvera for Seniors
12. The Mustard Seed
13. Home Space Society
14. Ever Active School and Joy4All Project
15. Urban Land Institute

16. University of Calgary, School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape

Discussions with these groups focused on a presentation about the Guidebook, learning more about the organizations and the citizens/members they serve. Discussions focused on how the Guidebook can support the needs of all people within our communities and Calgary's economy, by ensuring people have choice in housing, closer places to access services and amenities to where they live, as well as more options to gather, move, and play. All groups have agreed to continue the conversation through 2021, to get deeper into the Guidebook, and to identify areas within the Guidebook that could be further improved to better serve the needs of all Calgarians.

In early 2020, Administration hosted Guidebook 101 Information Sessions to continue outreach and education to Calgarians. This outreach went on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic and will be re-launched into virtual information sessions in January 2021 and continue providing opportunities to learn more about the Guidebook through the year.

One of our goals in 2020, which will continue through 2021, is to be open and transparent about the Guidebook and its role in planning the future of communities - we plan a community's future redevelopment with its residents, through the local areas planning process. Every established community in Calgary will go through this process over the next five to ten years.

As part of our past outreach and education efforts, we worked with the Federation of Calgary Communities to ensure updated and correct Guidebook information was shared. They helped amplify opportunities to learn more about the Guidebook to their Community Association stakeholders, whether hosting events or distributing informational posters and post cards.

When there was an opportunity to attend Ward or Community Association meetings to further explain the Guidebook and answer questions, we were always available to attend. When Community Associations or citizen organizations posted Guidebook information on their respective web pages, we also reached out to them. We want to ensure they had the right information and the opportunity to meet with our Planners and have their questions answered. In the cases when we approached Community Associations and other community organizations, which had posted information online regarding the Guidebook, but were turned down or did not receive response, we always remain open to have a conversation with them about the Guidebook.

The Guidebook is a foundational policy document that guides Administration and citizens on successfully planning the future of our communities through the local areas planning process. It's important that we remain available to learn more about communities, their interests and concerns about the Guidebook, and explain the Guidebook's goals and correct application within their community. Administration continues to update The City's website, Calgary.ca/guidebook, with information that can be helpful to community members and citizens.

Testing & Working with the North Hill Communities Local Area Plan

Administration has been testing the changes to the Urban Form Categories through the North Hill Communities local area plan process. This process helped to identify issues and create speedy resolutions when ideas or changes did not work. Through this process, the team has been able to land on an applicable and flexible set of categories that has also been tested through trials with the Westbrook Communities, Heritage Communities, and Historic East Calgary Communities plans that are currently underway.