

Applicant Outreach Summary



Community Outreach on Planning & Development Applicant-led Outreach Summary

Please complete this form and include with your application submission.

Project name:

Did you conduct community outreach on your application? ☒ YES or ☐ NO

If no, please provide your rationale for why you did not conduct outreach.

Outreach Strategy

Provide an overview of your outreach strategy, summary of tactics and techniques you undertook (Include dates, locations, # of participants and any other relevant details)

The outreach was conducted in two separate phases. A preliminary assessment with the concerned stakeholders to find important views, opinions and guidelines. The second phase involved reaching out to members of the community and other vested parties to offer feedback directly to the City of Calgary. During the preliminary assessment, the majority of the outreach involved providing informational flyers, contact information and going door to door for input. Whenever possible, we took down basic contact information and any comments made by all individuals. Over the duration of the September and October months, we reached out to nearly 40 houses in a 100m radius of the dwelling. During this phase, we got in touch with the Councillors Office of Ward 1 and members of the Bowness Community Association. The second phase was geared more towards showcasing the support from the community. As such, we collected signatures and possible concerns from surrounding neighbors. In addition, we spoke to the Bowness Community Association and the Ward 1 Councillors office again. This step was taken while the City's input phase was active, allowing community contribution to the cause.

Stakeholders

Who did you connect with in your outreach program? List all stakeholder groups you connected with. (Please do not include individual names)

The three main groups we targeted through our community outreach were the neighbors, community associations and the councillors office. For each of these groups, there were multiple occasions on which we discussed and conversed the proposal. In secondary stakeholder reviews, we spoke to architects, realtors and builders to ensure that this project was feasible, efficient and beneficial to the community.

What did you hear?

Provide a summary of main issues and ideas that were raised by participants in your outreach.

The biggest concern that we received was that the neighbors wanted us to abide by the city laws. A majority of the neighbors were much more confident in our proposal after we told them that city stipulations would be our first consideration. Some of the more personalized feedback that we heard was: to keep the development at a reasonable height, be careful when excavating as Bowness is a common area for rodents, to be aesthetically pleasing, and to best utilize the lot. The general consensus was that the public was happy with the redevelopment as the old house seemed out of place and hard to inhabit. Some of the responses provided by the neighbors and will be attached to the application for review. In addition, we found support from Councillor Sharps office. Our final meeting with the Bowness Community Association, where some members had internal concerns which led to a split decision. Regardless, the President encouraged us to gather community support and continue the application.

How did stakeholder input influence decisions?

Provide a summary of how the issues and ideas summarized above influenced project decisions. If they did not, provide a response for why.

There was definite merit to the input offered by some of the people we interacted with. The main influences would be to ensure that the house front facade should not look like a commercial building and does not take away from the aesthetic of the street. We also got some good insight on how other people have designed houses within the RC-2 class and what problems they faced. For example, many people suggested that expanding intrinsically is a very good idea for our plot, as it is quite a bit longer than it is wide. We also are looking into ways to reduce the amount of displaced animals, when building is an option.

How did you close the loop with stakeholders?

Provide a summary of how you shared outreach outcomes and final project decisions with the stakeholders that participated in your outreach. (Please include any reports or supplementary materials as attachments)

For those stakeholders who had a specific interest and contacted us, we continued the conversation and let them know of any developments or potential ideas that we had. This way, they were able to offer their feedback and insight on potential issues and how they would react to a certain scenario. We also made sure to keep in touch with the invested parties and promised to reach out when we were to move onto the next step of the process. We will continue to reach out to the vested parties to ensure that the project contributes to the community as a whole.