

URBAN DESIGN BOARD

About the Board

The Urban Design Board (UDB) is a civic commission established by the Tacoma City Council to support our community's goals for a high-quality built environment. The UDB was established in May 2024 with the approval of Ordinance 28966, and is guided by Tacoma Municipal Code 13.19.030.

The UDB has seven members with staggered terms, who are tasked with ensuring that larger new development in Tacoma's Mixed Use Centers aligns with the Tacoma's vision for a built environment that is well-designed, functional, and culturally expressive.

Duties & Responsibilities

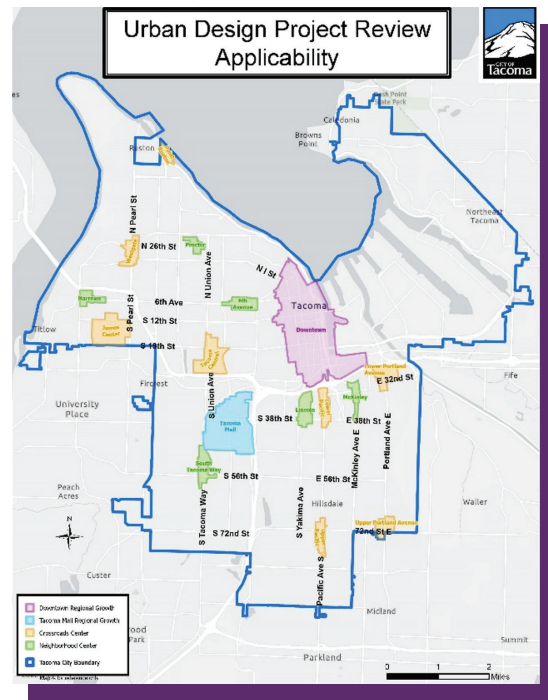
The Urban Design Board has three core functions:

- The Board provides early concept design guidance and make final design decisions for specific Urban Design Project Review (UDPR) permits.
- The Board provides valuable advisory input to the City of Tacoma on matters related to urban design.
- The Board serves as an educational resource to the community and an advocate for design excellence, benefiting all of Tacoma and its community members.

The Board's Role in Urban Design Project Review

The Urban Design Board's primary role is to review certain Urban Design Project Review (UDPR) permits.

- **UDPR Permits:** Required for larger developments located within any of the City's designated Mixed Use Centers (see map).
- **Review Levels:** Larger projects undergo Board-level review, while smaller ones receive administrative-level review.
- **Guidance & Decisions:** Reviews focus on seven key design objectives outlined in the Urban Design Project Review Manual. For these larger, Board-level reviewed projects, we hold a public meeting at the Concept Design stage and base our Final Design decisions on compliance with the Concept Design Guidance Report.



Urban Design Project Review: Guidance Topics

Site Planning

Connectivity

Architectural Composition

Public Realm

Open Space

Cultural Vitality, Heritage & Creativity

Climate Responsiveness

Urban Design Board Meetings

The Urban Design Board meets once a month on a weekday, after normal business hours. All meetings are open to the public, either in-person or virtually.

Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street,
Tacoma, WA 98402

Meeting notices and meeting materials are available online at cityoftacoma.org/urbandesignboard

Board Membership

The Urban Design Board has seven (7) positions, appointed by the City Council for staggered three-year terms. The composition of the Board includes:

Design and Development Professional

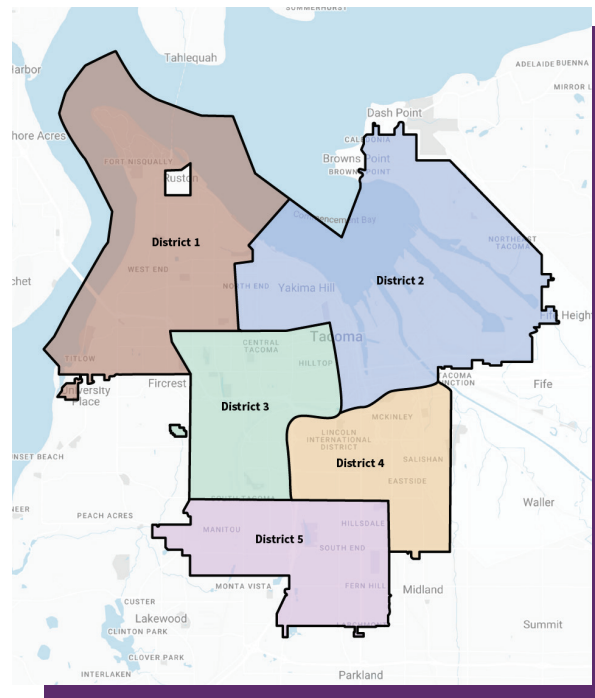
(four positions): These members bring professional experience related to site and building design and development from fields such as architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban design, land use or real estate law, real estate development, construction or building trades, and civil or structural engineering.

Allied Community Representative

(three positions): These members offer lived and/or professional experience and/or training in active/ multimodal transportation, sustainable development, and culture and heritage. Their expertise spans various fields, including transit agency administration, transportation planner or engineer, "green" building professional, urban forestry professional, environmental planner, artisan/craftsperson, historian, architectural history professional, and cultural organization administrator. One representative is to be appointed for each of the three priority subject areas.

More Board Membership Details

- Two of the seven positions must reside and/ or conduct business primarily in Council Districts Three, Four, or Five.
- While preference will be given to Tacoma residents, up to two Board members may reside outside of Tacoma.



How to Apply

If you're passionate about urban design and want to make a difference in Tacoma, consider applying to join the Urban Design Board. Visit the City of Tacoma website for Committees, Boards, and Commissions (CBCs) at cityoftacoma.org/CBC and click on "How to Apply".

If there are open positions on the Urban Design Board, eligible applicants will be invited to interview with the City Council's Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee. Appointments to the UDB are made by the full Tacoma City Council.



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The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Planning and Development Services Department at (253) 905-4146 (voice) or 711 (TTY) before 5:00 p.m., on the Monday preceding the meeting.

¿Necesitas información en español? Cần thông tin bằng tiếng Việt? 한국어로 정보가 필요하십니까? ต้องการข้อมูลที่ภาษาอื่น? Нужна информация на русском? Потрібна інформація українською мовою? Contact TacomaFIRST 311 at (253) 591-5000.