

The words "Good Form" are rendered in a white, sans-serif font. The text is integrated with a white line-art graphic that starts with a vertical line on the left, steps up, then right, then up again, then right, then down to form a sharp peak, then down to a V-shape, and finally up to a horizontal line on the right. The words "Good" and "Form" are positioned within the horizontal segments of this graphic.

Good Form

Call for Action

Released
March 1,
2022

Due
April 11,
2022

The design and public health communities must come together in new ways to shape a healthier city.

Public health policy has dictated the way cities have been built for centuries. Whether it was the modernization of sewer systems in the 19th century or the Tenement House Act of 1901, new regulations and public infrastructure have aimed to mitigate infectious disease with sanitary conditions. However, public health policy has sometimes led to more harm than good. During 20th century urban renewal, city leaders treated blight as a “cancer,” justifying the bulldozing of working class Black and immigrant communities.

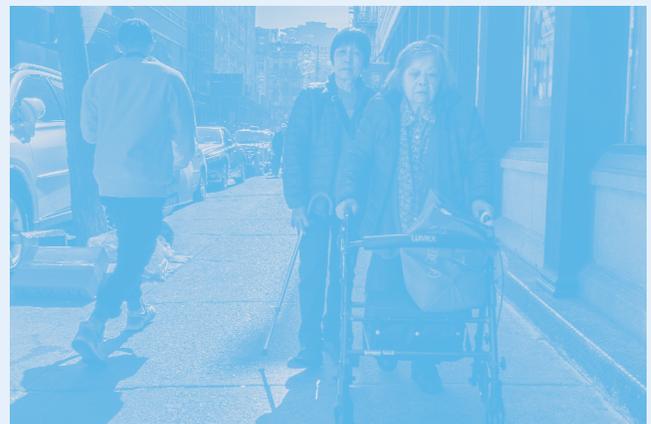
Over the past two years, the pandemic showed that the design of neighborhoods can have enduring consequences. While every New Yorker was prescribed open space and better indoor air ventilation to slow the spread of COVID-19, residents in our hardest-hit communities of color lacked access to quality parks, nearby healthcare facilities, or affordable housing. Moreover, the same New York City neighborhoods face many of the highest health disparities in the city, including asthma, heart disease, and obesity.

It’s time to rethink the way we approach public health in the built environment with new tools

and approaches for preventative care. We believe that equity means that a child born in the South Bronx, Harlem, Flushing, or Bed-Stuy sees the same educational, economic, and public health outcomes as a child born on the Upper East Side. New York City can invest in neighborhoods to achieve clean air; abundant affordable housing; safe, maintained, and accessible public spaces; and access to lifesaving services to ensure our environments support our long-term health.

For our 2022-2023 program, Good Form, Urban Design Forum invites architects, landscape architects, public health researchers, ecologists, planners, engineers, housing, parks and transportation advocates, real estate and community developers, and more to advance ideas and proposals for creating a healthier city .

How can we radically transform the design and planning of neighborhoods to prioritize health?



↑ Image: Steven Pisano, modified by UDF

Key Questions ↓

Through the program, we will explore ways to design healthier neighborhoods. We plan to take a holistic approach to confronting health disparities and challenges in New York City by bringing in cross-disciplinary expertise.

1. How can we radically transform the design and planning of neighborhoods to prioritize health abundance over scarcity?
2. What new neighborhood investments can confront health disparities driven by systemic racial and economic inequalities?
3. How do we build the capacity of the design and development professions to address the wholeness of a person - both physical health and mental health - in their practices?
4. How can the public health profession better influence the shape and planning of new buildings, open space and infrastructure?

Timeline ↓

March 1

Call to Action launch

April 11

Call to Action submission deadline

May 2022

Announcement of Working Groups

May - November 2022

Working Group Activities

September 2022 - May 2023

Public Programs

Spring 2023

Report Launch



↑ Image: NYC DOT, modified by UDF

Join a group of leading thinkers to imagine healthier New York City neighborhoods.

Four working groups will lead research, case studies, neighborhood tours, interview stakeholders, and create new visions and policy recommendations on a specific topic related to public health and the built environment.

- 1. Fresh Air:** How should we transform our transportation infrastructure, workplaces, homes, and open spaces to combat disparities in unsafe air quality?
- 2. Active Places:** How should we create more active and affordable spaces to tackle heart disease and diabetes?
- 3. Safe Experiences:** How should we design and manage more dignified and safe public spaces for those with diverse mental health needs?
- 4. Spaces for Healing:** How can we shape and invest in social infrastructure that reckons with intergenerational trauma and loneliness?

Working Group Eligibility & Commitments

We plan to convene working groups of Fellows from a range of disciplines, backgrounds, and expertise. Members of the general public are welcome to apply, but will be asked to become Fellows no later than May 2022.

Participation in a Working Group will require a commitment to attending four 2-hour meetings for Phase I from May-July and four 2-hour meetings for Phase II from September-November. We expect to convene in-person following updated safety guidelines. We'll ask each participant member to:

- Attend stakeholder calls and site visits
- Review public health research
- Develop policy recommendations, design guidelines, and/or specific design proposals or pilots
- Support the creation of illustrations, animations, or other visual tools in collaboration with our team

Submit Your Interest

Please submit your contact information, statement of interest (no more than 250 words), CV or brief description of expertise, and working group topic preference by Friday, April 8, 2022 via [this form](#).

Share other thoughts and ideas on how to create healthier neighborhoods.

1. Speak with Us

Jump on a call to share your ideas on how New York City can design healthier neighborhoods.

2. Share a Project

Send us a case study project that supports better physical or mental health of its users.

3. Nominate a Speaker

Introduce us to leading thinkers who are rethinking the role of health in architecture, planning, and development.

4. Lead a Tour

Share a built project or space that exemplifies new design approaches that create healthier neighborhoods.

5. Host Us

Open your organization's outdoor or indoor space to host a conversation with our fellows.

6. Share Your Tools

Share digital tools or expertise to help us visualize our proposals or create demonstration projects.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome you to submit no more than 300 words, and up to 5 supporting images, charts, or diagrams (high resolution, .jpeg format, printable at 300dpi, suggested minimum size 12"x18").

Please direct all submissions and inquiries to:

Guillermo Gomez

Director of Programs

guillermo@urbandesignforum.org



↑ Image: Green City Force, modified by UDF

Sponsorship ↓

Support our inquiry and promote visionary thinking for healthier neighborhoods.

Levels & Benefits ↓

Champion (\$5,000)

- Advise Executive Director and key program staff on program activities
- Receive verbal recognition at events
- Invite one senior staff member to participate in one of the five working groups
- Name two practice leaders to the [Director's Circle](#), a group of distinguished civic leaders who sustain our programming on the pivotal issues facing our cities.
- Priority access to limited-capacity member tours and events
- Recognition on all programming materials
- Four tickets to Action Dinner

Supporter (\$2,500)

- Invite one senior staff member to participate in one of the five working groups
- Name one practice leader to the [Director's Circle](#), a group of distinguished civic leaders who sustain our programming on the pivotal issues facing our cities.
- Priority access to limited-capacity member tours and events
- Recognition on all programming materials
- Two tickets to Action Dinner

Friend (\$1,000)

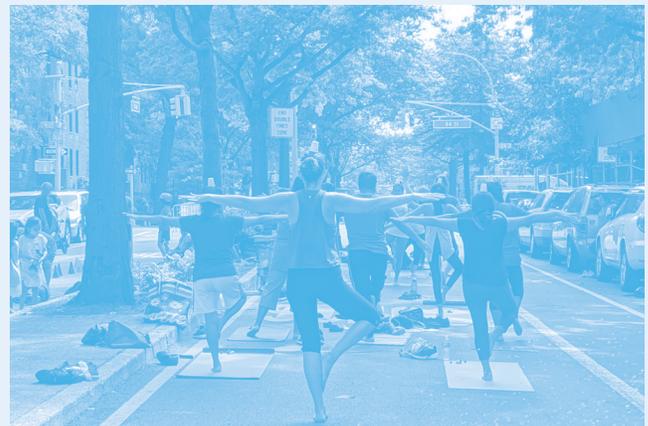
- Priority access to limited-capacity member tours and events
- Recognition on all programming materials
- One ticket to Action Dinner

Please direct all sponsorship inquiries to:

Miranda Bellizia

Director of Member Engagement

miranda@urbandesignforum.org



↑ Image: 34th Ave Open Streets, modified by UDF

About Us ↓

The Urban Design Forum mobilizes civic leaders to confront the defining issues facing New York City's built environment. We are an independent membership organization that empowers professionals of diverse backgrounds, industries, and perspectives to shape a better future for all New Yorkers. We investigate complex challenges in the built environment, study alternative approaches from cities around the world, and advance progressive strategies to build a more dynamic and democratic city.

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