



GUIDE TO CITY BUILDING



Hi! We are The Federation of Calgary Communities (The Federation), a support organization to over 230 non-profit organizations here in Calgary, including the 150+ community associations (CAs). As a support organization, we host over 50 workshops for our members every year in urban planning, engagement, and financial services. We have a lot of urban planning resources on our website; we also offer urban planning workshops that are open to all residents interested in learning more about urban planning!

Visit calgarycommunities.com to learn more about urban planning and the other services we offer.

CONTENTS

WELCOME	3
WHAT IS URBAN PLANNING?	5
FEATURES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT	7
PLANNING HIERARCHY	9
PLANNING INFORMATION	11
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS (CAs)	13
CA BENEFITS	15
WHY DO WE NEED YOU?	17

WELCOME

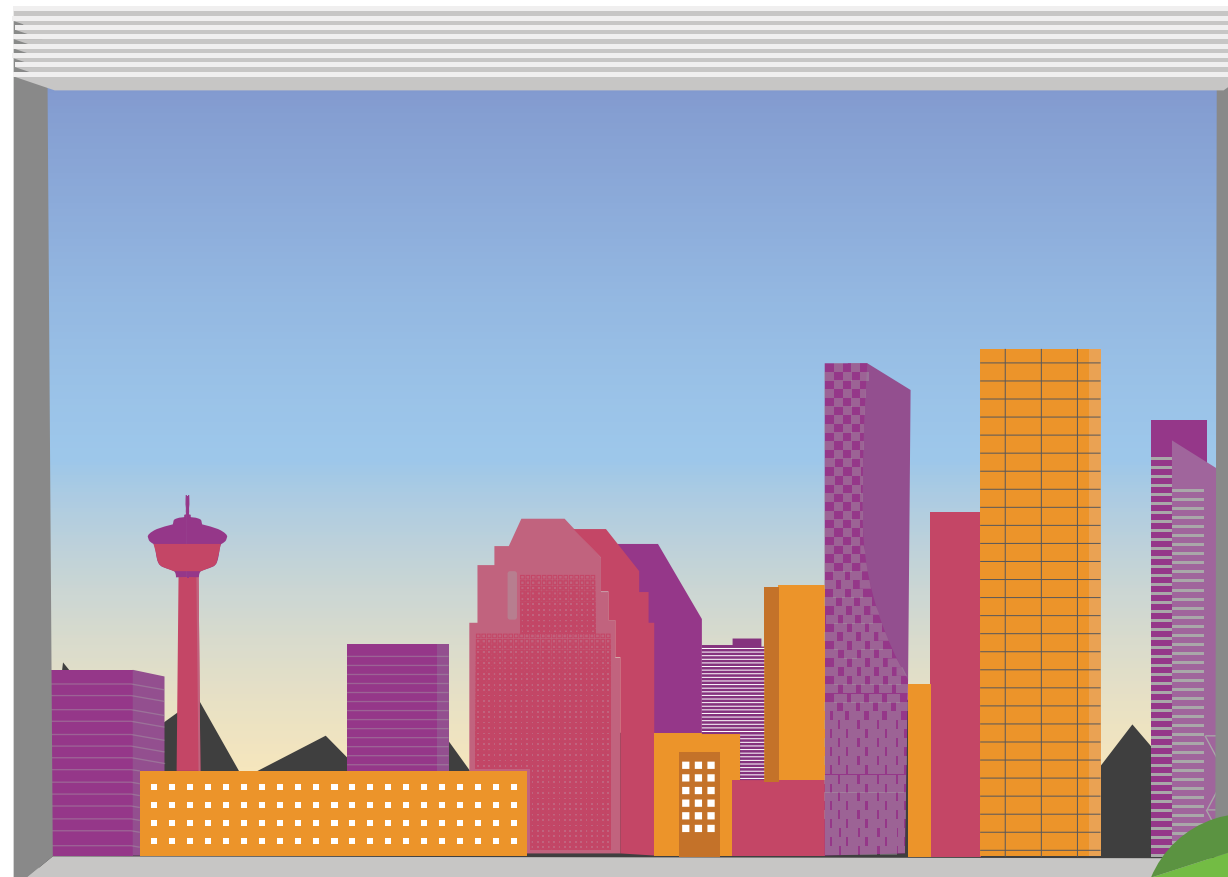
DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE AN EXPERT ON WHERE YOU LIVE? YOUR EXPERTISE COULD HELP SHAPE HOW OUR CITY GROWS AND CHANGES OVER THE NEXT 5, 10, 50 YEARS!

Think about it - have you ever wondered where you will live, work, shop, play, and how you will get around the city as you get older? Have you thought about where your children or future generations will live? Who decides these things, and how do we determine these things? These are all "urban planning" questions and are important to **ensuring you and future generations live in a great city - one built for everyone!**

CITY OF
CALGARY



YYC



To have a great city for everyone, all residents should be part of The City of Calgary's (The City's) urban planning process. In fact, you and your neighbours, homeowners, and renters alike are critical voices in the urban planning process within The City!

TO LEARN
more about
urban planning
and how you can
be part of it, read
on!



WHAT IS URBAN PLANNING?

Urban planning is about developing plans, processes, and policies to help create new communities, revitalize older ones, and help cities grow and adapt as more people move here. It includes how we use land and where we locate things like houses and offices. It is also about the natural environment (e.g., parks), the built environment and how people interact with these spaces. Therefore, your experience, your ideas and your voice matter in urban planning.

WHO DOES PLANNING?

Urban planners use a variety of tools and policies to create plans that will guide how cities develop in the coming years, but also plan for the next 50 to 100 years. They do not do it alone - engineers, architects, city administration, and politicians are also involved. The City also seeks opinions from stakeholders. Remember, as a resident, you are considered a stakeholder and can contribute to the planning process!

HOW DO WE PLAN?

Through policies, rules, and decision-making processes.

WHY DO WE NEED TO PLAN?

As our city continues to grow and evolve, change is needed. We need to plan for infrastructure (e.g., transit, roads, parks, etc.) that will accommodate growth and change. In addition, land is very valuable and with issues such as climate change, we need to use what we have efficiently and sustainably.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Citizens provide valuable input on well-being, sense of community, and have experience living and working in areas. Citizens offer a community perspective - helping to set vision, provide feedback, and ideas to assist planners in the creation of plans and policies that result in great communities. Your expertise is needed!

FEATURES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Community Associations

Transportation

Offices/
Industrial

Essential
Services

Natural
Spaces

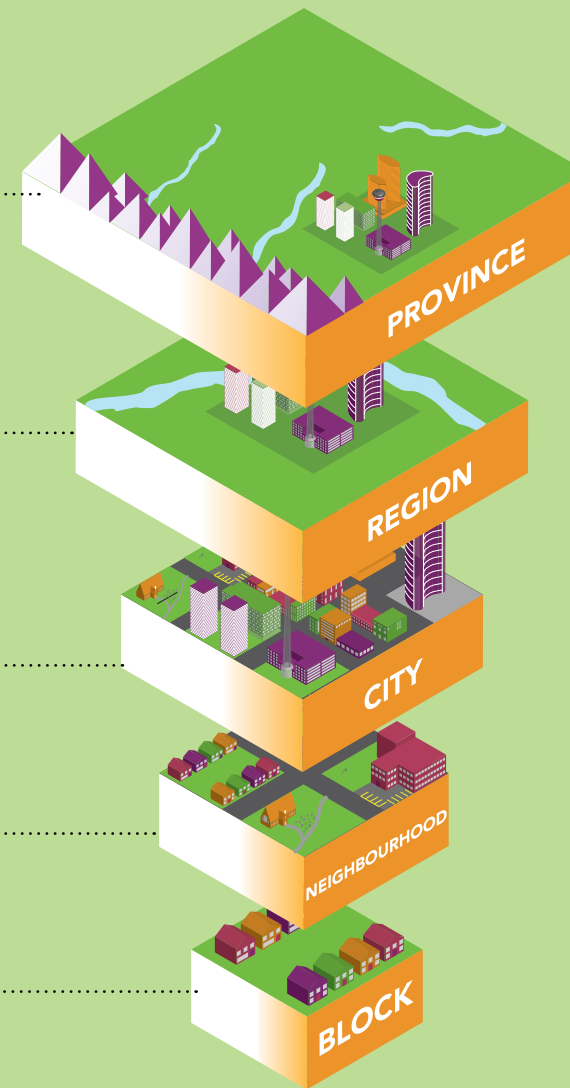
Residential

Mixed Use

Landmarks

URBAN PLANNING HIERARCHY

Municipal Government Act
 Alberta Land Use Framework
 South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
 (Yes, that is right, in Alberta!)
 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board
 Intermunicipal Development Plans
 Municipal Development Plan
 Calgary Transportation Plan
 City Wide Guidebooks
 Local Area Plans
 Community Plans
 Land Use Bylaw



PLANNING WITHIN THE PROVINCE AND REGIONS

Planners need to create policy recommendations which are approved by City Council. The province is also involved in setting the policies that give The City of Calgary their planning authority. The policies The City puts in place must align with the provincial policies. While you do not need to understand all these, it is good to know that they exist and some policies build on others, meaning they guide the ones below them. We call this the planning hierarchy.

PLANNING AT A CITY LEVEL

Planning in the city, happens at different scales:

- 1. On a block by block scale** (e.g., your neighbour adding a secondary suite)
- 2. On a neighbourhood scale** (e.g., construction of a strip mall)
- 3. On a city-wide scale** (e.g., construction of a new train line)

While you can get involved with any of these, some projects affect you more than others.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT PLANNING PROJECTS OR PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES?

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ASKED!

There are lots of ways to learn more and to find out about specific projects. They include:

- Signage
- Planning and Development Map
- City of Calgary Engage Portal
- Through your community association (CA)

SIGNAGE

A temporary sign may be placed on your neighbour's property. This sign has information about the proposed development, reference/file number and how to provide feedback. You can submit a letter to the file manager if you have any thoughts on this development. The next time you are moving around your community, keep your eyes open - you just may see one of these signs.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MAP

The City of Calgary Planning and Development Map (also known as PD Maps) can be used to find more information about planning applications in your community or across The City. On the map, you can search by the reference/file number, by street name, and/or by community name. You can see details such as project description, contact information for the file manager, status of the project, and other links important to the project.

ENGAGE PORTAL

The City of Calgary Engage Portal is a website where you can learn about and participate in city wide projects. On this website, you can:

- Find background information on projects
- Provide feedback and share on forums
- Check project timelines and the progress of ongoing projects
- Learn about upcoming in-person public engagement events

Search online for:
"Development Map Calgary"



**THROUGH YOUR
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

THROUGH YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

A community association (CA) is a voluntary organization of residents in a geographic area (defined boundaries) that is registered as a non-profit and recognized by The Federation of Calgary Communities and The City of Calgary. CAs provide local, social and recreational activities and may run a community hall.

ROLE OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Community associations are key stakeholders and play an important role in the planning process. CAs receive development and planning applications from The City for their specific community. Your CA may have a “planning committee” or a “planning director”. The purpose of a CA planning committee/planning director is to:

- Review and respond to planning applications that affect the community
- Address general planning and development issues
- Represent the community’s perspective on local planning and development issues with The City
- Promote community interest and facilitate community dialogue
- Provide The City with input on broader policies

All the work in community associations are done by volunteers. Joining your CA is a great way to amplify your voice and contribute to what happens in your community.



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Beyond planning, there are many benefits to having a community association membership. Some of these benefits include:

- Meeting new people, building relationships, and voicing your concerns
- Being involved in a variety of activities
- Being connected and receiving information from The City, The Federation, and other stakeholders
- Every CA is different but some offer discounts to local businesses, recreational programs, and social and educational programs

FEDERATION OF CALGARY COMMUNITIES BENEFITS

The Federation is a great place to fill your knowledge gaps, and ask questions about planning. Some of the benefits of The Federation include:

- Taking a Federation planning course: workshops start with the basics to help you understand planning policies and how decisions are made at The City.
- Partners in Planning (PIP): PIP is an award-winning certificate program offered in partnership with The City of Calgary. Participants who complete all program requirements receive a completion certificate.
- One-on-one support from staff in any of our service areas (urban planning, organization development, financial services)



SO WHY DO WE NEED YOU?

Gathering feedback from stakeholders like you is a critical part of urban planning. YOU, as a resident, know your community and should have a say and participate in planning decisions that affect you. Yes, planning is complicated, but **everyday people like you** are involved, and play a very important role in making our communities and city a vibrant place to live - so what are you waiting for?

BE PART OF IT!



DO YOU WANT MORE INFO?

Take a look at the rest of the planning toolkit, including the "Community Amenity Map" and the "Community Guide to the Planning Process."

Visit the urban planning page on The Federation of Calgary Communities site calgarycommunities.com

OR contact one of our planners at planner1@calgarycommunities.com
planner2@calgarycommunities.com



RESOURCES

Search online for:

- City of Calgary development map
- City of Calgary engage website
- City of Calgary public notices
- City of Calgary development permit process



BE PART OF IT!

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