

# Visions for Downtown

**Date** - September 25, 2024

**Time** - 4:00pm - 7:00pm

**Location** - Center for Architecture and Design

## Charrette Brief

The purpose of this Charrette is to generate ideas for breathing new life into downtown Seattle. Facing immediate challenges such as the safety and economic viability of the public realm and the long term sustainability of our way of life, the need for bold, creative ideas has never felt more acute. The AIA Urban Design Forum and Committee On The Environment want to hear your vision for downtown Seattle. With your help, we will examine solutions that work in the here-and-now and explore long-term visions for a vibrant, sustainable Seattle. The effectiveness of those solutions and the clarity of those visions just might depend on you.

Our time will be limited, so participants are encouraged to ideate freely on the issues that they believe are most critical, but to do so within the framework of one of the five topics listed below. We will consider time frames of 5 and 25 years, imagining solutions to current challenges as stepping stones to a long term vision.

## Charrette Topics



### ANCHOR

Consider: What are the existing anchors in downtown?  
What anchors are missing from downtown?  
How can anchors contribute to a sustainable city?

Examples: *Cultural, Entertainment, Parks, Retail, Schools*



### CONNECT

Consider: Which areas of downtown need to be better connected?  
How can these connections be improved?  
How can connections contribute to a sustainable city?

Examples: *Bike/Scooter, I-5 Lid, Pedestrian Friendly, Transit*



### TRANSFORM

Consider: Are there areas of downtown in need of transformation?  
Are there transformative forces at play in downtown?  
What scale of transformation is needed?

Examples: *Family Friendly, Office to Residential, Third Ave Park*



### ACTIVATE

Consider: Which areas of downtown need more activation?  
What are the essential elements of an active downtown?  
How can activation contribute to a sustainable city?

Examples: *Affordable Housing, Community, Tactical Urbanism*



### ADAPT

Consider: What are current and future hazards affecting downtown?  
How can downtown better prepare and respond?  
How can adaptations contribute to a sustainable city?

Examples: *Flexible Zoning, Resilience Hubs, Urban Farming*

## Process

Participants will be asked to:

1. Choose a Topic of interest and join a group of 5-6 participants.
2. Describe why this Topic is fundamental to downtown Seattle on an immediate (5-year) scale.
3. Describe why this Topic is fundamental to downtown Seattle on a long-term (25-year) scale.
4. Consider this Topic through the lens of two or more of the following AIA Framework for Design Excellence measures:
  - Equitable Communities
  - Ecosystems
  - Water
  - Energy
  - Well-being
  - Resources
  - Change (Resilience)

Groups will be asked to produce:

1. A *Problem Statement* for their Topic
2. A *Vision Statement* for their proposed solution
3. A series of *Goals* to frame their proposed solution
4. A series of *Sketches* to convey their proposed solution
5. A set of *Recommendations* for implementing their solution

## Schedule

4:00pm - Welcome + Refreshments

4:10pm - Opening Presentation

4:30pm - Divide into Groups and Begin Charrette

6:00pm - Each Group Shares Ideas with Audience

6:30pm - Networking + Refreshments