

Design Resiliency--Technical Assistance

For communities ready to act



Design & Resiliency Team (DART) 2017 Application

- Sponsored:** American Institute for Architects Center for Communities by Design
New England Municipal Sustainability Network (NEMSN)
Urban Directors Sustainability Network (USDN)
- Assisted:** Boston Society of Architects Foundation
The cities of Northampton MA, Dubuque IA, Providence RI, and Seattle WA
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- Purpose:** Help develop a strategic vision and empower communities to nresiliency, stability and health, usually by focusing on a specific issue and/or geographic area.
- Eligibility:** Any community in the United States or Canada.
- What is it:** Five-person multidisciplinary teams of experts (e.g., from sustainability, climate change, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, economic development, finance, artists, and other fields, depending on local needs). Team members are from both the public and the private sector.
- Who:** Each team is custom-built to serve local needs and opportunities.
- Process:** First day tours, concurrent stakeholder focus groups, an evening public workshop, followed by a two-day team intense charrette, and a final evening community presentation on the team's findings and recommendations.
- Cost:** There is no cost to communities to participate.
- Requirements:** Communities must demonstrate the capacity and commitment to convene diverse community, staff, and political leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative resiliency planning process. Communities also need to provide appropriate venues for two evening public workshops, afternoon concurrent stakeholder meetings and DART working space with access to a copier, internet access and, if possible, a scanner.
- Grant:** The NEMSN, USDN, AIA, and probono time will cover all team time, travel, and out-of-pocket expenses for four DARTs in 2017. The program does not provide any funding to communities or cover community outreach, venue, and staff time costs.

**New England Municipal Sustainability Network
DART Application**

Due (in WORD or PDF) Sept. 21, 2015: WFeiden@NorthamptonMA.gov

Late applications considered **only** after evaluating on-time applications

1. Project Summary

- A. Project Title (e.g., *Provincetown 365*)
- B. Name of Community
- C. Primary Contact Name
- D. Primary Contact Email
- E. Primary Contact Phone number
- F. Project Abstract (one paragraph)
- G. Objective of the DART process (one paragraph)

2. Community Description (approximately 2 pages)

- A. Brief history
- B. Population, demographics and economic information
- C. Form of local government
- D. Geography
- E. Important project or contextual information
- F. Regional setting and influences
- G. Brief summaries of relevant planning efforts and reports

3. Problem Statement and Issues Analysis (approximately 3-4 pages)

- A. Define and describe the proposed study area (e.g., the entire municipality, a portion of the community)
- B. Identify existing barriers (physical, social, economic, political) that limit the community's ability to address its concerns or agree on solutions.
- C. Brief assessment of your community's most significant resiliency needs (e.g., climate adaption, stable natural hazards, and public health issues). Describe any past attempts that have failed to resolve community issues. Include graphic materials as needed.
- D. Identify strategic areas which the DART should focus on and why those areas are critical to the community. Describe how the issues relate to development concerns at the regional, municipal, and neighborhood scales. Issues can include any aspect of resiliency, as broadly defined (e.g., climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, public and environmental health, social inequities, and unstable urban centers).

4. Logistical Requirements

Describe how you will meet the logistical requirements below. There is **no cost** to the community for the Team's expenses but the community must provide:

- A. An aggressive community outreach prior to the DART.
- B. Appropriate venues for DART's two evening public workshops and afternoon concurrent focus groups.
- C. DART working space with access to a copier, internet access, and, if possible, a scanner.
- D. Commitment from the Mayor, City Manager, or other top appointed elected or appointed officials to participate in the two workshops.

5. *Community and Educational Partners*

Describe partnerships and the level of support from the community, including:

- A. Area colleges, especially those with programs in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, environmental studies or other relevant disciplines. Ideally, student volunteers, especially those with graphic skills, will volunteer to help the team.
- B. Local non-profits, service clubs, business organizations, institutions, and faith-based and civil society organizations.
- C. Public elected and appointed officials, public agencies, and neighborhood groups.

6. *Communication and Media Outreach Plan*

Describe how you will reach out to media and the community to generate media coverage and invite the widest range of stakeholders to the two evening public workshops and afternoon concurrent stakeholder focus groups.

7. *DART Project Timeline*

Explain how the RFP timeline (on first page) works for you. Provide the context of larger timelines (e.g, a timeline for a relevant planning process) that are affected by this project. NEMSN will work with communities to schedule DART visits, but funding and team member requirements will limit the flexibility in the scheduling.

8. *Supplemental Documents*

- A. Relevant planning documents (e.g., zoning or plan excerpts)
- B. Maps/graphics (e.g., useful maps, study area plans, photos/air photos)
- C. Useful information on the community (e.g., newspaper articles, tourism materials, economic development materials)
- D. Anything you need to tell your story and describe issues and needs.

Evaluation Criteria

- Commitment and ability to attract diverse stakeholders and community turnout.
- Commitment of political leadership, municipal staff and civil society to act.
- Comprehensive application clearly portraying the community
- Self-evaluation and assessment of relevant issues
- Clarity of problem statement and project objective
- Ability to provide necessary logistical support
- Feasibility