

Title: Senior Director, Urban Design
Department: District Development
Reports To: Vice President of District Development
FLSA Status: Salaried / Exempt
Start Date: Q1 2022

Position Summary

The Senior Director of Urban Design at the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is responsible for advancing planning and projects that improve the quality of life in Downtown Pittsburgh. This new role oversees a project portfolio that includes urban design, public art, public realm, and placemaking and is focused on the deployment of projects aligned with the Downtown Mobility Plan and in support of creating vibrant streets.

The Senior Director of Urban Design role will work closely with leadership and staff from the PDP, City of Pittsburgh, and external stakeholders to ensure a high quality of public realm by designing, implementing, and integrating public art, green infrastructure, and streetscape amenities into projects. They will also be responsible for stewardship of a new endowment fund with the PDP that is focused on deploying public art and activations throughout Downtown.

Success in this position will require a genuine desire to be part of a dynamic organization that is always poised and ready for change. Excellent communication and coordination skills are essential. The PDP is a collaborative team environment and staff members will be asked to work evenings and weekends on occasion to support strategic efforts and events of the entire organization. Working at the PDP provides opportunities to be exposed to exciting people, events, projects, and developments that make a difference in Downtown Pittsburgh and throughout the region.

The Senior Director of Urban Design reports to the Vice President of District Development in close collaboration with the President and CEO as well as the Mobility Project Manager.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities Include:

- Oversee projects that enhance the public realm, help build inclusive, engaging and activated public spaces, and advance sustainability and resilience.
- Manage beautification efforts, creative placemaking, tactical urbanism, parklets and interim parks, wayfinding, streetscape, and public space enhancement projects.
- Direct the Paris to Pittsburgh façade improvement and sidewalk activation program
- Develop processes and programs to deploy public art in the form of murals and installations to create a more vibrant public realm
- Collaborate with the City's Departments of Mobility and Infrastructure, City Planning, and Public Art and Civic Design and the art community to advance projects that improve the quality of public realm in Downtown Pittsburgh
- Initiate projects that support the goals and objectives of Downtown Mobility Plan
- Oversee project management for PDP-led projects and programs, including conceptual design, community and stakeholder engagement, predevelopment work, site planning, project budgets and timelines, and project management through construction.
- Manage consultants and contractors, and problem solve as issues arise before/during/after the project
- Support fundraising, budget development/management, and identification of funding partners for designated projects as needed
- Support project development and deployment of other initiative projects as required

Education, Skills & Personal Attributes

To be successful in this position, you must have a passion for center cities, urban planning, and the public realm. A planning background with a focus on strategic implementation and ability to manifest planning concepts in the urban environment, such as tactical urbanism, is preferred. This position requires especially strong organizational skills, the ability to communicate planning and design concepts graphically, and excellent oral and written communication skills. An ability to work well with diverse groups of people including business leaders, property owners, developers, public agencies, consultants, and community groups is necessary.

- Exceptionally high level of self-motivation with drive to take initiative
- Demonstrated experience with project management and delivery including writing scopes of services, managing budgets, managing schedules, and directing consultants/contractors
- Bachelor's degree required, Master's preferred in City Planning, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, Public Administration, Architecture, Civil Engineering, or a related field
- Versatility and a willingness to work within changing priorities in a dynamic workplace
- Familiarity with urban mobility systems, NACTO guidelines, and Complete Streets principals
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint)
- Basic working knowledge of design software (Adobe Creative Suite, ArcGIS, CAD) preferred
- Excellent communicator with clear verbal, written communication and presentation skills
- Possession of flexible skill set that can be applied to a wide variety of project types
- Highly organized with the ability to meet deadlines
- Ability to work under pressure and face the challenges of high-profile initiatives
- Passion for Downtown Pittsburgh and the urban experience

General Requirements

- This position will need to complete most assignments in Downtown Pittsburgh, either at the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership's offices or in the field, subject to change based on public health regulations
- Local travel and weekend/evening hours may be required
- Must be able to lift 70lbs

Compensation

\$70,000 - 85,000 annually, commensurate with experience. Compensation includes health insurance, Flexible Spending Accounts, 401k, bike share membership, life insurance, and short and long-term disability.

About the Organization:

Downtown Pittsburgh is essential to the region—the metropolitan heartbeat where business, culture, and entertainment intersect. Formed by Downtown businesses, professionals, civic organizations, foundations, and residents, the PDP develops and implements innovative programs and initiatives to enhance the Downtown neighborhood. We also promote and market this great urban center to millions of people as the region's premier destination to do business, to call home, or to visit for the best in shopping, dining, and entertainment. The PDP also stands as staunch advocates for all those who make Downtown part of their lives—from businesses to workers to residents.

Inquiries

Please send resume and cover letter to resumes@downtownpittsburgh.com, subject titled: Senior Director of Urban Design

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership is an Equal Opportunity Employer