**GRASSROOTS DESIGN ACCESS** is a program from the DCDC that allows us to provide design services for small to medium scale community-based projects*. This program is intended for community groups/organizations who have not had funding or resources to receive design support, and it offers early design services** as a form of community building for groups seeking to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood spaces.

DCDC worked with Avalon Village, Universal Health and Wellness, and Liberated Farms through the Grassroots Design Access Program in 2021, the inaugural year for this program.

*Projects may include an outdoor community gathering space, a community garden, or neighborhood pocket park on vacant lots, or an existing or new building to be used for various community activities and programs, etc.

**Services that DCDC can provide begin with community design workshops and engagement with people throughout the design process. Together, we will identify, visualize, and provide essential details that will help you make your project vision a reality. Deliverables can include a variety of documents, like floor plans, artistic renderings, diagrams, or other documents that will aid in growing support and funding for your project.

The Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) is a program of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture. DCDC has worked with over 150 communities and nonprofit organizations since 1994. The center employs seven full-time professional staff members that have backgrounds in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, city planning, community development, social work and agriculture. The design center has expertise in integrating community building, engagement and design recommendations through participatory design processes that include design workshops, meetings, and other community events.

**PROPOSALS ARE DUE APRIL 24, 2022**

**TYPICAL PROJECT STEPS**

1. **RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT**
   - DCDC staff will work with the groups to develop design workshops and/or other community engagement strategies to better understand the project and the goals for each community. We will document the proposed site and conduct research to support a design solution.

2. **VISIONING AND DESIGN**
   - This phase will involve a series of concepts and approaches that could address the goals of your project. Concepts will continue to evolve until a design solution fit for your project is identified by your group.

3. **FINALIZE DESIGN**
   - A design concept will be agreed upon by each group and DCDC for further development, and may include drawings, examples of similar projects and/or materials and other information required for implementation.

4. **VISIONING/PLANNING DOCUMENT**
   - A final document will be prepared to aid in fundraising and marketing efforts, or implementation, depending on the scale of the project. This may also include a list of relevant resources for continuing your project.

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HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should be a representative of a community based organization. Please prepare a package that includes key information that will help us understand the needs and goals in your community, and how your project will respond and fulfill those needs and goals.

Please send your applications no later than April 24, 2022.

Please apply through the Google Form Link, or send to GrassrootsDesignAccess.dcdc@gmail.com. If responses cannot be emailed, please call 313-993-1037 to arrange for drop off.

In your application, please respond using the following as an outline:

PROJECT INFORMATION
- Name of Organization
- Name of Project
- Contact Person(s)
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Street Address (of project, if applicable)

ABOUT YOUR TEAM
- Organization(s) and type of organization (501(c)3 non-profit, informal community group, etc.)
- Mission and/or vision or purpose of your organization(s)
- History and timeline of organization(s) (how did you form?)
- Team - introduce and describe your team and partnerships for the project.
- Is your organization currently funded, and if so, how?
- What grants or other support have you received? (This does not disqualify from consideration)
- What grants or other support are you applying or recently applied for?

PROJECT PROPOSAL
- Describe the project
- How will this project support your mission / purpose?
- What is your project timeline?
- How will you move the project forward after design is complete?
- What other projects or activities (neighborhood clean ups, block parties, movie nights, etc.) have you taken on in the past? Please share results or lessons learned
- Demonstrate the team's capacity to organize people - ie. volunteer clean ups
- Do you have site control or plans for site acquisition?

SUPPORTING INFORMATION
- Please attach two endorsements from organizations or individuals you have worked with, or are familiar with your work.

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