



## **URBAN DESIGN STUDIO STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Running Roster-** Please keep in mind that the “running roster” listed below was developed as a starting point, and kept very low in numbers, upon the advice and recommendation of Professor van Maur, as the Steering Committee itself needs to be nimble and swift, but also very reliant upon input from a broad coalition of “Community Stakeholder Groups,” which we hope will be led by Team Leaders who are willing to be in charge of gathering both expert information and anecdotal data pertinent to their particular specialty / focus area / stakeholder representation segment. Proposed Team Leaders are listed in the following pages, but below is the information we have thus far regarding our “running roster” of Steering Committee members, each of whom has confirmed their willingness to serve.

Though an initial Steering Committee meeting is slated to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is hoped that the roster proposed below will be formally accepted by a vote of the City Commission during the regularly scheduled February 8<sup>th</sup> City Commission meeting. However, should the Commission like to see changes to this roster, that can still occur, even after the Steering Committee’s initial meeting. So, if any Commissioner has any concern about this running roster, or has any comments or suggestions, please contact either City Manager Grace or Community Development Director Rich Murphy as soon as possible, either via phone or email. Thank you!

\*Note that Professor van Maur, who has run several of these types of Design Studios in the past, strongly recommends that the Steering Committee be small and not require public meetings that have to be publicly noticed, etc., so that the Committee can remain nimble and quick acting, capable of having spur-of-the-moment meetings as necessary, including mobile walking meetings outdoors, etc.-- which makes it extremely difficult to follow Open Meetings Act requirements if a quorum of City Board members was in any way involved with the Steering Committee. However, our commitment to inclusivity and transparency cannot be overstated, and any and all information from these meetings will be shared with all Commissioners and the public at large, and input from as many sources as possible to help guide the Steering Committee is always encouraged and welcomed!

### **Steering Committee Members – Running Roster as of 01/31/2021:**

#### **1. Mayor Sean Denison**

As Buchanan’s Mayor, Sean represents all City interests and provides a voice for the citizens of Buchanan. As both a business owner and a director of operations for an area sign company, Sean also provides perspectives related to business growth and entrepreneurship, as well as marketing and signage considerations.

#### **2. City Commissioner Patrick Swem**

As Assistant Vice President of Business Development at a local financial institution, Patrick provides insight into the commercial financing aspects of projects that may come under consideration. Patrick’s guidance relating to business development as a whole will also fit well into the economic development goals of the Committee.

#### **3. Monroe Lemay**

As one of the founding members of One Buchanan, Monroe provides guidance and insight to help ensure that diversity and inclusivity are given priority, in addition to helping the Steering Committee ensure that outreach to minority groups within the community are successful and effective.

#### **4. Kevin Barker**

As a successful architect and business owner, Kevin provides important business perspectives, in addition to direct experience within the field of architecture, which will help enhance the dialogue between other Steering Committee members and the rest of the Design Studio team from Andrews University’s School of Architecture and Interior Design.

#### **5. Randy Hendrixson**

As the owner/operator of an entertainment and events company, as well as an owner of a local newspaper, Randy provides expertise and skills related to outreach and event planning that will help the Committee reach its goal of creating public events related to the project that create excitement and encourage public participation.

#### **6. Michael Rowland**

As the CEO and President of the Michigan Gateway Foundation, Michael provides important insight relating to non-profit involvement, as well as guidance pertaining to pathways to securing funding for projects resulting from the Urban Design Studio’s finished products.

### ***Ex-Officio Members (Staff Support):***

- City Manager Heather Grace
- Community Development Director Rich Murphy

### ***Andrews University Lead Point-of-Contact:***

- Professor Andrew von Maur



## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**

AND

## **TEAM LEADERS**

**Proposed List-** The following list of proposed Community Development Stakeholder Groups and corresponding Team Leaders is still preliminary, and no members listed below have yet been contacted to confirm their willingness to serve. So, if any Commissioner has any concern about this proposed list, or has any comments or suggestions, please contact either City Manager Grace or Community Development Director Rich Murphy as soon as possible, either via phone or email. Thank you!

\*Note that the thought process behind these Community Development Stakeholder Groups is that each proposed Team Leader listed below, if they are willing to do so, would serve to coordinate their respective Stakeholder Group through whatever means they thought would be most effective and productive for whichever segment of the population they were representing (keeping in mind that some groups prefer different forums, meeting dates/times, etc.). None of these would be official committees of the City that would require formal minutes or strict compliance with the Open Meetings Act, which we hope will allow the flexibility necessary for the groups to get together on their own schedules to have open dialogues and brainstorming sessions with anyone they felt could add to the conversations relating to their particular Stakeholder perspectives regarding Community Development in Buchanan as a whole (including economic development, quality of life improvement, etc.). Any ideas, thoughts, or suggestions for Community Development projects they come up with would be forwarded directly to the City's new Community Development Director, Rich Murphy. Mr. Murphy would then use that data to help guide his projects and priorities, and he would also share information with Professor von Maur for his work on the Urban Design Studio, as appropriate.

Individuals suggested below as "Team Leaders" would be asked to help recruit others from their respective Stakeholder Groups and would have discretion within their own groups to meet as often or as seldom as they felt would be useful. They could also hold the meetings in whatever format they thought most convenient.

Since our goal is to be as inclusive as possible and hear from as many different Community Development Stakeholder Groups as we can, please feel free to suggest additions or modifications to this proposed list so that we can continue to improve our outreach strategies. For now, the following is what has been developed as suggestions up until this point:

### **Community Stakeholder Groups & Team Leaders – Proposed List as of 01/31/2021:**

#### **1. Cannabis Industry Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Mayor Pro Tem Mark Weedon**

As a Manager at one of Buchanan's largest cannabis enterprises, Mark brings directly knowledge of the cannabis industry. Mark also provides clear insight into the unique challenges and opportunities inherent in the industry as it relates to Buchanan's future development.

#### **2. Restaurateurs Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Commissioner Cameron Downey**

As a City Commissioner and Owner/Operator of a successful local restaurant, Cameron provides a clear understanding of the enormous difficulties currently faced by restaurant owners who have been struggling with indoor restrictions and other challenges relating to the pandemic. With public dining options being such an integral part of our city's business community, as well as a vital part of our community's social fabric, efforts should be made to ensuring that the voices of our area Restaurateurs are taken into consideration—especially in relation to aspects of the Urban Design Studio that will affect the redesign and reconstruction of Front Street slated to occur in 2023.

#### **3. Veterans Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Commissioner Larry Money**

As the former Commander of Michigan's American Legion Department, and as someone who continues to remain active in our local Legion group, Larry provides significant awareness of issues relating to our area veterans. With our community's deep appreciation for members of the armed services, special care should be taken to make sure that their needs are addressed during the Urban Design Studio and its resulting projects.

#### **4. Community School System Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Trish Robinson**

As the Superintendent for the local school system, Trish provides the professional experience and connections necessary to help ensure that the Urban Design Studio is taking into account the needs of our area schools. Trish can also coordinate input from educators who might have suggestions for how the Urban Design Studio can help enhance educational opportunities within the community.

#### **5. Area Youth Stakeholder Group – Team Leader TBD**

To make sure that the Urban Design Studio is able to get perspectives and input from young Buchanan residents, it will be important to include a youth Stakeholder Group in our project. Contact has been made with the local high school to seek a recommendation regarding which particular club and/or individual(s) would be appropriate to use as our main point of contact for this particular Stakeholder Group. An update will be made once we hear back from the School with their recommendation.



## **6. Downtown Business Owners Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Tracy Dippo**

As an owner/operator of a downtown business, as well as a former DDA Board Chair, Tracy provides great experience and insight into the challenges and opportunities present in Buchanan’s downtown—particularly as it pertains to our existing downtown businesses.

## **7. Historic Preservation Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Alan Robandt**

As the Board Chair of the Buchanan Preservation Society, Alan has a deep knowledge of the many historical structures in Buchanan that are worth preserving. As a successful businessman who choose to move his antique business to Buchanan, Alan also provides wonderful insight into the types of assets Buchanan can amplify to continue to draw new businesses to the area.

## **8. Buchanan Northside Reunion Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Jeanne Harris**

As one of the lead individuals who was instrumental in implementing the Buchanan Northside Reunion, in addition to being a very active community volunteer on numerous non-profit boards, Jeanne is an excellent conduit and connector to ensure that the Urban Design Studio’s projects are meeting the needs of Buchanan’s Northside. Jeanne’s past experience working for Clark’s Equipment will also allow the Urban Design Studio students the opportunity to learn more about Buchanan’s past as it relates to Clark’s Equipment, as that history is so interwoven into Buchanan’s legacy.

## **9. Fine Arts Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Mary Lister**

As someone with experience serving as both the president of the Buchanan Area Fine Arts Council, as well as the president and executive director of the Buchanan Art Center, Mary Lister has the expertise needed to enhance the Urban Design Studio’s project through recommendations from Buchanan’s active fine arts community. Mary also has connections with area artists that will make her an ideal point-of-contact for gathering artistic perspectives and points of view on all aspects of the project as it moves through the planning stage, and then later into the implementation stage.

## **10. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Matt Bussler**

As the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Matt Bussler would have the expertise and connections necessary to serve as an ideal point of contact with the Pokagon tribe to help ensure that the Urban Design Studio is taking into account and amplifying the amazing Native American historical sites within our community. Matt could also provide guidance on how we can consider new ways to recognize the unique aspects of this region in relation to Pokagon tribal heritage.

## **11. Professional Services Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Alice Kring**

As the owner of Redbud Insurance, Alice Kring provides direct knowledge of and insight into the unique needs of Buchanan’s professional services industry. As the Secretary of the Buchanan-Galien Lions Club, Alice can also provide direct outreach to that group to bring even more ideas into the project from the perspective of one of the area’s volunteer organizations.

## **12. Landscaping & Public Gardens Stakeholder Group – Team Leader Carol Line**

As the Executive Director of Fernwood Botanical Garden, Carol provides great professional expertise related to landscaping and gardening that will enhance any such elements of the rendering created by the Urban Design Studio. Carol also provides a direct connection to a vast cohort of landscaping and gardening professionals, who could provide additional input as well as serve as resources once the project reaches the implementation stage.

*Team Leaders-* Should coordinate and share information directly with:

- Community Development Director Rich Murphy
  - [rmurphy@cityofbuchanan.com](mailto:rmurphy@cityofbuchanan.com)