



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020

The Design Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

The Commission shall provide advisory recommendations to the City Council as requested by the City Council to assist in developing public policy and to promote excellence in the design and development of Austin's urban environment.

The Commission shall:

- (1) Offer policy recommendations regarding specific issues of urban design; (2) Participate in developing urban design guidelines;
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the City Council, for projects that require the approval of the Planning Commission or the Zoning and Platting Commission:
 - (a) Review a project only after a formal request by the project sponsor or applicant; and
 - (b) Complete the review before the respective Planning or Zoning and Platting Commission takes final action;
- (4) Provide citizen education and outreach regarding quality urban design;
- (5) Provide a venue for citizen input on the design and development of the urban environment;
- (6) Maintain liaison relationships with City staff and other boards and commissions.
- (7) Perform other activities as directed by the City Council.

The commission may appoint one or more of its members to serve as liaison to a project specific community advisory group addressing urban design and planning issues at the formal request of the project sponsor.

1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

- A. The Design Commission reviewed density bonus projects to ensure substantial compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines, as demonstrated in the backup materials for each meeting.
- B. The Design Commission reviewed public projects to ensure compliance with city design standards.
- C. The Design Commission provided recommendations for revising the Downtown Density Bonus Program.
- D. The Design Commission provided recommendations for revising the Urban Design Guidelines.
- E. The Design Commission wrote a recommendation supporting the Pedestrian Advisory Council's recommendations for the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative.
- F. The Design Commission provided agendas and meeting minutes for each meeting.
- G. Planning and Urban Design Working Group met monthly to review Downtown Density Bonus projects.
- H. Have Design Commission representatives on the Downtown Commission, the Joint Sustainability Committee, and the South-Central Waterfront Advisory Board.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Design Commission uses the Mission Statement as it's modus operandi. All actions taken by the Commission comply with the Mission Statement. All recommendations are limited to sections of the Land Development Code that fall within the Design Commission's authority and mission.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- A. Work with city staff on updating the Urban Design Guidelines.
- B. Work with city staff to update the paver guidelines in the Great Streets Program.
- B. Raise awareness of the Design Commission and our mission through education of the public.
- C. Efficiently and effectively evaluate projects in a manner that shows that the Design Commission as an asset to the city.