

## SDAT Fact Sheet

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Detroit has been selected as one of nine cities nationwide to receive technical assistance through the national American Institute of Architects Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program. SDAT members will conduct a three-day charrette and public presentation of findings at the UM Community Design Center, Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### What is the SDAT Program?

The SDAT program is a community assistance program that focuses on the principles of sustainability. The collaborative SDAT program brings together architects and other professionals assembled from across the country to provide a roadmap for communities seeking to improve their sustainability – as defined by a community's ability to meet the environmental, economic, and social equity needs of today without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The SDAT process helps communities:

- understand their structure at various scales and contexts;
- explore interactions between ecological, sociological, economic, and physical systems;
- visualize potential futures;
- articulate the qualities of a place;
- advance the principles of sustainable communities;
- and
- define the role of stakeholders and players in both the public and private sectors.



The SDAT community assistance program provides communities with:

- A three-day visit from a team of architects and other professionals such as planners, hydrologists, economic development specialists, and others are selected for each multidisciplinary SDAT team based on their credentials and the specific needs of each community. The team works in conjunction with local stakeholders to help shape the community's strategy to increase sustainability. In order to provide the most objective assessment, the team members are from outside the particular communities.
- A report highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the community with regard to sustainability, along with the opportunities and obstacles to change
- Consultations after a three-day visit
- A conference call six months after delivery of the assessment report to review progress
- One-day follow-up visit to complete a secondary assessment, one year after the SDAT report is delivered

### Detroit SDAT Team leader

Mr. Alan Mallach has accepted the role as Team Leader for the Detroit SDAT. Mr. Mallach is research director of the National Housing Institute in Montclair, New Jersey, and the author of numerous books and publication on community development with a high interest in the national dilemma of reutilization of urban vacant land. Mr. Mallach will be selecting a team of professionals to assist with the SDAT based on the key issues identified by the Detroit SDAT Steering Committee.

### **Detroit SDAT Issues Teams**

Issues teams are being formed with local expertise and university students to work with the visiting SDAT team to explore new solutions to the following issue areas:

- Land use
- Alternative energy systems and energy efficiency
- Transportation systems
- New Economy



### **SDAT 2008 Communities**

The Center for Communities by Design has selected **Detroit, MI**; Fellsmere, FL; Fort Worth, TX; Kauai, HI; Leon Valley, TX; Morristown, NJ; New Orleans, LA; Parma, OH; and Tampa, FL to receive technical assistance under the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) Program in 2008.

### **Past SDAT Communities**

In 2007, Albany, NY; Central City, LA; Culver City, CA; Dubuque, IA; Tucson, AZ; New Orleans, LA, and Englishtown, NJ. In 2006, New Orleans, LA, Syracuse, N.Y., Longview, Wash., Guemes Island, Wash., Lawrence, Kan., Northeast, Mich., Northern, Nev., and Hagerstown, Md. participated in the SDAT program. For information pertaining to past SDATs, including applications, PowerPoint Presentations, and final reports, please [follow this link](#).

### **Participants**

Key Participants in the Detroit SDAT include: The Kresge Foundation, American Institute of Architects Detroit: Emerging Professionals Committee, Architectural Salvage Warehouse Detroit, Archive DS, Bridging Communities, Inc., City of Detroit Planning Commission, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Detroit Science Center, Eastern Market Corporation, Greater Corktown Development Corporation, Great Lakes Capital Fund, Greening of Detroit, Hamilton Anderson Associates, Lawrence Technological University, Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation, Michigan Environmental Council, Model D – Metromode, Neumann Smith Architects, New Center Council, Rebuild Michigan, RizzoloBrown + Novak Architects, Shore Bank, Southeast MI Sustainable Business Forum, Southwest Detroit Business Association, Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, University Cultural Center Association, University of Detroit Mercy Detroit Collaborative Design Center, University of Michigan, TCAUP Community Design Center, Warm Training Center, Zachary and Associates.

### **Questions?**

For more information about Detroit's SDAT program and/or to become a sponsor, contact Diane Van Buren Jones at [ezdobj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ezdobj@sbcglobal.net) or Eleanore Eveleth at [eleanore\\_eveleth@zacharyandassociates.com](mailto:eleanore_eveleth@zacharyandassociates.com).

Additional organizational information

[http://www.aia.org/liv\\_sdat](http://www.aia.org/liv_sdat)

<http://www.nhi.org>

[www.warmtrainingcenter.org](http://www.warmtrainingcenter.org)

[www.zacharyandassociates.org](http://www.zacharyandassociates.org)