

2026 “Design by Community” Affordable Housing Design Charrettes

Volunteer Application

October 1-3rd, 2026

Housing Colorado’s “Design by Community” Affordable Housing Design Charrettes are an educational, participatory experience for Colorado’s entire affordable housing network. For over ten years, this unique collaborative process has created innovative affordable housing design solutions in rural and urban communities across Colorado.

As a professional interested in affordable housing, you can share your skills and expertise with organizations and people who need it by volunteering to participate in a three-day Design by Community Charrette.

Housing authorities and non-profit organizations from across the state submit proposals for affordable housing projects to the program. Charrette program organizers select projects that represent a range of affordable housing needs.

This year, we will be undertaking projects for the following community partners:

- Arapahoe County
- Brighton Housing Authority
- Shepherd of the Hills Church (Lakewood)

A charrette for each selected project is undertaken by an interdisciplinary team of design, planning and development professionals as well as graduate students from the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning. Under the guidance of a team leader, the students begin work on the selected projects at the start of the fall semester, researching and assembling site and program information in preparation for the three-day design charrettes.

Every year, approximately 40 professionals volunteer contribute their expertise towards creating viable solutions for one of the projects. Each charrette team includes architects, landscape architects, planners, engineers, finance experts, developers, and construction professionals.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally invite you, as a member of Colorado’s design and development community, to play a vital role in this year’s Design by Community Charrettes by becoming one of our volunteer charrette participants for 2026!

Volunteer participants are asked to commit to fully contributing to their team and the charrette activities on October 1-3rd. All of the charrettes begin the morning on the first day and include meals and snacks throughout the event.

Please review the following **Itinerary** and **Volunteer Application** before making your commitment to this year’s charrettes program. Return both the completed Volunteer Application and the Volunteer Expectations and Requirements form to Andrew Chapin at Andrew.chapin4@gmail.com by Friday, September 18th at 5 pm.

Preliminary Charrette Activities Itinerary (may change slightly based on sponsor needs):

Thursday, Oct. 1 st	9 am – Noon Noon – 1pm 1 pm – 5 pm 5 pm – 7 pm	Kick-off & project introductions Team work session Lunch (provided) Team work session Dinner break [optional]
Friday, Oct. 2 nd	8:30 am – Noon Noon – 1 pm 1 pm – 5 pm	Team work session Lunch (provided) Team work session
Saturday, Oct. 3 rd	9 am – Noon	Core team work session: Final presentation prep

All data regarding the site, area demographics, relevant codes, program, community responses to outreach, etc. will be assembled prior to the charrettes and presented during the charrette so that your time will be used efficiently.

Items produced during the charrette may include:

- ☐ Colored Site Plans
- ☐ Building Plans
- ☐ Elevation and Perspective Architectural Renderings
- ☐ Project Programs and Pro Forms
- ☐ Preliminary Construction Cost Estimates
- ☐ Digital Presentations of the Team's Design Solution

**2026 “Design by Community” Affordable Housing Design Charrette
Volunteer Application
October 1-3rd**

Thank you so much for your interest in participating in the 2026 Design by Community Charrettes. Please complete this registration form and return it to Andrew.chapin4@gmail.com by Friday, September 18th at 5 pm. Recruit your friends and co-workers as well! Spaces are limited and will be filled according to the qualifications needed to create well-rounded, interdisciplinary teams for each project. Housing Colorado members will receive priority placement on the teams, but non-members are welcome to apply. Membership information is available at: <https://www.housingcolorado.org/page/join>. Feel free to contact Andrew Chapin at the email address above or at 509-432-4265 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Firm: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Are you a (please check all that apply):

☐ Housing Colorado Member

☐ Registered Architect

☐ Landscape Architect

☐ Engineer (type): _____

☐ Urban Planner

☐ Affordable Housing Developer

☐ Development Finance Professional

☐ Construction Professional

☐ LEED-AP

☐ Non-licensed professional/ Intern

Discipline: _____

☐ Student: ☐ Undergrad ☐ Grad

Discipline: _____

☐ Other: _____

Years of professional experience: _____

Have you participated in the Housing Colorado Charrettes in the past? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, Year: _____ Project: _____

Please circle any of the charrettes at which you would be able to participate:

- Arapahoe County
- Brighton Housing Authority
- Shepherd of the Hills Church (Lakewood)

Are you or your firm willing to make an in-kind donation of supplies for the charrettes (pens, markers, trace paper, etc.)? If so, please indicate which items:

Volunteer Expectations and Requirements

The following policies are acknowledged by all volunteer participants in the 2026 Housing Colorado Design by Community Affordable Housing Design Charrette. In all cases, “charrettes” refers to the 2026 Design by Community Charrette events, held October 1-3rd.

1. Participants in the Design by Community Charrette events are volunteering their time and expertise to advance high-quality affordable housing design and development.
2. Spaces on each of the teams are limited. Selected volunteer participants will be assigned to a space on one of the two project teams at the discretion of the Design by Community Program Steering Committee. Volunteer participants cannot be guaranteed a space on a specific team or project and must be willing to participate on any of the teams or projects once they are selected for participation in the program. Current Housing Colorado members will be given priority placement in the available spaces for each team.
3. The promotion of a firm or an individual during the Charrette events is explicitly prohibited. Team members may share the name and expertise of their firm and/or participating individuals during the Charrette but should be conscious of the educational purpose of the Charrette and community focus.

“Promotion” shall be defined in this policy as follows:

- ☐ The liberal distribution of business cards or other firm/individual informational material to participants during the Charrette.
- ☐ Unsolicited descriptions of a firm’s or individual’s capabilities during the Charrette.

Neither Housing Colorado nor the Design by Communities Program Steering Committee will “police” promotional activities of team participants; however, participants acknowledge such actions will reflect poorly on the program and associated events, its purpose, and the work and mission of Housing Colorado.

4. Housing Colorado will acknowledge the participation of all charrette volunteers during the 2026 Housing Colorado Annual Conference (Friday, October 16th) and in detail as outlined below in final reports.

Participant Information will include the following as provided by team members:

- ☐ Team member name
- ☐ Name of team member’s firm, agency or affiliation
- ☐ Team member’s title, position, occupation or profession
- ☐ Team member’s area of expertise or focus within a discipline

5. Volunteer participants who are not planning on attending conference but would like to attend the Charrettes presentation on Friday, October 16 should contact Brian Rossbert at brian@housingcolorado.org to confirm their attendance details.
6. Volunteer participants who plan on attending **all three days** of the 2026 Housing Colorado Annual Conference (October 14-16) can receive a \$100 discount/refund on their conference registration. Please contact Brian Rossbert at brian@housingcolorado.org.

Implementation

To ensure the intentions of Housing Colorado / University of Colorado Denver’s School of Architecture and Planning Design Charrette Policy are met, a copy of this policy will be provided to every team member. Enforcement of the policy shall be the responsibility of the Steering Committee and any violations of the policy shall be considered and acted upon on a case-by-case basis.

2026 Design Charrette Volunteer signature: _____