WHAT
Multiple comprehensive packages of preliminary design services and/or programs addressing a widespread community development issue and/or supporting a larger community development initiative or goal

FOR
Non-profits/communities, intermediaries, broad community-based organizations, and agencies interested in exploring new models or new visions for improving neighborhoods

Services:
- are typically provided through a contract with an intermediary partner who provides support through funding, referrals, and expertise
- may include programs, events, and promotion in addition to design services
- are completed in 12 to 24 months

Scope of design services:
- is developed through discussions and field visits by the Collaborative and intermediary partner staff
- is tailored to specific needs
- may include existing condition assessments, conceptual design, design/build
- includes community engagement
- is provided by multiple multidisciplinary teams of volunteer design professionals (typically 3 to 10 volunteers)

Design service deliverable is a single combined, or multiple, final report(s)/package(s) that includes multiple products such as:
- existing condition drawings (site and floor plans, elevations)
- existing condition assessments (architectural, structural, building systems, energy)
- site analysis/planning
- preliminary code review
- accessibility review
- historic preservation assessment
- programming and space planning
- conceptual design drawings (site and floor plans, elevations, renderings)
- sustainability strategies
- identity/branding/environmental graphics study
- phasing, implementation and maintenance plan
- opinion of probable cost
- documentation of completed design/build project

In-progress design work is reviewed by an expert jury selected by the Collaborative and the intermediary partner, as appropriate

Initiative results and design work may be publicized through media coverage, events, and special publications

A final wrap-up meeting is held with the intermediaries and participating nonprofits, the volunteer team and Collaborative staff

Cost is $15,000–$500,000 which includes an administrative fee + additional funding as may be needed (to be sought jointly to support programming)

Average grant value of services (value of pro bono services provided to the non-profit/intermediary) is $200,000
Infill Philadelphia is an initiative to explore key community development challenges and opportunities through design. It is a package of programs, projects, and promotion which engages communities in re-envisioning their neighborhoods, leveraging existing assets, rethinking the use of older spaces, and addressing the practical concerns of specific sites and the communities around them. The Collaborative has implemented seven phases of Infill Philadelphia. Sacred Places/Civic Spaces, the most recent phase, was created to re-envision underutilized, purpose-built religious properties as community hubs and demonstrate that these properties throughout Philadelphia can be activated in ways that expand the civic commons, serve a larger secular purpose, and strengthen communities.

Design charrette

Community Design Collaborative, AIA Philadelphia, Philadelphia Water
Transforming Urban Schoolyards

The Collaborative, in partnership with AIA Philadelphia and Philadelphia Water developed a design charrette, or day-long brainstorming session, to explore how to create greener, more sustainable schoolyards in Philadelphia. Focusing on Lea Elementary School in West Philadelphia and Kelly Elementary School in Germantown, four teams made up of design professionals, students, parents, teachers, and public agency representatives created specific designs for Lea and Kelly, which would also act as design models for greening schoolyards throughout the city. At the end of the day, the participants presented their designs to the public and a panel of experts in education, community development, and sustainability.

Design workshop

Community Design Collaborative, Partners for Sacred Places, and Lutheran Theological Seminary
LTSP: A Design Workshop for Reimagining an Historic Campus

Partners for Sacred Places combined forces with the Collaborative to help the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) look ahead as it downsized and opened a large portion of its beautiful campus up for new uses. Partners convened an advisory committee to consider LTSP as a community asset and create a business plan to reimagine the campus. The Collaborative contributed its design expertise in a two-day workshop that brought the advisory committee and larger community together to develop a conceptual master plan for the campus and conceptual designs for key buildings and spaces.

Assessments

Community Design Collaborative and City of Philadelphia, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
School Reuse: Site Assessments

With the closing of over 30 Philadelphia public schools, many neighborhoods lost an important community asset. While some quickly attracted buyers, others languished on the market for more than two years. To confront the challenge of reusing schools in the weaker real estate markets, the City recognized that new design prototypes were needed for these community assets to be managed well in the interim, and to accelerate permanent reuse of the sites. As an initial step, Collaborative volunteers visited four of the vacant schools to conduct visual assessments of the buildings’ exteriors and interiors, their sites, and building systems. The resulting written reports, photos, plans, and recommendations provided a practical starting point for determining the reuse potential of each school site.

Design/build

Community Design Collaborative, Public Workshop, Get Healthy Philly
The Art of Active Play: Using Design to Promote Physical Activity

Get Healthy Philly and the Collaborative brought together advocates for health, child development, design, and play to get Philadelphia children—especially girls—moving. They engaged Public Workshop to work with youth, design professionals, artists, and community members to design and build three prototypes for pop-up “playable elements” along the Lancaster Avenue Commercial Corridor in West Philadelphia. These installations encouraged interactive, spontaneous physical activity and tested opportunities for promoting physical activity in all Philadelphia neighborhoods.