



# Designing the Resilient Desert City

**2023 AIA Phoenix Metro Design Ideas Competition**  
In partnership with the City of Tempe and AZ ASLA

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# Urban desert cities and their communities face a hostile future.

The City of Tempe, one of the densest communities in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, is already a leader in climate action. The City's 2019 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and subsequent CAP Update in 2022 chart a more sustainable, resilient path for Tempe's future, with strategies proposed to reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions, increase resilience to extreme heat, raise green construction standards, and develop a multi-modal transit network. The adoption of these plans has led to Tempe to become one of 122 global cities to be recognized for climate action leadership by CDP in its 2022 Cities A List.

## Yet, there is still work to be done.

Change at this scale cannot happen overnight. Many of the strategies outlined in the CAP remain on paper only. The Sustainability and Resilience Office partners with City departments, non-profits, businesses, academia, and community-based organizations to build awareness and support for these actions to be codified by the city council, funded through the city budget, and finally implemented in the community. The opportunity to implement these initiatives and standards is now, especially as our landlocked city has a growing population and experiences rapid development in our built environment. The Sustainability and Resilience Commission desires to create more awareness around the City's sustainability goals and to help residents, businesses, city staff, and partners visualize what their future city may look like if it is to reach the CAP's aspirations.

# The time is now to design the resilient communities we need in the future so that we can see the path forward.

## Goals of the Competition

Through the AIA Phoenix Metro 2023 Design Ideas Competition and in partnership with AIA Phoenix Metro and ASLA Arizona, the City of Tempe seeks:

- To visualize a **sustainable, resilient development in the urban desert** for the City of Tempe, its residents, and the world at large using the strategies and goals described in the City of Tempe's CAP.
- To show the **transformative possibilities of the CAP through physical interventions** of architecture, landscape architecture, and master planning, ensuring the City and its residents will have a greater understanding of the potential impact of the CAP.
- To inform **future policies and development within Tempe and pilot projects by the City** through a vision that responds to our climate reality with optimism, action, and a focus on the local community.
- To change **how we look at the design of our cities** by seeing the built environment as an opportunity for creating **resilient, human-centric places**, meeting the effects of climate change with **inspirational solutions** instead of despair, and making a **more equitable society through our architecture**.

# Abstract



# How can architecture embody climate resilience, manifesting as a community act by reinforcing sustainability and equity through the built environment?

Entrants will develop a concept for the redevelopment of a chosen site in Tempe. **All competition entries must include a community Resilience Hub, incorporate green stormwater infrastructure within the overall master plan of the site, and conceptually meet the requirements of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC).**

Entrants may choose to include any additional program or policies beyond the required elements listed in this brief. Entrants are encouraged to incorporate additional program that serves community needs and further supports the strategies and goals within the Tempe Climate Action Plan. A successful entry will incorporate the various requirements into a high-performing, holistic design solution that is appropriate for an urban desert city.

## Resilience Hub

If disaster strikes, residents must have safe and cool locations to find shelter, and Tempe is building a network of these hubs throughout the city. A resilience hub is a community-serving facility that supports residents and coordinates resource distribution and emergency services. These hubs can be equipped with photovoltaic panels and storage batteries to ensure residents can access power and cooled spaces in major heat events. **Entries must include an indoor space for community response that is flexible to provide other community functions outside of heat crisis events.**

## Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI, also known as low-impact development or LID) is a sustainable approach to stormwater management that utilizes the landscape with native Sonoran Desert ecological plant communities and natural processes to absorb storm runoff and mimics the natural hydrology of an area. This can further reinforce resilience by supporting natural biodiversity, reduce urban heat island effect, and creating cooler micro-climates with shade from tree canopies and vegetated surfaces. Entrants are highly encouraged to integrate GSI/LID seamlessly into the site and/or building design. **Entries must show a conceptual approach to using on-site and off-site stormwater.**

## International Green Construction Code (IgCC)

The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) is a set of guidelines that aim to improve the sustainability and environmental performance of buildings during their design, construction, and operation. The code addresses ways to decrease energy usage and carbon footprints, as well as responsible site development, indoor environmental quality, water conservation strategies, and energy-efficient building performance. **Entries must show through drawing notes or a project narrative how the design intends to meet aspects of the IgCC. Entrants may determine the most important aspects to identify.**



## Site

The competition site is located in Tempe, Arizona, along Apache Boulevard between Dorsey Lane and Chief Jones Way. The site is comprised of three lots with the following parcel numbers (APN): **132-62-148**, **132-62-149**, and **132-62-005B**. Entrants may use one, two, or all parcels as part of their design concept.

Two existing buildings on the project site may be maintained or removed as part of the design concept.

## Resources

Site Surveys for [Parcel 132-62-005B](#) and [Parcels 132-62-148 and 132-62-149](#)

[2019 Tempe Climate Action Plan](#) and [2022 Climate Action Plan Update](#)

[Urban Sustainability Directors Network: Resilience Hubs](#)

[City of Mesa LID Toolkit](#) and [City of Tucson LID and GI Guidance Manual](#)

[International Green Construction Code](#)

[AIA Framework for Design Excellence](#)

# Site & Resources

# Awards & Recognition

Winning entries and honorable mentions (maximum of two per category) will be selected by the Competition Jury and will be recognized as described below.

## Professional Category Awards & Cash Prizes

- **Winning Entry** \$4000
- **Honorable Mentions** \$1000 each

## Student Category Awards & Cash Prizes

- **Winning Entry** \$1000
- **Honorable Mentions** \$500 each

## Publication of Competition Entries

All entries will be on digital display at the competition awards ceremony on August 17, 2023. Competition boards of winning entries will be printed, mounted, and displayed at the competition award ceremony at no cost to entrants.

The City of Tempe, AIA Phoenix Metro, and ASLA Arizona may choose all or a portion of the entries for public exhibition at their discretion. This may include publishing entries through the AIA Phoenix Metro competition website, AIA and ASLA email newsletters.

The City of Tempe, AIA Phoenix Metro, and ASLA Arizona may also seek to publicize the competition winners through online and print media outlets and hold the right to reproduce project imagery at their discretion. Entrants maintain all copyright of their work and will be properly cited in any publication.

The City of Tempe reserves the right to utilize all of a portion of the entries for general marketing of the Climate Action Plan and to inform future developments proposed by the City of Tempe.

## Awards Disclaimer

The Competition Jury may choose, at the sole discretion of the Competition Jury and AIA Phoenix Metro as the competition organizer, to award fewer prizes than listed in the **Professional Category Awards & Cash Prizes** and **Student Category Awards & Cash Prizes** sections above.

# Awards & Recognition



# Registration

## Registration Form

The online registration form can be found at the [AIA Phoenix Metro competition website](#). Upon registration, entrants will be assigned an identification number to include on the submission board. The assigned identification number should be included in all correspondence and should be the first two characters in the title of the electronic submission and the subject line of the submission email .

Only one member of a team must be identified when registering a new competition team. All members of a competition team must be identified upon submission of the competition entry.

## Entry Fee

Entry fees are used to support the competition monetary awards and other competition expenses. Any fees received in excess of the competition's expenses will be donated to [Arizona Kids Build](#).

- **\$100** for professional entries with at least one registered AIA or ASLA member
- **\$150** for professional entries with no registered members
- **Free** for student entries

## Schedule

As the competition organizer, AIA Phoenix Metro reserves the right to adjust the competition schedule as necessary. Any changes to the competition schedule will be communicated to entrants via the entrant's contact email.

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|------------------|--|
| <b>April 17</b>  | Competition Announcement   |
| <b>May 1</b>     | Registration Opens, Start of Q&A Period<br><i>All questions must be sent to <a href="mailto:diana@aia-arizona.org">diana@aia-arizona.org</a>.</i>                                    |
| <b>May 30</b>    | Close of Q&A Period at 11:59 PM  |
| <b>June 7</b>    | Responses to Q&A Posted to <a href="#">AIA Phoenix Metro Website</a>   |
| <b>July 1</b>    | <b>Registration Deadline:</b> All Registrations Due at 11:59 PM  |
| <b>July 23</b>   | <b>Submission Deadline:</b> All Entries Due at 11:59 PM<br><i>All submissions must be sent to <a href="mailto:diana@aia-arizona.org">diana@aia-arizona.org</a>.</i>                  |
| <b>August 17</b> | Award Ceremony at <a href="#">Tempe Center for the Arts</a><br><i>The ceremony will be part of a monthly AIA meeting and will be held in the Lakeside Room beginning at 6:00 pm.</i> |
| <b>Fall 2023</b> | Presentations to Community & Partner Organizations<br><i>Winning entries may be invited to present their entries to various stakeholders after the conclusion of the competition</i> |

# Registration & Schedule

# Jury

**Brian Farling, AIA**

Principal, Jones Studio

**Selina Martinez**

Co-founder and Lead Instructor, Design Empowerment Phoenix, Sagrado Galleria

**Elizabeth McLean, AIA**

Associate Principal, Ayers Saint Gross

**Dr. Diane E. Pataki**

Foundation Professor & Director, ASU School of Sustainability

**Wellington “Duke” Reiter, FAIA**

Senior Adviser to the President, Arizona State University

**Josh Rutherford**

Economic Development Program Manager, City of Tempe

**Byron Sampson, ASLA**

University Landscape Architect, Arizona State University

# Jury

## Entrant Requirements

1. The competition is open to everyone and anyone who wishes to enter.
2. An entrant may be an individual or a team, but teams may not exceed seven (7) members.
3. Entrants are encouraged (but not required) to have teams with varied members, including architects, landscape architects, engineers, ecologists, urban planners, local community members, etc.
4. AIA Arizona and AIA Phoenix Metro staff, members of the Competition Committee, and members of the Competition Jury are not able to participate.

## Submittal Requirements

1. Entrants must submit their competition boards as **either**: One (1) 36" x 48" horizontal (or landscape) board; **or** Two (2) 24" x 36" vertical (or portrait) boards to be used freely to express a distinct physical design concept and visual narrative. All information regarding the competition entry must be included on the competition board(s) for consideration.
2. Provide a clear and simple narrative describing the design and the entrant's approach to how the prompt was addressed. The response must not exceed 500 words and must be integrated into the board(s). Text must be legible at full resolution of the board.
3. The competition board(s) must be delivered digitally (PDF or JPEG) at no less than **150 dpi** by the submission deadline listed in the **Competition Schedule**. Entrants must submit their competition entry no later than 11:59 PM on the day of the **Submission Deadline** via email to [diana@aia-arizona.org](mailto:diana@aia-arizona.org). The submission may be made as an attachment to the email or through a file transfer link.
4. Entrants may submit a video or VR file associated with their entry, but are not required to do so and these files will not be considered by the Competition Jury to determine winning entries. These files may be used to further illustrate a design concept during the award ceremony or subsequent community presentations. Entrants submitting videos may upload their videos to a video streaming service (such as Vimeo or Youtube), or submit their files via a file transfer link.

# Entry

# Requirements



# Competition Regulations

1. This is an anonymous competition and the registration number is the only means of identification.
2. The official language of the competition is English.
3. The registration fee is non-refundable.
4. Contacting the Competition Jury is prohibited.
5. AIA Phoenix Metro, as the competition organizer, reserves the right to modify the Competition Schedule if deemed necessary.
6. At the sole discretion of the City of Tempe, winning entries may be considered as the basis for future pilot projects for development by the City.
7. The City of Tempe, AIA Phoenix Metro, or ASLA Arizona may choose all or a portion of the entries for public exhibition at their discretion.
8. Participants retain all copyrights of their designs. AIA Phoenix Metro, ASLA Arizona and the City of Tempe are granted permission to publish in print and digital publications all projects submitted to the competition. All projects will be properly credited when published or exhibited.
9. Entrants may be disqualified if any of the competition rules are not followed.
10. Participation assumes acceptance of the regulations.

# Competition Regulations

# Thank you

## Partner Organizations



### AIA Phoenix Metro

John Czarnecki, Assoc. AIA — AIA Arizona Executive Director  
Diana Smith, CAE

### ASLA Arizona

Todd Briggs, ASLA — 2023 President

### City of Tempe

Dr. Brayden Kay — Sustainability & Resilience Director  
Sustainability & Resilience Commission

### Competition Committee

Shawn Swisher, AIA — Chair  
Sophie Aprotosoiaie-Kardos, AIAS  
Todd Briggs, ASLA  
Brianna Fisher  
Kendon Jung  
John Kane, FAIA  
Jordan Kravitz, AIA  
Pete Rasmussen, AIA  
Brianna Tsatskin, AIAS

### Special Thanks

To the Competition Jury for their time and expertise in evaluating the submissions, to the Competition Committee for guiding the development of the competition, and to the AIA College of Fellows for their generous support of this competition through the 2023 AIA College of Fellows Component Grant.