

## **HAMER CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN**

The Hamer Center for Community Design provides community service through curriculum based studios and faculty research. The Hamer Center partners with municipalities, government agencies, neighborhood associations, community development associations, non-profit organizations, citizen groups, and other public entities. The Hamer Center is not positioned however to work with private property owners, unless they are interested in developing public spaces that will benefit the larger community.

### **Project Requirements**

Organizations who are interested in working with the Hamer Center for Community Design should propose projects that comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- Benefits the public.
- Involves public participation and dialogue with stake holders.
- Designates leaders in the form of committee, organization, or community group that work directly with faculty, staff, and students affiliated with the Hamer Center for Community Design.
- Dedicates time and resources over the entire length of the project to completion.

### **Project Review and Selection**

The Hamer Center for Community Design receives many requests for design services each year but can only accommodate a few of these per semester. Therefore, the Hamer Center selects projects based on competitive standards, available resources, and faculty / student interests. In order for a project to be considered, it must meet the following standards:

- *Appropriateness*— Is the proposed project aligned with the Hamer Center's values and goals which are on the website (<https://hamercenter.psu.edu>)? Also, does the project fit faculty interests and expertise and the curriculum requirements for the department and university?
- *Application*— Can the proposed project apply beyond the confines and context of the specific site and community?
- *Efficient Timing*— Can the project be completed within the academic calendar without significant scheduling conflicts?
- *Support from the Community* — To what extent will the affected community support the proposed project?
- *Organizational and Managerial Competence*— Does the applicant have the capacity to manage the proposed project and to follow through on recommended changes?
- *Financial Support*— Are there adequate funds for the proposed project to be successfully realized?

## **Construction Limitations**

Qualified Penn State faculty members guide the staff and students working with the Hamer Center, to produce project reports and design studies. However, these design studies CANNOT be held responsible or liable as construction documents. Organizations who wish to construct such projects should obtain professional licensed landscape architects and architects to prepare any necessary construction documents.

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

When the Hamer selects a project, the applicant will be expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will include the goals and expected outcomes of the project, as well as the responsibilities of the applicant and Hamer Center. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the MOU document which is available through the Hamer Center Website.

## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE?**

Please be sure to read the IRA guidelines before applying for assistance. If your project qualifies for design services, then please fill out and return the attached IRA to:

The Hamer Center for Community Design  
105 Stuckeman Family Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone: 814.865.5300  
email: [hamercenter@psu.edu](mailto:hamercenter@psu.edu)  
website: <https://hamercenter.psu.edu/>

\*Online submissions of the IRAs are preferred.