



What is MDT?

MDT stands for “Minnesota Design Team”

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MDT is a 30 year old Organization

MDT stands for “Minnesota Design Team”. Originally founded as the Governor’s Design Team in 1983. MDT recently merged with AIA (American Association of Architects). It is a group of multi-disciplined design professionals who serve communities across Minnesota through a unique design charette focused on community engagement.

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MDT is an Event

MDT coordinates a three day visit with a community. During the 3 day visit, the MDT Volunteer Team learns about your community, ideates during a day long charette to produce sketches and ideas for your community, then presents those ideas.

3

MDT is a Process

MDT uses a community engagement process. The process includes working with your Planning Team. In the months leading up to the visit, your Team is preparing to host the MDT event. You will assemble your team, Assess your community, and arrange for the three day charette.

The charette presentation is meant to instigate action in your community. At the final presentation - community members will be invited to implement the ideas that are catered to presure points in your community.

Where are we in the Process?

What is MDT?

How to Apply for an MDT Visit

Prepare for Your MDT Visit

Week of the MDT Visit

What is Next?





MDT | Organization

Mission

The Minnesota Design Team (MDT) is an AIA Minnesota committee, and originated from the Governor's Design Team in 1983. Its multidisciplinary teams have worked with more than 130 rural communities helping them to improve their built environments.

Minnesota Design Team's mission is to use design, sustainability, and community development principles to help Minnesota communities, particularly those in rural areas, develop and act upon a shared vision of their future.

When working with communities, MDT has three objectives:

- 1** To increase awareness of the benefits of quality design in the development of communities. As architects, landscape architects and allied professionals, we use planning and design concepts to illustrate each community's unique vision.
- 2** To preserve each community's identity. With images and words, as an independent third-party, we construct a sustainable vision with existing assets, including people and institutions, buildings, and the natural environment.
- 3** To promote participatory democracy and grass-roots initiatives. MDT seeks to inspire community-based development through a positive experience of bringing people together to better understand their community, one another, and the future.

Learn more at <http://www.aia-mn.org/get-involved/committees/minnesota-design-team/>





MDT Event

An MDT Visit centers around community engagement. This 3 day charette immerses MDT Volunteers in your community, your challenges, and your unique strengths. The MDT Volunteers ideate and create a presentation in response to pressing needs and concerns.

This 30 year process begins on Friday morning by **Listening & Learning** from representatives of the hosting Community through a series of Presentations, Tour and Friday Night Community Engagement Event.

On Saturday, the MDT Volunteers **Ideate & Create** a presentation in response to three to five topics from the day before. The multidisciplinary Team will sketch concepts that may inspire, raise awareness, or address pressure points within your Community.

The Saturday Night Community Presentation can **Engage & Energize** your Community and inspire individuals to take action on the ideas presented. It ends with an opportunity for your Community to volunteer and take action on ideas that improve your Community.

Thursday

- 6:00 pm MDT Co-Leads Arrive
- 7:00 pm Welcome Reception for MDT & Host Families

Friday

- 8:00 am Community Presentations
- 1:00 pm Tour of Community
- 6:00 pm Community Dinner
- 7:00 pm Community Engagement Event

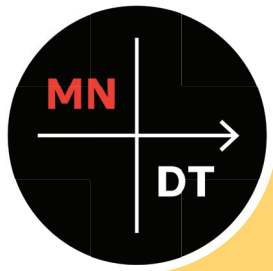
Saturday

- 8:00 am MDT Volunteer Team Works
- 6:00 pm Community Dinner
- 7:00 pm Community Presentation
- 8:00 pm Reception & Volunteer Sign-Up

Sunday

- 8:00 am Host Family Brunch
- MDT Volunteers Depart





MDT Process

Inspiration

9 - 12 months before

Community finds MDT

6 - 9 months before

Community Applies for a Visit

6 months before

MDT reviews & approves Application
MDT Co-Leads meet with Community
Community assembles Visit Committee

4 - 6 months before

Visit Committee prepares information:

- Brainstorming Meeting
- SWOT Analysis
- Four Environments Research
- Community Survey
- Photo Survey

2 - 8 weeks before

Visit Committee coordinates logistics
MDT Co-Leads meet to finalize

MDT Visit

Thursday

6 pm - MDT Co-Leads Arrive
7 pm - Welcome Receptions

Friday

8 am - Community Presentations
1 pm - Tour of Community
6 pm - Community Dinner
7 pm - **Community Engagement Event**

Saturday

8 am - MDT Volunteer Team Workshop
6 pm - Community Dinner
7 pm - Community Presentation
8 pm - Reception & Volunteer Sign-Up

Sunday

8 am - Host Family Brunch
MDT Volunteers Depart

Ideation

What's Next?

2 weeks after

MDT Co-Leads follow up

3 - 6 months after

MDT Co-Leads follow up

12 months after

MDT Co-Leads follow up

Implement

Community Engagement starts 9-12 months before the MDT Visit beginning with learning about the full MDT process. Each Community reaches out and meets with MDT representatives to talk about the concerns. If the timing and needs of the Community align, then the Community is invited to prepare an application.

The Application includes preparing background information and initiating conversations with Communities leaders and investors. The photos, community needs and letters of support included in the application pave the way for a successful visit. After approval of an application, the Visit Committee is assembled and works with the MDT Co-Leads to set an MDT Visit Date.

The Visit Committee continues to engage with the community through surveys, research, and social media efforts. They plan the logistics of the MDT Visit. Then they work to transition the Ideas from the 3-day charrette into implementation by engaging various segments of the community.

