AIA SDAT Program – Grant County 2021-2022

AIA was founded in 1857 by 13 architects.

AIA is now more than 95,000 members strong.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, we have more than 200 chapters around the world.

Since 1967, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has run Sustainable Design Assistance Team (SDAT) programs. These are results-driven community design programs based on the principles of interdisciplinary solutions, objectivity, and public participation.

The programs combine local resources with the expertise of a multidisciplinary team of nationally recognized professionals who volunteer their time to identify ways to encourage desirable change in a community. The team visits a community for three to four intense, productive days. The process is fast-paced, exciting, and energizing. This approach—which can address social, economic, political, and physical issues—offers communities a tool that mobilizes local support and fosters new levels of cooperation.

The SDAT programs have used this grassroots approach across the nation to help create communities that are healthy, safe and livable, as well as more sustainable.

swnmACT was awarded the AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team project in January 2020. We stayed in communication with AIA SDAT for almost a year and a half before they made their commitment to Grant County by beginning the process with a Site Visit in August of this year.

Full Team Visit – Dec 2021

The team leader and AIA National Staff select a multidisciplinary team of five to seven professionals who visit the community for three (SDAT) intense, productive days. After viewing both the study area and the surrounding community and listening to the concerns and ideas of residents, interested groups, and community leaders, the team prepares a summary presentation of its findings that is presented in a public meeting on the last day.

A final report is created and provided to the communities. This report is typically provided approximately two to four months after the team visit (SDATs), and is provided to the community in electronic form as well as posted to the AIA website.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE DAT PROCESS?

SDATs have led to new construction and development, new public agencies and organizations, new parks and open space, new zoning ordinances, political change, affordable housing, commercial and economic revitalization, preservation of historic districts, landmark preservation, pedestrian systems, comprehensive plans, changes in growth patterns, and cessation of inappropriate development.

Tangible products include:

- A coherent description of the community's condition and the challenges that must be addressed. This statement, generated by the steering committee during the application process, is frequently a community's first citizen-based self-analysis.
- A professional report that both examines the community's concerns and aspirations and recommends a vision for the future, specific action items, and timetables for implementation.
- Continued guidance and advice from the team and AIA staff as the community moves forward with implementation.

Intangible products frequently include:

- A new or renewed sense of purpose and direction
- An objective look at the community
- Increased energy and commitment
- New levels of cooperation and collaboration throughout the community
- Consensus on community concerns
- Improved communication networks throughout the community

PROGRAM COSTS

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team is not a traditional grant program. Awarded communities receive pro bono services through the program, and the AIA commits to funding up to $15,000 for each project to cover team expenses.

Recipient communities are required to make a one-time payment of $5,000 to the AIA as a cash match to the program. They are also required to cover any costs above the $15,000 ceiling should cost escalations occur. Most communities raise additional funds or secure in-kind donations in order to cover local costs associated with project implementation (public outreach materials, meeting and facilities, etc). The community is often able to provide in-kind contributions of meeting and work space, meals, or other direct out-of-pocket expenses typically covered by AIA. **Generally, the cash match covers team travel to the site, lodging, living expenses, and report production. All of the team's time is donated. Experience has shown that the best way to create broad community support is to ask everyone to contribute rather than relying on one major funding source.** Funding and donations should ideally come from a variety of public and private sources, which might include businesses, local governments, nonprofits, foundations, organizations such as the chamber of commerce, arts councils, the local AIA component, and other community groups and individuals.

Budget- The community's $5,000 cash match is due with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the AIA. Remember that team members donate several days of their professional and personal time to serve on a SDAT team and their only compensation is the intellectual stimulation of the experience. Because of this, they should be treated as highly regarded guests, and the budget should provide for comfortable, convenient travel arrangements and accommodations. As such, in-kind contributions may be used to both encourage community buy-in and defray hard costs throughout the project. Many budgeted

items may be donated by local organizations, including meals, vans, meeting & work space, and work materials.

SDAT PARTICIPANTS

• Local steering committee: Committee of community members formed to manage the community obligations of the SDAT. This committee must include members of the diverse stakeholder groups.

• SDAT team leader: The team leader is a professional with substantial SDAT experience who will select and lead the team assigned to a particular SDAT effort. • AIA Staff: AIA representatives who guide the AIA's participation in the SDAT process from the pre-application through implementation phases.

• SDAT team: A group of multidisciplinary professionals selected to assist a community during the SDAT process. All team members, including the team leader, volunteer their time and professional expertise.

• Implementation committee: Committee of community members formed to manage the implementation of the DAT recommendations. Some or all of these individuals may have served on the steering committee as well.

• Community Members: The success of the SDAT is dependent upon the involvement of an inclusive and wide-ranging spectrum of community members and residents in order to ensure decision-making that has broad public support and ownership and that is representative of the community as a whole.

FIVE POINTS

Proposed Initiative
Grant County, New Mexico

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES – TOGETHER WE CAN!
CONECTANDO NUESTRAS COMUNIDADES – ¡JUNTOS PODEMOS!

Revitalizing Communities - Building Economies



Five distinctive historic properties located in proximity to U.S Highway 180 with significant potential to become drivers for community and economic development; connecting and sharing heritage, cultures, and creative initiatives.



Silver City Water Works Building	**Arenas Valley** Hurley Schoolhouse	**Santa Clara** Bradley Hotel	**Bayard** Union Hall (TBD)	**Hurley** Train Station
				
CDT Waystation Museum Outdoor Rec Venue	Arts and Entertainment Food - Studios	Arts Organization Accomodation Market Space	Community Building Programming	Museum Visitor's Center Gift Store

180

180

Each of the above-mentioned buildings *(with the intent to eventually add buildings from other communities such as Gila, Mimbres, Gila Hot Springs, etc.)* hold rich historical and cultural importance for the communities they they are located in and hold the common development threads of:

Economic Development - Workforce Development - Job Creation
Historic Preservation - Green Building, Re-purposing, Renewable/Sustainable Energy
Creative Economy - Outdoor/Recreation Economy - Tourism Economy
Youth Conservation Corps/ AmeriCorps - Cobre/Aldo/Silver Schools - Work Based Learning
Cultural Programming – Arts – Music – Festivals – Celebrations - Holidays

Restoring and revitalizing historic buildings in Grant County will serve as a visual and action-based means towards re-energizing our rural communities. The intent of this initiative, beyond renovating physical structures, is to elevate and celebrate the pride of our complex culture & history, uniting and inspiring Grant County residents to work collaboratively and creatively towards a common goal - Juntos Podemos.

In collaboration with existing efforts to link Grant County communities via road, bike trails and walkways, the Five Points Initiative will support on-going County-Wide development opportunities. Connections linked through biking, hiking and horse-riding trails offer extensive programming opportunities and health benefits. The proximity to Historic Fort Bayard will increase tourism activity and cultural programming prospects, as well as enhance connections to the Gila National Forest, Gila River, and Aldo Leopold Wilderness, for locals and tourists to further explore the innumerable natural assets of Southwest New Mexico.

Engaging local youth and young adults in restoration, landscaping, trail building and renovation projects, will create jobs and develop a focused, skilled workforce through work-based learning initiatives.

Funding sources will be pursued through foundation, state and federal grants,and through government and private investment. The development of each site will be driven by its own local community, and will involve the unique history of each location, along with its diverse cultural assets and people-sharing stories.

Southwest New Mexico ACT - *an action-based nonprofit*
201 N. HUDSON ST., SILVER CITY, NM 88061
PO BOX 2383, SILVER CITY, NM 88062
T: 575-538-5560 INFO@swnmACT.ORG