

# Video

## ULI Alberta Design Tour 2024

Date: January 16, 2024

**00:00:12 --> 00:00:15:** The ULI Alberta Design Tour is is an opportunity for  
**00:00:15 --> 00:00:18:** our members to learn about and be inspired by world  
**00:00:18 --> 00:00:21:** class developments in other North American cities.  
**00:00:21 --> 00:00:24:** It's also a great opportunity to network and and form  
**00:00:24 --> 00:00:26:** connections in the broader ULI community.  
**00:00:26 --> 00:00:29:** Previous design tours of visited cities of Chicago, Austin,  
**00:00:30 --> 00:00:33:** Pittsburgh,  
**00:00:33 --> 00:00:36:** and Denver, providing attendees the opportunity to explore  
**00:00:36 --> 00:00:39:** familiar cities  
**00:00:39 --> 00:00:43:** with a new perspective, or providing a reason to fly  
**00:00:43 --> 00:00:45:** to a place that perhaps you hadn't thought about visiting.  
**00:00:46 --> 00:00:48:** Yeah, I've attended the previous two design tours, those  
**00:00:48 --> 00:00:51:** being  
**00:00:51 --> 00:00:53:** Pittsburgh in 2019 and Denver in 2023.  
**00:00:53 --> 00:00:56:** The design tours are a great way to see how  
**00:00:56 --> 00:01:00:** other jurisdictions tackle the same challenges we all face  
**00:01:00 --> 00:01:03:** every  
**00:01:03 --> 00:01:05:** day in our work here in Calgary with real estate  
**00:01:05 --> 00:01:06:** development and land development, the problems are all the  
**00:01:06 --> 00:01:09:** same,  
**00:01:09 --> 00:01:13:** but seeing how an entirely different jurisdiction approaches  
**00:01:13 --> 00:01:15:** them, it  
**00:01:15 --> 00:01:16:** provides a really fresh perspective, a lot of unique insights  
 and opportunities to learn how they tackle it and plus  
 the overarching benefit.  
 It's an amazing networking opportunity where you really get  
 to  
 know other professionals from the Calgary and Edmonton  
 ULI chapters  
 and just bond with them over the a really fun  
 two or three day tour.

00:01:16 --> 00:01:20: I've attended Austin, Chicago and Denver.  
00:01:21 --> 00:01:24: I think the best thing about the design tours are  
00:01:24 --> 00:01:26: not only that you get to see all of these  
00:01:26 --> 00:01:28: amazing projects in other cities.  
00:01:28 --> 00:01:31: You get a behind the scenes tour, but you get  
00:01:31 --> 00:01:36: to see it from other people's perspectives because you're  
constantly  
00:01:36 --> 00:01:39: talking about it with other people in attendance at the  
00:01:39 --> 00:01:44: design tour and you're thinking about its application to  
Calgary  
00:01:44 --> 00:01:47: and just getting that perspective is great.  
00:01:47 --> 00:01:50: Some highlights that come to mind from the tours I've  
00:01:50 --> 00:01:54: attended include being toured around the iconic Wolf Point  
riverfront  
00:01:54 --> 00:01:57: development in Chicago by Laura Heinz from the Heinz  
Development  
00:01:57 --> 00:02:00: Group, exploring the Cultural District and the PNC Tower in  
00:02:00 --> 00:02:03: Pittsburgh, and attending the ULI Colorado summer event  
and being  
00:02:03 --> 00:02:07: inspired by the McGregor Square Entertainment District in  
Denver.  
00:02:07 --> 00:02:10: With Pittsburgh, it was really interesting to see such a  
00:02:10 --> 00:02:13: long established historical city and their incremental  
approach.  
00:02:13 --> 00:02:16: They had such an amazing bones of a city to  
00:02:16 --> 00:02:20: begin with and to seeing incremental changes and  
approaches and  
00:02:20 --> 00:02:23: how that fed into their redevelopments and growth.  
00:02:23 --> 00:02:26: But I really like Denver given that it was so  
00:02:26 --> 00:02:29: similar to Calgary rapid growth and a lot of essentially  
00:02:29 --> 00:02:32: a blank slate brownfield areas that were just transforming in  
00:02:32 --> 00:02:35: such a short, succinct amount of time into these incredible,  
00:02:35 --> 00:02:38: incredible developments in neighbourhoods.  
00:02:38 --> 00:02:40: McGregor Square was probably my favorite that we visited  
and  
00:02:40 --> 00:02:41: toured.  
00:02:41 --> 00:02:44: We had the lead consultant from Stantec who was involved  
00:02:44 --> 00:02:47: in that project, tourists around, calling of all the highlights,  
00:02:47 --> 00:02:51: the challenges, everything that the project entailed from initial  
conception  
00:02:51 --> 00:02:52: to completion.  
00:02:53 --> 00:02:54: It was a it was an amazing experience to see  
00:02:54 --> 00:02:57: such a transformative development happen on what was  
essentially a  
00:02:57 --> 00:02:59: gravel parking lot only a few years earlier.

00:03:00 --> 00:03:04: In Chicago, there was a tour of the Jackson, which  
00:03:04 --> 00:03:09: was we weren't doing in any rental development in Calgary  
00:03:09 --> 00:03:10: at the time.  
00:03:10 --> 00:03:15: And so the Jackson was a large rental development in  
00:03:15 --> 00:03:20: Chicago with all of the amenities that you can think  
00:03:20 --> 00:03:20: of.  
00:03:20 --> 00:03:23: So it was really interesting to see that when Calgary  
00:03:24 --> 00:03:25: wasn't there yet.  
00:03:25 --> 00:03:28: This year we've decided to hold the tour in June  
00:03:28 --> 00:03:30: before the schools break for the summer.  
00:03:30 --> 00:03:33: Attendees should plan to arrive in the destination city on  
00:03:33 --> 00:03:37: Wednesday, June the 5th and then we'll have an exciting  
00:03:37 --> 00:03:39: two day itinerary of tours over June 6th and 7th.  
00:03:41 --> 00:03:44: When selecting a location for the 2024 design tour, we  
00:03:44 --> 00:03:47: wanted to choose somewhere that has a vibrant  
development scene  
00:03:47 --> 00:03:50: and an active and engaged ULI District Council.  
00:03:50 --> 00:03:54: We're always interested in exploring cities that have parallels  
to  
00:03:54 --> 00:03:57: Calgary and Edmonton, and I'm really excited for what is  
00:03:57 --> 00:03:59: shaping up to be our best design tour yet.  
00:03:59 --> 00:04:01: I think it's a really interesting choice.  
00:04:01 --> 00:04:04: It's not somewhere I would have particularly gone to in  
00:04:04 --> 00:04:06: my personal life per SE, but I am excited to  
00:04:06 --> 00:04:09: see how they're tackling a lot of the issues we  
00:04:09 --> 00:04:09: face and it.  
00:04:09 --> 00:04:12: I like the fact that it's a very similar city  
00:04:12 --> 00:04:15: to Calgary, not only in scope and scale in a  
00:04:15 --> 00:04:18: lot of ways, but also in just regional setting and  
00:04:18 --> 00:04:18: climate.  
00:04:19 --> 00:04:21: It's it's not like we're going to a warm tropical  
00:04:21 --> 00:04:23: or sunbelt city where people can point to what they  
00:04:23 --> 00:04:25: do and say, well, we can't do that here because  
00:04:25 --> 00:04:28: we're a winter city these this place faces a lot  
00:04:28 --> 00:04:31: of the same climate challenges and environmental  
challenges that we  
00:04:31 --> 00:04:31: face.  
00:04:31 --> 00:04:33: So to see how they tackle those solutions.  
00:04:34 --> 00:04:37: I think it's great the parallels between Calgary and this  
00:04:37 --> 00:04:37: city.  
00:04:38 --> 00:04:42: It's they're both Olympic cities, they're both in proximity to  
00:04:42 --> 00:04:43: the mountains.

00:04:44 --> 00:04:48: There's definitely some similarities between the two.  
00:04:48 --> 00:04:49: I'm really interested in going.  
00:04:50 --> 00:04:53: And the 2024 design tour destination is.  
00:04:53 --> 00:04:56: And the 2024 design tour destination is.  
00:04:57 --> 00:05:25: And the 2024 design tour destination is definitely consider attending  
00:05:26 --> 00:05:27: it.  
00:05:27 --> 00:05:29: It's not only an amazing opportunity to tour and see  
00:05:29 --> 00:05:32: somewhere new that perhaps you wouldn't have considered going to  
00:05:32 --> 00:05:35: before, but it also is just a great opportunity to  
00:05:35 --> 00:05:37: network and get to know a lot of your fellow  
00:05:37 --> 00:05:40: city building professionals here in the Calgary and Edmonton region.  
00:05:40 --> 00:05:42: You should really attend.  
00:05:42 --> 00:05:45: It's a great set of people that usually gets together  
00:05:45 --> 00:05:48: and people from a variety of backgrounds.  
00:05:48 --> 00:05:53: And so that conversation that goes on between land developer,  
00:05:53 --> 00:05:57: someone who may be working at the city and consultants  
00:05:57 --> 00:05:59: is really an interesting conversation.  
00:05:59 --> 00:06:03: And the best conversations arise when we're touring a development  
00:06:03 --> 00:06:06: and we're asking questions from different perspectives.  
00:06:06 --> 00:06:08: If you want to get more value from your ULI  
00:06:08 --> 00:06:12: membership, connect with other members, learn about some cool development  
00:06:12 --> 00:06:15: projects, be inspired, and have a ton of fun, I'd  
00:06:15 --> 00:06:16: encourage you to attend.

---

*This video transcript has been machine-generated, so it may not be accurate. It is for personal use only. Reproduction or use without written permission is prohibited. If you have a correction or for permission inquiries, please contact [\[email protected\]](#).*