

# 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,

00:02:36 --> 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.

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