

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.

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