



U-PLAN community planning studio

U-PLAN moves to new location

june 15, 2009

U-PLAN has moved to a new location at 712 University Avenue, two blocks west of Dale Street. U-PLAN is now co-housed with other organizations along the Avenue, including University UNITED, the University Avenue Business Association (UABA) and the Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA). After two and a half years in its small storefront at 1956 University, U-PLAN has developed partnerships and found common ground with other organizations on University Avenue. Moreover, in this time of economic uncertainty, it has become increasingly important to cut fixed costs where possible.

The new storefront, which is twice the size of its previous location at 1956, still offers resources and a meeting space for the community, but will now feature a business drop-in center sponsored by UABA.

U-PLAN is currently in the process of revisiting its strategic plan, which may include offering its services to community development corporations and community groups across the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

For more information, please contact us today:
Adam Maleitzke, Director
adam@u-plan.org

“U-PLAN offers the public a wide array of urban planning resources meant to level the playing field between ordinary citizens and professional planners.”

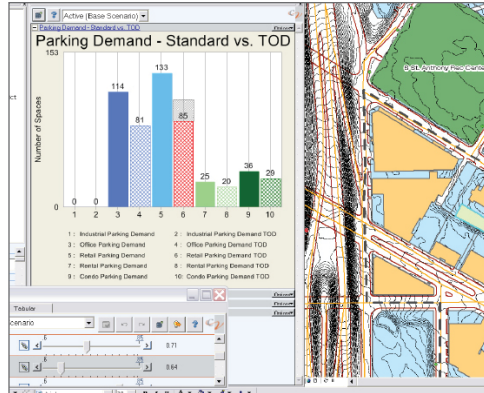
Pioneer Press Editorial
August 29 2007

**U-PLAN community
planning studio
a program of University
UNITED**

712 University Avenue W
Suite 105
Saint Paul, MN 55104

651/641.0293
info@u-plan.org
www.u-plan.org

High-tech tools allow our clients to see ideas instantly. For design projects, SketchUP is a tool that shows the built environment in 3D. During planning workshops, it is possible to show, for example, how a building would look 10 stories taller, where shadows fall, how a pedestrian would access a commercial district - all while flying through a 3D environment. This tool helps to communicate and test ideas in group settings and can help to forge compromise on a number of issues.



CommunityViz models allow our clients to see the implications of policies for the built environment in real-time

mapping services

Maps, drawings, and other graphic materials enable people to better understand the important issues that will be addressed in the planning process. A variety of information can be layered on maps using GIS (geographic information systems) to show relationships and present data. Data can be provided by the community client or gathered by U-PLAN from a variety of sources.



U-PLAN maps have been produced for numerous applications, including basemaps for design charrettes, market studies for small business owners and as discussion pieces in community

In any planning process, it is important to readily understand what is being proposed. Using legible graphic conventions and a variety of formats (flash presentations, online, printed reports), U-PLAN makes data and proposals relevant, legible and



Translations, a set of documents requested by several organizations in the community, make the MetCouncil's preliminary engineering plans easier to understand

accessible to the public. Recently, U-PLAN posted an interactive website that allows business and property owners to see how many parking spaces will remain on their block once the Central Corridor light rail line is built.

empowering citizen planners

While clear communication of ideas is important in the planning process, so too are empowered citizens. U-PLAN offers complimentary workshops in planning tools such as SketchUP, GIS and research methods. We also offer a workshop in “mash-ups”, which allow citizens to



“Thanks for the great workshop on Wednesday...the activities were just right for new users like us. Excellent job.”

Dan Marckel
Metropolitan Design Center
University of Minnesota

U-PLAN offers a variety of design services to help stakeholders envision and create special places that are reflective of the unique character of the community; emphasizing transit-oriented design and sustainable development. Organized “charrettes” bring community residents and businesses together with design professionals to create state-of-the-art architectural renderings, perspectives, and presentation materials. U-PLAN can also assist in the site planning process, including site analysis, code research, and concept planning.



A business owner describes his parking situation during a Shared Parking workshop for the Raymond Station Area

“There was an amazing ‘aha’ moment when we saw the full range of options and realized that we didn’t need to buy more property to attract a major developer.”

Robert Blumberg, Jr.
University Avenue
Property Owner

our satisfied clients

Over the course of 18+ months, we have served dozens of clients and produced hundreds of projects of all types and sizes. A sample client list is provided below:

Community Stabilization Project
District Councils Collaborative
Greater Frogtown CDC
City of St. Paul
Midway TMO
St. Paul TMO
UNITED
St. Paul Riverfront Development Corp.
Central Corridor Design Center
Blooming Saint Paul
District 7
District 11
District 13
District 12
Skyline Towers
SPARC



U-PLAN works on a variety of projects. A sample of our projects is provided below:

3401 NE Main site plan
Court West Building - site plan/maps
Community Stabilization Project Census maps
GFCDC Wilder/Minnehaha contextual maps
Hamline-Midway bicycle plan
Hamline-Midway street map
Marshall Avenue map
PPERRIA neighborhood zoning maps
University Avenue property values
District 12 Road Class maps
Snelling Green Streets basemaps
Walgreens/Bigtop site plan
Snelling/U Station Area Planning
Blooming St. Paul lecture
District 7 Capitol Heights map
Central Corridor cross section
District 11 neighborhood maps
GFCDC institutional uses
Hamline-Midway building age
Marshall Avenue median greening
Property taxes
SketchUP workshop
Rails to Trails
Skyline Towers - marketplace study
SPARC Rice Street Broker Tour
Midway TMO - corridor bike connections
University/Lexington map
Wilder Foundation Building Model
Amore Coffee concepts
Donjek, Inc. commercial property data
District 7 large land use map
Foreclosures
GFCDC Unidale contextual
Mashups (workshop, contest)
CC Design Center - hillshade map
Regional Transportation Planning
Stops 4 Us
Streetscape 101
Streetscape Inventory
Transit for Livable Communities - mashup
U-Trend
World Cultural Heritage District
PPERRIA Yale Townhomes site
Translations
Fairview Station Pedestrian Circulation Study
CultureBrokers charrette
Frogtown Rondo Partnership
Raymond Shared Parking charrette
Amore Coffee concepts
Donjek, Inc. commercial property data
District 7 large land use map
Foreclosures
GFCDC Unidale contextual
Mashups (workshop, contest)
CC Design Center - hillshade map
Regional Transportation Planning map
Stops 4 Us
Streetscape 101

U-PLAN was created through a collaboration of non-profits, neighborhood organizations, volunteers, students and part-time employees, making it a truly grassroots operation. U-PLAN is fortunate to receive interest from hundreds of students from the five major colleges and universities in the Twin Cities area, many of whom volunteer their time and expertise.

“It’s very exciting to work with your staff. They are creative, smart, responsive and more than capable of handling the rigors of our deadlines.”

Joan Pasiuk
Transit for Livable
Communities



The people of U-PLAN, past and present
From left: Adam Maleitzke, Richard Crockett, Anton Jerve,
Brian McMahon, Linda Winsor, Josh Tolkan, Julia Burman,
Betsy Jacobson, John Vaughn

supported by experts

A 5-person steering committee of community and technical experts guides our programming and provides support.

Irna Landrum
Summit-University Planning
Council

Jeff Mattson
Center for Urban &
Regional Affairs

Tim Griffin
St. Paul Riverfront
Corporation

Dan Kravetz
Aurora-St. Anthony

U-PLAN recently played a key role in helping secure a prestigious grant for a local partnership of four community organizations in the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods and the City of St. Paul. The Environmental Simulation Center, a consultant and grantee of the Ford Foundation, selected the Frogtown Rondo Partnership for a three year pilot project that will use the latest in planning tools and decision support systems to link social service providers with community-based planning. More information can be found on the project website at:

www.frogtownrondo.org

planning for the future

In its short existence, U-PLAN has proven itself to be an invaluable part of the planning process along University Avenue.

Even in this age of 21st century high technology, planning still requires people to make informed and meaningful planning decisions about their built environments. Through its training sessions, reports, plans and visioning tools, citizens have the skills and resources they need to actively participate in planning discussions. As the Central Corridor light rail line comes closer to reality, U-PLAN will be actively involved in providing its services to the community.

Yours in empowered planning,



Adam Maleitzke
Director of U-PLAN

U-PLAN is grateful for the support of its funders:

Otto Bremer Foundation

McKnight Foundation

Minneapolis Foundation

Travelers Foundation

their support makes our services and programming possible

contact U-PLAN to make a donation today:

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