

Charrettes Defined

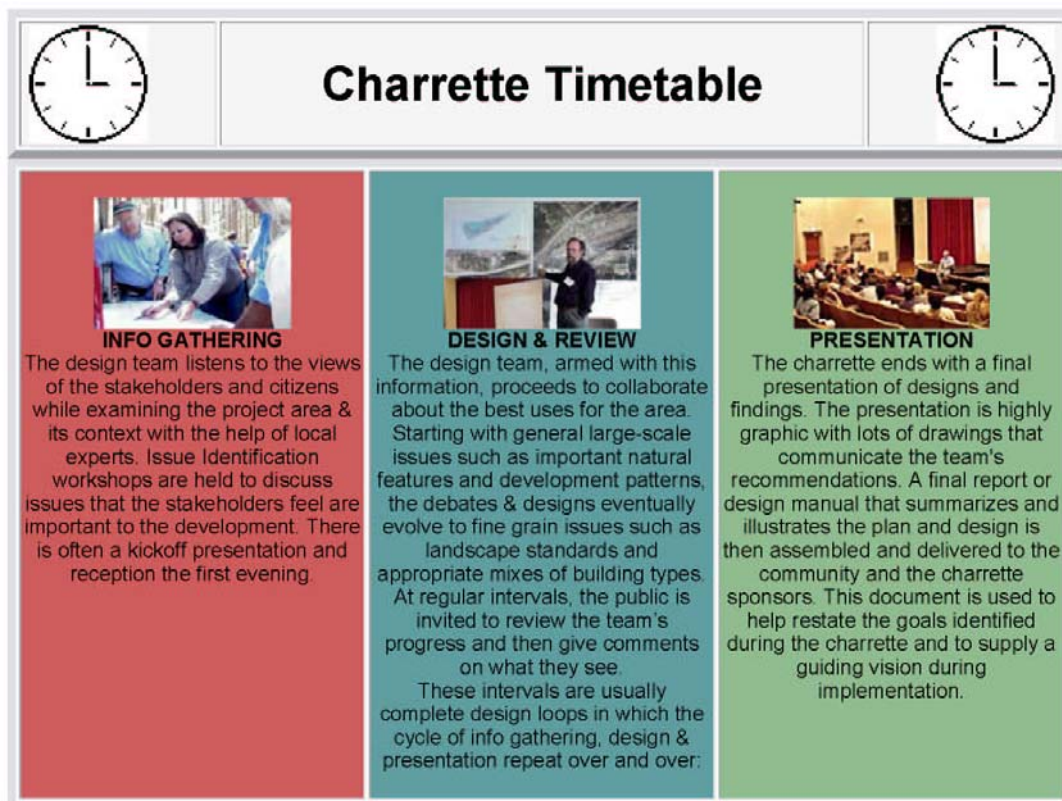
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A charrette is the center of the urban design process.

A charrette is an intensive, multi-disciplinary week-long design workshop designed to facilitate an open discussion between stakeholders of a development project. A team of design experts meets with community groups, developers and neighbors over a period from 3-4 days to 2 weeks long, gathering information on the issues that face the community. The charrette team then works together to find design solutions that will result in a clear, detailed, realistic vision for future development.

The Charrette process is an exercise of transparency, where information is shared between the design professionals and the stakeholders of a project area. In this way, trust is built between the parties involved and the resulting vision can be based predominantly upon the issues that stakeholders feel are most crucial to them.

Charrettes are increasingly used by public and private sector groups and agencies as the chief design event in the urban design or town planning process.



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