



Top left Waller Gallery, top right Blue Light Junction (photo by BMore Art), bottom right The Compound.

the
Neighborhood
DesignCenter

Arts Space Technical Assistance Program

**Preserving existing DIY spaces,
developing new arts spaces.**

Through our Arts Space Technical Assistance (ASTA) Program, the Neighborhood Design Center offers **pro bono** architectural services and consultations to support the creation of **safe, affordable, and legal** buildings and spaces for artists in Baltimore City.

ASTA PROGRAM PROJECT TYPES

- Studios and fabrication spaces
- Live-work spaces
- Mixed-use buildings
- Galleries
- Theaters and performance areas

ASTA PROGRAM SERVICES

- Feasibility research
- Conceptual design
- Furniture and equipment layouts
- Implementation support
- Consultations

SOME PAST ASTA PROJECTS

- AREA 405
- The Compound
- Waller Gallery
- Blue Light Junction
- Institute of Contemporary Art
- 108 W. North Ave.
- Sock Factory
- Plied Yarns

ASTA Services

Intake and Scoping

The intake and scoping phase of our process is where we discuss project goals, timeline and if what the Neighborhood Design Center offers can meet the needs of the project.

Information Gathering

A. ZONING CODE ANALYSIS

NDC kicks off projects by gathering information from Baltimore City's Zoning Code regarding any restrictions, or opportunities, for the property as it relates to its zoning district.

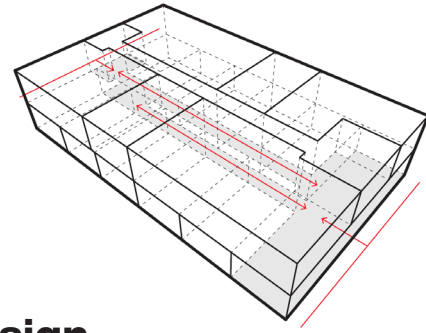
Zoning restrictions include how the building is used, requirements on parking, and signage.

The goal of gathering this information is to identify any potential hurdles early in the design process and initiate any necessary conversations with the City's Planning Department.

This research will help determine the feasibility of the project.

B. DOCUMENTING EXISTING CONDITIONS

Simultaneously, NDC conducts several site visits to document the existing building through field measurements and photographs. This information is used to create a set of base drawings.



Design

A. ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAMMING

Architecture programming refers to the types of spaces and functions within a building, such as studios, utility rooms, performance areas, restrooms, and hallways.

Programming is typically shown visually in a diagram. NDC will help you understand the types of spaces that are necessary, their size, and quality.

B. BUILDING CODE ANALYSIS

Over time, especially in neglected buildings, parts of the structural, mechanical, or plumbing systems can fail. A building may look “good enough” to house an art project or to host a performance, but if it does not meet building code requirements, anyone in the space potentially puts their physical safety in danger by entering it. In our Building Code Analysis process, NDC evaluates the building against code requirements and summarizes any modifications that may be required, such as additional exits or a fire sprinkler system.

C. CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Conceptual (or schematic) design is the initial phase of an architectural design process, which includes floor plan layouts, circulation, and the big idea. Our goal in providing conceptual designs is to give our partners a head start in their planning process as they build support for implementing their projects and as they speak with funders, architects, and general contractors.

