

Planning Academy FAQ

What is the application time frame?

The application time frame for Planning Academy applications this round (Spring 2022) is February 14-25, 2022. ***As we usually receive more applications than seats available, we may also fill seats for the Fall 2022 program from this application round.***

When will workshops be held?

Workshops will be held virtually from 6-7:30 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning April 20, for six weeks. One neighborhood site visit will be organized earlier in the evening (5 PM start time).

Who is eligible?

Applicants **must be** Baltimore City residents, and willing to commit to attending **ALL** meetings scheduled for Planning Academy. This translates to approx. 2.5 hours worth per week. No educational or professional planning experience necessary or expected – this is a class for community.

Where do you go to apply?

Please direct applicants to <https://www.baltimoreplanningacademy.com/>. At this address, they can apply online via the form linked to the site (see yellow box or the link at the top right of the page).

How will applications be reviewed?

Each class is limited to 30 people to encourage interaction and community building. We anticipate receiving far more applications than seats. A collaborative team from DOP and Planning Academy Alumni will review and rank all applications based on the responses to four essay responses received - please take care to answer those questions. We are looking for residents dedicated to Baltimore, and interested in supporting and leading their community.

In addition, applicants from areas that have faced challenges of disinvestment, per Housing Market Typology data, will receive additional preference points in the process.

What does the curriculum cover?

The curriculum begins with by reviewing planning history in Baltimore – especially the way in which planning policy has led to inequitable outcomes. This discussion informs our conversations later in the course.

We then always cover a core curriculum including: zoning, development review process (how developers interact with Baltimore City), neighborhood planning, and the budget. We do a site visit each session – sometimes we visit a development site under construction or recently completed, and sometimes we visit a neighborhood and talk to a local Community Development Corporation about their work. We have also had sessions on specialized topics – equitable development, gentrification and housing finance – in response to speaker availability and participant interests.

What are the outcomes? How do residents use what they've learned?

Residents have taken on leadership roles in various capacities. We have Planning Academy alumni who have joined various City Commissions and Advisory Councils. Other Planning Academy alumni have taken on leadership roles within their neighborhood associations, organizing land use committees as one example. Others have led efforts to distribute food, organize art and civic projects, and more. Other alumni have completed neighborhood plans that were accepted by the Planning Commission. Finally, several alumni of the program are emerging developers, with a focus on community-led and equity focused development in their neighborhoods.