

Terms of Reference

Committee on Regenerative Environments

March 12, 2017

I. NAME

Committee on Regenerative Environments (CORE)

II. TYPE OF COMMITTEE

Advisory

III. PURPOSE

The **purpose** of the Committee is to: help create a world that nurtures quality of life, and empowers people and place to thrive by **raising awareness** of, and **advocating** for a regenerative approach to development and design. To this end, the CORE will seek to **engage, educate, inspire, motivate** and **empower** RAIC members and the broader community to address issues related to climate change, environmental regeneration, and holistic health and wellbeing through the built environment by:

- **Identifying key issues** for the organization, its members, and its larger community of practice to address in order to enable/empower the design and realization of thriving built environments;
- **Providing expertise** for RAIC recommendations (both reactive and proactive) to government, industry, and the press in relation to relevant issues;
- **Advising** other RAIC Committees (including: Practice Support, Professional Development, Awards FIRPAC, and Communications) on the effective integration of regenerative development and design into professional standards, protocols and processes. And to work with Academic and Regulatory bodies to do the same;
- **Advancing, disseminating** and **advocating** for regenerative development and design practices - i.e. those that holistically integrate built and natural systems to enhance the quality and holistic health of the built environment - reframing these regenerative capacities as integral to 'responsible architecture' and 'excellence'.



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IV. PRIORITY INITIATIVES

1. Work with RAIC Awards Committee to integrate regenerative development and design criteria explicitly into the terms of reference for all RAIC awards.
2. Leverage the RAIC network to establish a pan-Canadian Regenerative Development & Design Leaders network (adding value to existing members, and attracting new ones).
3. Explore top down and bottom up engagement opportunities in Canadian design schools to augment regenerative development and design capacity.
4. Advise the RAIC Board on relevant current and emerging issues (ongoing).

[See Appendix I for draft work plan]

V. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

- Members must be recognized subject matter experts operating within a whole systems framework;
- The composition of the committee shall comprise a balance of strengths, perspectives, and areas of expertise, and at all times, reflect a balance of:
 - Bioregional (and provincial) representation;
 - Firm sizes and sectorial focuses;
 - Practice and academia (with no more than 20% from academia - to maintain focus on industry implementation);
 - Range of seniority / experience levels (intermediate through advanced);
 - Diversity
- All members must be RAIC members¹ in good standing (per RAIC Bylaws).

VI. MEMBERSHIP TERMS

The Committee shall consist of approximately 8-10 members. The organizational structure shall comprise the following roles:

¹ Type of membership required to be confirmed pending any revision to RAIC membership bylaws.



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- a. **Chair:** each chair is to serve for a minimum of one year, preceded by one year as vice chair and followed by one year as former chair (in an advisory capacity). Per RAIC Bylaws, the Chair is to be appointed by the Board;
- b. **Board Liaison:** current Board member nominated/approved by the Board;
- c. **Liaison from RAIC Task Force on Sustainable Indigenous Communities:** to be nominated by its members;
- d. **Members:** to be nominated by the Committee (based on qualifications established in Section V) and approved by the Board. Each member may serve for a term of up to three years – with starts staggered to maintain a balance of new and existing members.
- e. **Support:** staff liaison.
- f. **Alternates:** may be identified by the Committee - and appointed upon approval by the Board - to serve in the case of an unexpected resignation of a previously appointed member before the completion of their three year term.

Note: At the outset, the Advisory will likely need to operate more as a working committee, wherein additional meetings may be required to act on key priority items; however, the focus of this Advisory is not to generate deep-dive content, but rather to identify agency levers in order to connect, inspire, motivate, and empower others to act.

VII. QUORUM

50% (per RAIC Bylaws);

VIII. MEETINGS

At a minimum:

- Members shall meet a minimum of 10 times each year via conference call or web connection. (Whenever possible, members in the same city will connect in the same physical space);
- One of these meetings annually shall be in person (ideally at the annual festival).

In addition to regular meetings, baseline requirements shall include the provision of input on urgent advocacy items (i.e. responses to requests for input from various levels of government, responses following critical environmental events, etc.).



IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The RAIC's mandate is to “*demonstrate how design **enhances quality of life while addressing important issues of society through responsible architecture***”, and to advocate for such.

Climate change, loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, and their resultant impacts on quality of life represent our greatest and most urgent societal challenges of the 21st Century. What we build, where we build, and how we build will prove critical. Taking the position that enhancing quality of life involves more than merely ‘sustaining’; we see regenerative development and design as intrinsic to empowering the capacity for people and place to thrive, and as such, key to realizing the above mandate. Principles guiding this effort include:

Leadership - to leverage the profession's unique agency and ability to respond to complex, systemic challenges;

Responsibility - as both an ethical and professional imperative to act;

Responsiveness – the capacity of a system to respond adaptively to change - often understood in the context of the built realm as ‘Resilience’;

Regenerative development and design – an approach that addresses environmental, social, and economic health holistically with the ability to adapt to known and unknown risks and vulnerabilities through creative systems-thinking in design innovation resulting in thriving and sustainable communities that allow both people and the planet to prosper.

X. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Committee shall report to the Board through the Committee Chair / Board Liaison.

Mechanism(s) for evaluating alignment with RAIC KRAs, and fostering continuous improvement are to be established in tandem with the Executive Director as per RAIC practice, and reviewed by the Board.



APPENDIX I: Possible Priority Initiatives & Draft Work Plans

- **ITEM 1:** Integrate regenerative development & design principles into explicit terms reference for RAIC awards.

Start date 2017

Interim deliverable: Liaise with RAIC Awards Committee to identify opportunities and establish a work plan.

Final Deliverable: Integration of regenerative development and design principles explicitly into awards by the next GG Awards cycle (2018).

- **ITEM 2:** Integration of regenerative development & design principles throughout the revision of the Canadian Handbook of Practice (CHOP)

Start date 2017

Interim deliverable: Liaise with Practice Committee to explore opportunities and scope finer grain work plan for content development..

Final Deliverable: Integration of regenerative development and design principles into next (and subsequent) release(s) of the CHOP.

- **ITEM 3:** Convening of a Canadian Regenerative Development & Design Leaders network.

Start date 2017

Interim deliverable 1: Establish terms / Membership criteria

Interim deliverable 2: Outreach. Convene RDL gathering at upcoming RAIC 2017 Festival. Leverage gathering to explore opportunities for establishing ongoing network.



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- **ITEM 4:** Explore top down and bottom up engagement opportunities in Canadian design schools to augment regenerative development and design capacity.

Start date	2017/2018	
Interim deliverable:	Liaise with student groups, and professors.	Liaise with Department heads (through CCUSA), and with CACB
Final Deliverable:	Establish a reoccurring Regenerative D&D knowledge network (possibly including a reoccurring Studio Expo)	Integrate Regenerative Development & Design into Curriculum requirements.

