edra 56

DESIGNING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE

Halifax | Nova Scotia | Canada
May 27-30, 2025

Call For Proposals

Note: All photos below were taken from the Discover Halifax free Media Hub. When applicable, credit is outlined below each photo.

Credit: Tourism Nova Scotia, Adam Hill (photographer)

1. Theme and Background

DESIGNING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE

On behalf of the local organizing and program committees, the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) invites practitioners, researchers, students, and educators to submit proposals for EDRA's 56th annual conference on *Designing Communities for Climate Action and Resilience*. For the first time, the conference is hosted by Dalhousie University in the vibrant mid-sized city of Halifax, Nova Scotia – Atlantic Canada's cultural capital.

Halifax is in Mi'kma'ki – the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Taken from our institution's land acknowledgment, we also recognize that:

> "Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands. In Mi'kma'ki, we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties."

This land on which we live, work, and play is of great natural beauty; it is also experiencing the interrelated climate and socio-economic challenges of our time. These challenges are

reflected in our overall Conference Theme and the Topic Areas/Tracks, detailed below.

The 56th Annual EDRA Conference Theme *Designing Communities for Climate Action and Resilience,* is of great importance for the current and future residents of Halifax, Nova Scotia – and Canada as a whole. In early 2019, Halifax Regional Council declared a climate emergency, becoming just the second municipality in Canada to do so. Just over a year later, the same government unanimously adopted HalifACT (which stands for Halifax - Acting on Climate Together) – "a transformational plan to achieve a net-zero economy by 2050". This policy and related adaptation and mitigation strategies are emphasized in EDRA's call for proposals to center the importance of environmental design in addressing the crisis, locally and in all the places EDRA members call home.

We encourage those submitting to ponder and answer questions such as:
- How can my work contribute to a greater understanding of climate change?;
- How can I use the privilege of working with and making decisions about environmental design to create broader impact? and;
- How might the diversity of discussions that EDRA cultivates draw together design, planning, governance, research, and outreach to build and improve our communities?

We believe these questions are critical focal points for inhabitants of earth and ultimately tied to EDRA's core mission.

In addition to attending EDRA56 in Halifax, we hope you will enjoy your time in the city. Halifax is a vibrant mid-sized city at the centre of a region full of beauty and opportunities for enjoyment. EDRA56 will be held at the Halifax Convention Centre in the heart of our busy, compact, walkable downtown, only three blocks from the waterfront. Breaks and

3

evenings will offer time to see our parks, restaurants, neighbourhoods, and more.

Outside the city, Nova Scotia offers travel opportunities before or after the conference. You can circle the Cabot Trail on Cape Breton Island, where an ancient mountain range plunges into the Atlantic Ocean. You can walk on our beaches – Nova Scotia alone has more miles of coastline than the entirety of the US east coast. Not far away from Halifax, you can visit quaint villages and small towns such as Lunenburg and Peggy's Cove which are full of colourful historic houses, crafts, cafes, and brew pubs. We also suggest you get in a boat to canoe and kayak our rivers and lakes, sail our coastline, go offshore fishing, or see whales in the Bay of Fundy. Not far away from the city you can tour the vineyards, wineries, farms, and restaurants of the Annapolis Valley (hint: try our champagne-style wines). If you bring the right boots, we suggest hiking the forests, meadows, and coastlines of our Parks. Or for a slower pace, take a break in our unique coffee shops and bookstores.

EDRA welcomes submissions from all disciplines and professions to represent the full variety of issues environmental design researchers and practitioners address in their work. All submissions will undergo a peer-review process. EDRA56 will publish conference programs and proceedings with all accepted abstracts and full papers with special highlights of award-winning papers and posters.

We look forward to receiving your submission and to seeing you in Halifax!

Credit: Lora Pope (photographer)

2. Topical Areas / Tracks:

Track 1: PLANNING FOR ADAPTATION – COASTS AND CLIMATE

Credit: Tourism Nova Scotia, Acorn Art (photographer)

We cannot ignore the climate change-fueled effects we are seeing every year, in every corner of our planet. In the region of Halifax alone, this climate disruption has included a sharp increase in hurricanes and other storms, flooding, and a record-setting wildfire in 2023. This sub-theme invites conversations around how we plan and adapt for climate change in all parts of environmental design – in coastal (e.g. Halifax) and non-coastal contexts. In our cities, towns, and small villages, important changes need to be made by design professionals and governments alike. While we look to lower emissions via mitigation strategies, local and provincial governments are also working hard to adapt to a warming planet. We invite participants to share stories and findings related to questions such as: What role and responsibility do those who work in environmental design have in terms of the climate crisis?; In what ways might environmental design principles help in terms

of planning communities to be more resilient to the effects of climate change? and; At what scale are our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change most effective, equitable, and supported by the broadly-defined public?

Track 2: SUPPORTING GROWING COMMUNITIES

Credit: @DaveyAndSky

In this track, we look to generate discussions around how growing cities and communities can build new homes, infrastructure, and public spaces that address cost-of-living-concerns and create conditions where residents flourish. Halifax (like many urban centres across Canada and the US), has experienced record setting population growth – in just one year, from 2022 to 2023, we grew by more than 4%, or 20,000 people. Alongside a lack of new homes, this sharp growth has created a housing crisis and infrastructural concerns. The average cost of a home in Halifax is now $630k (approx. $30k more than the average US home, in CAD, despite lower incomes). Given this background, we especially

encourage submissions from those who are thinking about and uncovering solutions to lowering the costs of living, building homes quickly, and creating the conditions that lead to more vibrant, healthy communities in a variety of urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts.

Track 3: BUILDING GREEN, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Credit: CBC News, Stephen Wilsack.

Centered around what many of those working in environmental design focus on, for this track, we invite conversations around how we build housing that is both ecological and affordable in communities of all sizes, and ways to reimagine what the future of housing should look like. Given the intersection of socio-economic and environmental crises of our time, we can longer treat these principles as independent – in fact, what is "green," or efficient, is now often the most cost-effective way to develop homes over the long term. We ask interested participants questions such as: In the rush to address the housing crisis – both here in Halifax and elsewhere – how do we ensure green principles are not disregarded? How can we more creatively embed sustainability principles into the homes of the future?

Track 4: INNOVATING FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Credit: *Free Labs, School of Architecture, Dalhousie University*

Sharing some thematic overlap with *Building Green Affordable Housing*, for our fourth track, we encourage discussions around innovative and sustainable materials as we build and adapt communities, through all stages of design and development. We especially look forward to submissions that focus on principles of the circular economy, reuse, and the recycling of materials through development processes. In Halifax, researchers and practitioners in Dalhousie's Faculty of Architecture and Planning hope to share news of their research programs on building with mass timber, concrete additives, 3D printing with clay, and more. We hope that these stories will be mirrored by similar advancements across the world and shared within these sessions at EDRA56.

Track 5: PRIORITIZING DISABILITY, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE

Credit: _Discover Halifax_

While centering disability, equity and justice in everything we do should always be our practice, in this track, we wish to provide a dedicated space for conversations around these issues, including sharing stories of successes and failures in doing so. In Nova Scotia, we can contribute research and case studies on environmental racism, building and access issues, persistent structural inequality in the design of spaces and communities, and new thinking on prioritizing concepts of care in design. We invite similar and divergent stories from around the world.

Track 6: TRANSDISCIPLINARY DESIGN AND COLLABORATION/OPEN TRACK

Credit: @DaveyAndSky

Finally, we want to ensure that we offer a transdisciplinary and open track that encourages submissions that may not fit neatly into our five tracks described above. This final track also serves the purpose of creating a space that challenges those submitting to help us to critically re-think and examine our existing conference theme and tracks.

3. Key Dates

September 24, 2024
- Call for Proposals published
- Submission platform opens - visit the [EDRA56 homepage](#)

November 14, 2024
- **Due date** for the following submissions: Intensives, Paper Abstracts, Individual Presentations, Full Papers, and Group Presentations
  - *Notification of acceptance for all submissions is anticipated by mid-January.*

December 12, 2024
- Early Bird registration opens

January 9, 2025
- **Due date** for Visual Presentations including abstracts for Posters and Digital Media Shorts
- **Due date** for Graduate Student Workshop submissions

January 15, 2025
- Opening date for Nana Kirk Scholarship applications

February 27, 2025
- Early Bird registration ends
- Regular registration begins

- Nana Kirk Scholarship applications close

March 20, 2025
- **<u>Final deadline</u>** for ALL conference presenters to register for the conference
    - For Individual sessions, a minimum of one author or co-author of each accepted session must be registered. For Group presentations (including Intensives), ALL presenters must be registered. This is required to be part of the EDRA56 program. Presenters do not have to be EDRA members, however, there is a reduced registration fee for members.

April 24, 2025
- **Deadline** to upload digital file of Visual Presentations (Poster and Digital Media Shorts)
- ***GSMW extended summary and presentations are due.***

May 27-30, 2025
- EDRA56 Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

For those needing visas: International presenters whose submissions have been accepted for presentation at the conference are advised to review their country's travel requirements for Canada, to ensure whether they will need to obtain a visa to attend the conference. EDRA and the host institution, **Dalhousie University will be issuing visa invitations once the review process is completed on or after November 14, 2024.**

Credit: @DaveyAndSky

4. Submission Types and Guidelines

Submissions must be made through the [EDRA56 submission platform](#) using one of the session guidelines described below. Session lengths will be 60-90 minutes, unless otherwise noted under the session type.

- No individual should submit more than three proposals of any type.
- The same topic should not be submitted for multiple session types.
- All submissions will be double blind peer-reviewed. **Authors should not include their names or other identifying information in the abstracts and papers.**

Intensives and the Graduate Student Workshop will be held May 27, 2025. For more information, visit the [EDRA56 home page](#).

I. INTENSIVE SESSIONS – HALF DAY OR FULL DAY
- Intensives – Full Day (8 AM-5 PM)
- Intensives – Half Day (8 AM-12 PM or 1 PM-5 PM)

II. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS - 15-20 MINUTES

III. GROUP PRESENTATIONS – 90 MINUTES
- Symposia
- Workshops
- Practitioner/Researcher Collaborations

IV. VISUAL PRESENTATIONS – TIMES VARY (SEE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES)
- Poster Session
- Digital Media Shorts

V. GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP – 8 HOURS

I. INTENSIVE SESSIONS (ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025)

Intensive sessions provide an opportunity for a group to devote a significant amount of time to in-depth explorations of a single topic or theme. They can use a variety of formats (e.g., presentation, charrette, working session, workshops) to engage varying numbers of attendees.

Intensive sessions will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The lead organizer is responsible for collecting and submitting all information through the EDRA56 submission platform, including the summary abstract, each of the four presenters' abstracts, all biographies, and learning objectives. They should indicate whether the proposed intensive requires a full or a half-day session. We recommend assembling all materials in one MS Word file to make it easy to copy and paste into a text box during the submission process. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- One summary abstract for the intensive is limited to 500 words detailing the proposed intensive session goals, objectives, and agenda with a detailed allocated schedule.
- One organizer plus a minimum of one presenter, with a maximum of five presenters possible for each half day session.
- Each presenter must provide, for each four-hour intensive block, an abstract limited to 300 words in addition to the overall intensive summary abstract.
- Biographies (100-word limit) are required for all presenters and intensive organizers. This is not included in the word limit of the abstract.
- Four learning objectives are required for the session. Learning objectives should be phrased as learning outcomes, using action verbs such as "learn," "analyze," "understand," etc.

II. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

Individual presentations should focus on original scholarly or professional research that has not been published or presented elsewhere. There are two types of individual submissions: an **abstract-only** or a **full paper**. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

All individual presentation abstracts and full papers will undergo a double blind peer-review process in two stages. The first stage will have three decisions: Accepted, Accepted Pending Revisions, or Rejected. Accepted papers pending revisions must submit their revised

submissions by the Key Dates timeline to be fully considered for acceptance.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PRESENTATIONS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
The lead presenter is responsible for submitting all information through the EDRA56 submission platform, including the abstract, keywords, and learning objectives. We recommend assembling all materials in an MS Word file to make it easy to copy and paste into text boxes during the submission process. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.
- Abstracts shall not exceed 500 words. Up to three bibliographic references are encouraged, but not required. All references must be fully incorporated into the abstract and full references must be listed at the end of the abstract. All references should be formatted according to APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines.
- Three to five keywords.
- Four learning objectives. Learning objectives should be phrased as learning outcomes, using action verbs such as "learn," "analyze," "understand," etc.
- The double blind review requires authors not to include their names or other identifying information in the uploaded abstract or document.
- All research must be completed before the presentation.

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
The lead presenter is responsible for submitting all information through the EDRA56 submission platform. We recommend assembling all materials in an MS Word file to make it easy to copy and paste into text boxes during the submission process. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.
- Abstracts shall not exceed 500 words. Up to three bibliographic references are encouraged, but not required. All references must be fully incorporated into the abstract and full references must be listed at the end of the abstract. All references should be

formatted according to APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines.

- Three to five keywords.
- Four learning objectives. Learning objectives should be phrased as learning outcomes, using action verbs such as "learn," "analyze," "understand," etc.
- Up to five images representing the paper framework, methods, and data.
- Please follow the EDRA56 full paper template (a digital copy is available for downloading from the [EDRA56 submission platform](#)).
- Papers must not exceed 20 single-spaced pages, including tables, images, and references.
- All images, references, and citations must be fully incorporated into one document and formatted according to APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines.
- Digital files must use MS Word or compatible formats (.doc, .docx, .rtf) (please follow the template for fonts and style).

Papers that do not follow the above requirements will be automatically disqualified for review. All submitted full papers will have the chance to enter the review pool for the **EDRA Best Papers** and **Best Student Papers Awards**. Authors who are students are required to identify themselves in the submission form. Papers accepted for presentation will be reviewed by the EDRA Recognitions Committee to select award winners.

- To be eligible for consideration for a student award authors must submit the full-length paper with their abstract by the submission deadline; the work must have been completed within the preceding year; all authors must have been students at the time the work was completed; and faculty, professional, or non-student involvement must have been minimal to that normally expected of work to be graded. Please note that this requirement is not meant to exclude participatory or collaborative projects involving client groups and faculty advisors or coordinators.

III. GROUP PRESENTATIONS

SYMPOSIA

A symposia submission organizes a group of three to four presenters, plus one facilitator as a forum, around a theme on emerging conceptual and methodological issues or a critical discussion of exploratory research and work in progress. The discussion moderator must be able to ensure a professional level of discourse. Sessions should include time for audience questions and comments. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The lead organizer is responsible for collecting and submitting all information through the EDRA56 submission platform, including the summary abstract, each presenter's abstract, all biographies, and learning objectives. We recommend assembling all materials in a Word file to make it easy to copy and paste into a text box during the submission process. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- One summary abstract for the symposium is limited to 500 words detailing the proposed symposium goals, objectives, and agenda.
- One organizer plus a minimum of two presenters, with up to four presenters possible.
- Each presenter must provide an abstract limited to 300 words, in addition to the overall symposium abstract.
- Biographies (100-word limit) are required for all presenters and organizers. This is not included in the word limit of the abstract.

- Four learning objectives are required for the session. Learning objectives should be phrased as learning outcomes, using action verbs such as "learn," "analyze," "understand," etc.

WORKSHOPS

A workshop submission may be designed to collaboratively explore particular research or practice construct; or discuss a particular advanced design, method, or practice concept. Workshops should be considered interactive sessions and therefore should limit time spent in formal presentations and encourage interaction and discussion among organizers and audience.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The lead organizer is responsible for collecting and submitting all information through the [EDRA56 submission platform](#), including the summary abstract, all biographies, and learning objectives. We recommend assembling all materials in a word file to make it easy to copy and paste into a text box during the submission process. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- One summary abstract limited to 500 words detailing the proposed workshop goals, objectives, and agenda.
- One organizer plus a minimum of one presenter, with up to four presenters possible.
- Biographies (100-word limit) is required for all presenters and organizer. This is not included in the word limit of the abstract.
- Four learning objectives are required for this session.

PRACTITIONER/RESEARCHER COLLABORATIONS

The practitioner/researcher collaborations are group sessions intended to provide a forum in which collaborative, cross-disciplinary teams can describe the integration of research and design or planning practice on specific projects. Teams can also profile a project of the built or natural environment where research has been used to inform adaptive management practices or policies. Collaborative presentations by both a researcher and practitioner (or a team where they are represented) should describe the problem addressed, place, project, research methods, and outcomes.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The lead organizer is responsible for collecting and submitting all information through the EDRA56 submission platform including the summary abstract, all biographies, and learning objectives into one document for submission. We recommend assembling all materials in a word file to make it easy to copy and paste into a text box during the submission process. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- One summary abstract limited to 500 words detailing the proposed session goals, objectives, methods, and outcomes of the collaboration.
- One organizer plus a minimum of one presenter, with up to four presenters possible. At least one researcher and one practitioner are required in this session.
- Biographies (100-word limit) is required for all presenters and organizer. This is not included in the word limit of the abstract.
- Four learning objectives are required for this session.

IV. VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

DISPLAY POSTERS

Display Posters provide an opportunity for open discussion among the authors and an interested audience. Authors are invited to stand by their display and discuss its content, process, or design with other conference attendees. The display should represent in-progress or finished research that lends itself to visual presentation, and/or research-informed design projects. Among other types of research, poster sessions are an appropriate outlet for professional or student studio-based design work, experimental or empirical prototypes, policy studies, or visual research. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

POSTER ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The lead presenter is responsible for submitting the abstract through the EDRA56 submission platform. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- An abstract is limited to 500 words detailing the topic and methodology. Up to three bibliographic references are encouraged, but not required. All references must be fully incorporated into the abstract and full references must be listed at the end of the abstract. All references should be formatted according to APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines.
- Presenters can submit a mock-up or draft of the poster in a .pdf format, but it is not required. (Digital submissions should not exceed 20 MB). Please note that if you submit a poster draft, it should adhere to the double blind peer-review guidelines.
- After your abstract is accepted, please follow the poster guidelines below:
- A digital submission of the poster is required upon acceptance following one of the two acceptable sizes below:
  - o 24" x 36" landscape orientation, or
  - o 36" x 40" portrait orientation
- All images included on the poster should be ~300 dpi (dots per inch) or higher resolution.
- Authors are expected to bring a hard copy of their pre-printed poster for the exhibition and stand by the posters for presentation at the conference.
- We encourage authors to ensure that the physical poster remains a stand-alone piece of communication. The poster should convey the primary message effectively on its own, without relying on external links provided through QR codes.
- Please refrain from using QR codes for anything other than extended lists of references. Three to five references should be included on the physical poster, the remaining ones can be accessed with a QR code.
- Further exhibition instructions will be given upon acceptance. See Key Dates for submission deadlines of posters after acceptance.

DIGITAL MEDIA SHORTS

Digital Media Shorts is a kind of multimedia poster. They are a means to offer a brief digital presentation in an engaging, abbreviated way. Digital Media Shorts can include video, audio, slides, and animation and should be limited to 6 minutes of total presentation time. Submissions are intended to impart a story about research or practical research

application through image, moving image, with or without sound. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

DIGITAL MEDIA SHORT GUIDELINES

The lead presenter is responsible for submitting an abstract through the EDRA56 submission platform. All materials will go through double blind peer-review. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- The 500-word abstract should outline the topic and research design response to a particular conference topic area.
- Submission can also include a graphic element that contains samples from the digital media to support the proposed idea in a .pdf file format (optional).
- Accepted digital shorts should be limited to a 6-minute maximum for visually oriented presentations; please identify the proposed type of digital media (slides, video, animation, etc.) in the abstract. (File size limited to 150 MB)
- The digital upload will not be required until after acceptance. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

V. GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

The Graduate Student Mentoring Workshop is designed to provide a forum for graduate students to present and discuss their ongoing research with senior mentors in environmental design research and affiliated fields. The purpose of the workshop is to strengthen and
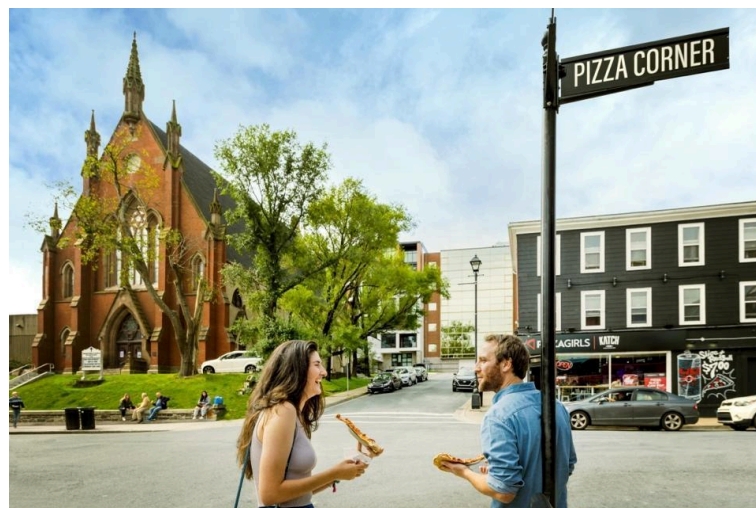
further the thesis/dissertation work, support the development of networks for young researchers, and offer professional advice. Graduate students who are EDRA members and are enrolled in Master's or Doctoral programs in Environmental Design and affiliated fields are eligible to participate in the Graduate Student Mentoring Workshop.

For more information, please visit the [EDRA56 Home Page](#) and follow our social media. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING WORKSHOP GUIDELINES

Interested students are responsible for submitting all information through the [EDRA56 submission platform](#), including a statement of interest, research summary, keywords, and a letter of support from their academic advisor. We recommend assembling all materials in an MS Word file to make it easy to copy and paste into a text box during the submission process. All materials will be double blind peer-reviewed. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

- A 250-word statement of interest outlining why you want to attend the workshop.
- A 500-word research summary outlining theoretical framing, stage in the research process, and any specific questions to be addressed during the workshop. This summary should not be presented elsewhere at the conference as an abstract. We put together a couple of questions to guide you in writing the summary, and they can be found [here](#).
- Five keywords.
- A letter of support from an academic advisor can be uploaded as a .pdf.
- Please note that students must upload their workshop presentation by the submission deadline via the [EDRA56 submission platform](#). The presentation upload will not be required until after acceptance. See Key Dates for submission deadlines.

GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions MUST follow the guidelines and meet the requirements listed previously for each submission type to be considered for review.

SUBMISSIONS PLATFORM: All submissions must be made online through the submission platform. Find the submission platform link, guidelines, and FAQs on the [EDRA56 home page](#). See the Key Dates section of this CFP for all submission due dates.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS: All submissions should follow APA (American Psychological Association – seventh edition) guidelines and formatting requirements.

MAXIMUM SUBMISSIONS: Individuals may only participate in **a maximum of three proposal submissions** across ALL submission types. Any submissions of authors/presenters over the allowable maximum number of three submissions will not be accepted.

DUPLICATE SUBMISSIONS: EDRA rejects duplicate submissions. If you submit a proposal for one category (such as part of a Symposium), DO NOT submit the same abstract for another category (such as a Poster).

PUBLICATION PERMISSION: Submission implies author(s) permission for EDRA to publish the paper or abstract in our proceedings. The author(s) must affirm the paper is not under review for publication elsewhere and has not been previously published or presented elsewhere.

LIABILITY: The submitting author is responsible for ensuring that the article's publication has been approved by all other co-authors and takes responsibility for the paper during submission and the peer-review process. EDRA will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation and/or for procuring copyright permission.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT CONSIDERATION REQUIREMENTS: An abstract and four learning objectives are required to complete the submission. Authors can identify which professional organizations would be most appropriate for providing Continuing Education Units (CEU) for their session (AIA, IDCEC, and EDAC). The final selection of presentations offering a CEU will be made by the EDRA56 Organizing Committee and communicated to the authors and attendees before the conference. Additional information on CEUs will be available on the EDRA56 home page.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: A minimum of one author or co-author of each accepted session must register for the conference by **March 20, 2025** to ensure that their sessions will be included in the program. See Key Dates for other deadlines.

5. Selection and Review Process

All submissions will undergo a double blind peer-review process. The double blind review requires authors not to include names or any other identifying information in the uploaded materials.

6. Awards, Scholarships, and Recognitions

Based on the submissions, there will be a Best Paper Award and two student awards: a Best Student Paper Award and a Best Student Design Poster Award. Please visit the Conference Awards website and follow our social media platforms for scholarships and awards requirements, deadlines, and other opportunities for EDRA recognition and support.

BEST PAPER AWARD

STUDENT AWARDS
- Student Paper Award
- Student Design Poster Award

EDRA AWARDS
At the conference, EDRA presents several awards recognizing outstanding work in environmental design research and practice, including:
- Awards for Career, Service, Achievement, and Organization
  - **Visit the website to learn how to nominate a fellow EDRA member or worthy organization for recognition!**
- The EDRA Great Places Awards
- The EDRA Certificate of Research Excellence (CORE)
- The Michael Brill Research Grant in Urban Communication and Community Design

Please visit www.edra.org and look for the Awards tab to learn more about our awards, recognition, and certification programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS
A limited number of Student Travel Scholarships available.
- Nana Kirk Student Travel Scholarships
- Ambassador Fund Scholarships

Support Student Scholarship Opportunities!
Our student scholarship fund provides stipends to student members to assist with registration, travel, and lodging costs.

Supporting environmental design research students is fundamental to ensuring the future of our profession and EDRA as an organization. **Make a donation in any amount to our student scholarship fund to ensure that students can participate in the conference as presenters and attendees**. Support for Student Scholarships is welcome at any level.

EXHIBITORS
Exhibitor opportunities are available for the conference. Reach an audience of diverse researchers, practitioners, students, and specialists from around the world. Visit the EDRA56 home page for more information.

FOLLOW EDRA TO STAY UP TO DATE
To follow us on social media, please visit www.edra.org/socialnetworks.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.edra.org/edra56

We look forward to seeing you at EDRA56 in Halifax, May 27-30, 2025!

**EDRA56 TEAM AT THE
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

7. EDRA Organizing Committee

EDRA56 has been created out of a partnership between the Faculty of Architecture and Planning – Dalhousie University, the local host, and the Environmental Design Research Association. Research in Dalhousie's Faculty of Architecture and Planning covers a wide territory from the most innovative architectural practices to cutting-edge planning scholarship. Our professors — whether practicing professionals or scholars — have national and international reputations for excellence and are involved in collaborative research and design networks worldwide. All of our students, from the entry-level undergraduate to the graduate student in a research-oriented Master's program, are involved in real-life projects during their time at Dalhousie — transforming paper ideas into real-world projects. They also bring co-operative work experience from architecture firms, development companies, industry, planning agencies, and municipalities back to the university — reflecting on the 'why' as much as the 'how'. Reflecting our commitment to creative and critical thinking that benefits society and the environment, our research advances the boundaries of the architecture and planning disciplines, questions their assumptions, and seeks to mobilize knowledge to create better living environments.

EDRA56 Local Organizing Committee

- **Susanne Marshall, Ph.D.,** Co-Chair, EDRA56
  - Publications Manager, Dalhousie Architectural Press, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Dalhousie University
- **Chad Walker, Ph.D.,** Co-Chair and Academic Lead, EDRA56
  - Assistant Professor of Low-Carbon Transitions, School of Planning, Dalhousie University

EDRA56 Program Committee

- **B Sanborn, EDAC, AIA Affiliate,** Chair-Elect of EDRA Board and EDRA56 Program Committee Chair
- **Elif Tural, Ph.D.** Past Chair, Ex Officio
- **Roxana Jafari, PhD.**, Board Member
- **Lorraine E. Maxwell, Ph.D.,** Emeritus Board Member, Ex-Officio

- **Alina Osnaga,** Board Member and Student Representative

EDRA Leadership

- **Debarati 'Mimi' Majumdar Narayan, Ph.D.,** Chair of the EDRA Board
- **Deni Ruggeri, Ph.D.,** EDRA Executive Director
- **Melika Rezaei**, EDRA Assistant Executive Director

EDRA Local Support Team and Volunteers - could it be you? Reach out to the EDRA Members and Partners Committee Chair Julie Stevens at julie@edra.org to learn about how you can volunteer at EDRA56.