

Assistant Planner

MCKENNA

McKenna's team of talented planning, design, and building professionals help municipal leaders develop and maintain communities for real life. From street festivals, neighborhood parks, and storefronts, to parking spots, coffee shops, and farmers' markets, we want your community to thrive. McKenna provides planning, zoning, building, landscape architecture, community and economic development, and urban design assistance to cities, villages, townships, counties, and regional agencies, as well as select private clients, based on skilled and effective public engagement.

ASSISTANT PLANNER

McKenna's Assistant Planners are passionate, talented, and creative professionals who want to make a difference and see their work efforts result in tangible, inspirational outcomes. Our work is purposeful and impacts people by influencing the state of the environment; ultimately, we take pride in helping to improve quality of life in our great Midwestern communities. McKenna's team members enjoy the benefits of our practice, from the diversity of projects in a diverse range of communities, to our fast-paced, creative, and collaborative team culture.

MCKENNA TEAM

McKenna team-members inspire those around them by displaying their positive individual approaches to solving difficult problems. Our Assistant Planners work with Senior Planners and Project Managers in producing creative work products of the highest technical and graphic excellence and are responsible for demonstrating continuous professional development. McKenna Assistant Planners effectively communicate work progress to McKenna Project Managers, whom they also support preparing for and during public meetings. McKenna Assistant Planners work in a hybrid schedule from our Northville, Grand Rapids, and/or Kalamazoo offices.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Assistant Planner is committed to assisting Senior Planners and Project Managers in providing on-time, on-budget planning and design work that is of the highest technical and creative quality.

Specifically:

1. Serve as Assistant Planner on a multitude of projects, helping to deliver creative solutions to our clients throughout the Midwest, primarily local units of government. Projects range from providing ongoing and continuing service in the areas of zoning, form-based coding, master planning, economic development, and placemaking, to special projects in planning, design, economic development, transportation, etc.
2. Work on harmonious teams of other planners and designers, mapping specialists, graphic designers, and administrative staff.
3. Assist Senior Planners and Project Managers in preparing for and delivering public presentations and facilitating public meetings, including in front of municipal boards and commissions, concerned and engaged stakeholder groups, and professional peer organizations.
4. Deliver graphically rich work products, regardless of individual graphic skills (i.e. work with team).
5. Begin building relationships with current and future McKenna clients to increase the awareness of McKenna.

6. Support night meetings with Senior Planners or Project Managers as needed as it relates to planning, development, and zoning activities within client communities

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Members of McKenna's professional planning and design team are evaluated on specific performance standards, as follows:

1. Ability to effectively collaborate with clients and other McKenna professionals
2. Capability to multi-task and set priorities
3. Achievement of key measurable "vital signs":
 - a. Career Development
 - b. Client Satisfaction
 - c. Giving Back
 - d. Innovation
 - e. New Work
 - f. Productivity
 - g. Project Manager Billings
 - h. Project Variance

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Successful Assistant Planners most often possess the following knowledge and skills:

1. An undergraduate or graduate degree in Urban Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, or related field is preferred.
2. Zero (0) to two (2) years of experience in professional planning and/or design positions, whether municipal or private.
3. Ability to respectfully function as a productive and enthusiastic member of a team, under direction of McKenna's Leadership Team, Project Directors, and Project Managers.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position, send your resume in confidence with general salary expectations to the attention of Human Resources at info@mcka.com. Positions are available in our Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Northville, Michigan offices.