

Urban Alliance

Building a better Calgary through the power of research



Urban Alliance is the cornerstone of collaboration between UCalgary and The City, encouraging and coordinating the seamless transfer of cutting-edge research between our organizations.

Our shared vision for the future

Established in 2007, the Urban Alliance is a groundbreaking partnership between The City of Calgary and the University of Calgary that supports our organizations to work together to pursue a common purpose.

The mission of Urban Alliance is to enable research, innovation and education that improves quality of life for Calgarians. Urban Alliance engages top scholars who collaborate with City partners and engage with community to create solutions to pressing municipal issues through high quality research.

We also train the next generation of leaders through experiential learning and capstone project opportunities.

Strategic alignment

The Urban Alliance is evolving to focus on transdisciplinary collaboration to tackle priority issues with a view to transformative change. This aligns with the university's strategic plan, *Ahead of Tomorrow* and The City of Calgary's *Resilient Calgary* strategy. The goal is to create solutions with community and partner organizations to the urban problems we face today.

By the numbers



Since 2007, Urban Alliance has supported **400+** research projects.



Urban Alliance projects have a historical average of a **5:1** leverage of City funding.



As of fall 2025, there are **33 active Urban Alliance** research projects.



UCalgary students have worked with City mentors on more than **40 capstone** projects in the past 6 years.



Integration with City facilities



Advancing Canadian Water Assets (ACWA)

ACWA is an integrated research facility at the City of Calgary Pine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. ACWA supports research and development, knowledge transfer, de-risking and piloting of leading-edge water, stormwater and wastewater treatment technologies.

research.ucalgary.ca/ACWA



RoboCraft Innovation and Learning Platform

This robotic 3D printing platform is integrated into The City's Wave Technology Centre, a sandbox for testing new and innovative technology solutions. The platform is intended to enable nimble, low-carbon, last mile production as an alternative to traditional procurement.

calgary.ca/major-projects

Featured research collaborations



Centre Street LRT Platform Redesign

An urban intervention that will improve overall safety for all users of the platform, while maintaining functional heat and ventilation to create an inclusive, creative, and durable piece of cultural infrastructure.

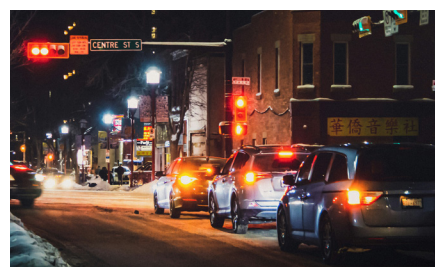
Addresses issues of downtown safety, vitality, dignity of vulnerable populations, and Indigenous culture.



Scoping Calgary's Short-Term Rental Economy

Provided a deep data-driven understanding of Calgary's short-term rental market, aligning with The City's goals of fostering resilience and enhancing quality of life.

Findings supported improved planning and regulations, effective STR management, stakeholder engagement, and community benefits.



Holistic Traffic Management Framework

Traffic congestion and disruptions from incidents and construction have serious consequences for our daily lives.

This collaboration with Mobility is developing an innovative Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)-driven approach to safer, more efficient and sustainable transportation networks in Calgary.



Connect with Urban Alliance

If you're a City practitioner or UCalgary faculty member with a collaborative project idea, a need for expert knowledge to progress or enhance operations, or a potential student learning opportunity, contact our team at research.ucalgary.ca/urban-alliance