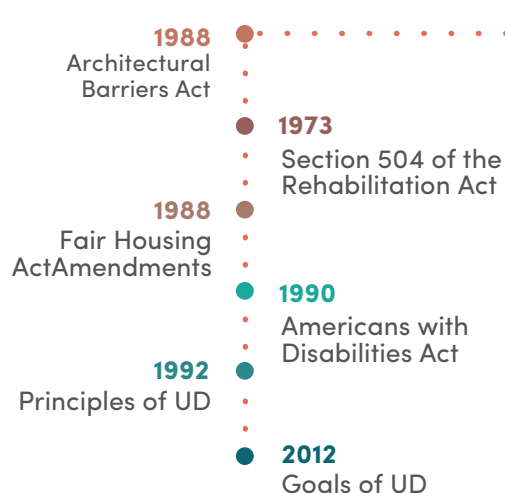




The Goals of Universal Design

What is Universal Design?

Universal design (UD) is a design process that enables and empowers a diverse population by improving human performance, health and wellness, and social participation. UD reduces stigma and provides benefits for all users.

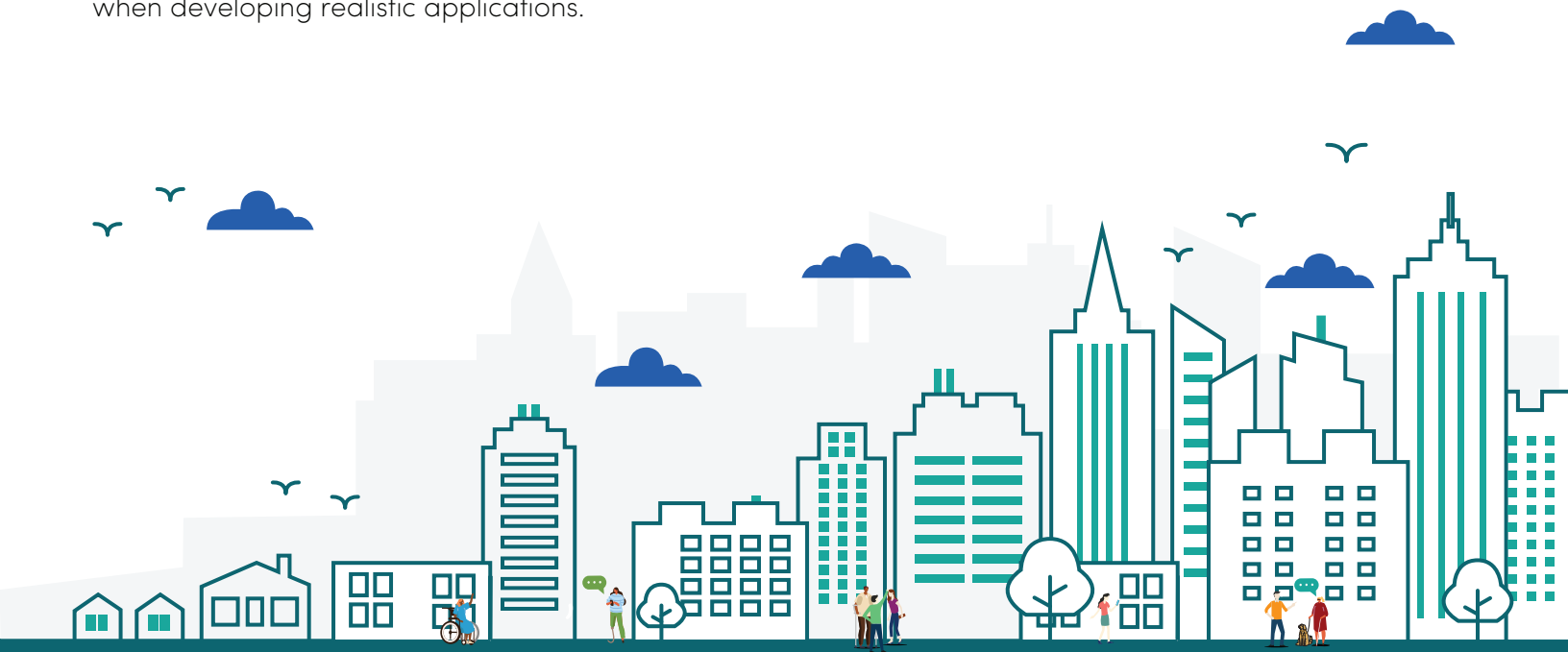


Historical Context

Over the last 40+ years, significant efforts have been made to increase inclusivity and accessibility in the built environment. Although accessibility laws have helped to support these outcomes and decrease discrimination due to physical barriers, UD aims to go further to better support the needs of all people. Building upon the foundation of the Seven Principles of UD, the Goals of Universal Design were created.

Why Universal Design?

Universal design goes beyond the minimal requirements of accessibility and aims to address the needs of more diverse stakeholders. The IDEA Center expanded the conceptual framework of universal design to go beyond usability to include social participation and health and wellness while also acknowledging the role of context when developing realistic applications.



Goals of Universal Design

The IDEA Center developed the Goals of Universal Design® to define the outcomes of UD practice in ways that can be measured, linked to existing bodies of knowledge, and applied to all design domains within the constraints of existing resources.



Human Performance

1. Body Fit:

Accommodating a wide range of body sizes and abilities

2. Comfort:

Keeping demands within desirable limits of body function and perception

3. Awareness:

Ensuring that critical information for use is easily perceived

4. Understanding:

Making methods of operation and use intuitive, clear and unambiguous



Health and Wellness

5. Wellness:

Contributing to health promotion, avoidance of disease and protection from hazards



Social Participation

6. Social Integration:

Treating all groups with dignity and respect

7. Personalization:

Incorporating opportunities for choice and the expression of individual preferences

8. Cultural Appropriateness:

Respecting and reinforcing cultural values, and the social and environmental contexts of any design project

