

## **A Q&A ABOUT SANTA MONICA'S MASS TIMBER ACCELERATOR**

### **WITH PETER ROQUEMORE:**

Santa Monica's Mass Timber Accelerator is now accepting applications through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Interested applicants can learn more by visiting the City's [Mass Timber Accelerator website](#), by reviewing the [Mass Timber Accelerator Application Guide](#) or contacting Peter Roquemore at [peter.roquemore@santamonica.gov](mailto:peter.roquemore@santamonica.gov).



#### **Peter Roquemore**

**Sustainability Analyst, City of Santa Monica**

Peter Roquemore is a Sustainability Analyst in the City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability & the Environment. Peter leads the City's work on developing policies to reduce embodied carbon and supports the City in meeting the goals of the City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. Peter received his Masters in Urban & Regional Planning from UCLA.

### **What is Santa Monica's Mass Timber Accelerator?**

Santa Monica's Mass Timber Accelerator is a design studio where participants will receive support to design buildings using mass timber. Mass timber refers to a category of framing styles that includes large, engineered wood panels called cross-laminated timber (CLT), often paired with engineered wood columns, and beams.

As part of the Softwood Lumberboard's Accelerator Cities Program, participants in our accelerator will receive free technical assistance from WoodWorks as well as a financial award for completing the accelerator.

One of the aspects I'm most looking forward to are the charrettes we'll plan over the year where the accelerator cohort will come together with stakeholders to provide updates on their plans, collaboratively find solutions to any obstacles, and highlight successes that can help pave the way for future projects.

### **Who should apply to the Accelerator?**

Any architect, designer, or developer who has a project in Santa Monica. The accelerator offers value to applicants of all levels of experience with mass timber. Whether you're brand new to mass timber and need the support of the cohort and the WoodWorks team to get you started, or you've designed with mass timber in the past and can use the

accelerator to hone your skills and innovate your designs, we invite and encourage you to apply.

### **Why is mass timber important to the City of Santa Monica?**

Mass timber has the potential to help Santa Monica reach our housing development goals sustainably, quickly, and at potentially a lower cost compared to traditional building materials. It is a common building practice in parts of Europe and the Pacific Northwest, and is gaining traction in other parts of the U.S. due to the many benefits, but is still a relatively nascent industry with high potential in Southern California.

With the City's low-carbon concrete ordinance, we've demonstrated that we can build in Santa Monica while reducing embodied carbon emissions. Mass timber provides additional options for designing and developing housing and commercial properties that are not only highly desirable for tenants who want beautiful, exposed wood aesthetics, but also built with far fewer emissions. The emissions savings in mass timber buildings are due to the lower emissions generated during the material extraction and manufacturing of timber products compared to steel and concrete. These embodied carbon emissions reductions are great enough that even the emissions generated from transporting timber products from the Pacific Northwest or Northern California to Southern California are dwarfed in comparison.

### **What impact do you hope the Accelerator has?**

We want program participants to gain experience and expertise in designing and building with mass timber. Whether they are brand new to mass timber or have some experience, with our partners at WoodWorks, we can provide tailored technical assistance to advance participant knowledge in mass timber designs to maximize the benefits of using mass timber.

This is also an opportunity to engage policy makers, designers, developers, and contractors across Los Angeles on how to bring the benefits of mass timber to the region. We hope to use the accelerator projects as case studies to share obstacles, solutions, and innovations to support the growth of local mass timber projects.