

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wheat Design Group is now a J2 Design Studio

Phoenix, AZ & Tucson, AZ; March 31, 2025 – As of March 28, 2025, Wheat Design Group has become a part of J2 Design. The two firms, based in Tucson and Phoenix respectively, provide award-winning, world-class public works design services. The decision to merge was driven by a desire to provide expanded design capabilities for both firms’ public entity clients in Southern Arizona and across the state.

Wheat Design Group’s existing staff will continue to operate in Tucson, AZ as J2’s Tucson office location under the name **Wheat, a J2 Design Studio**. Laura Mielcarek, PLA, Wheat’s principal, will continue to serve as J2’s Tucson Studio Director and will be supported by J2 Design’s principals Jeff Velasquez, PLA, Aaron Allan, PLA, and Jason Touchin, PE.

“Continuing to provide our clients with the outstanding services they have come to expect is our top priority. Wheat’s existing staff is excited to continue operating and providing the same services out of our Tucson office, while being supported by J2’s staff and services” said Laura Mielcarek, PLA, former Principal of Wheat Design Group and acting Tucson Studio Director of J2 Design.

The combined team will now have 39 staff members and will continue to focus on developing creative sustainable design solutions for their clients throughout the state of Arizona.

“Our staff is committed to continuing the successful legacy of Wheat’s founder, Elizabeth ‘Liba’ Wheat and J2’s founders, Jeff Holzmeister and Jeff Engelmann” said Jeff Velasquez, PLA, Principal Landscape Architect at J2 Design.

J2 Design is a Landscape Architecture and Civil Engineering firm in Phoenix, Arizona founded in 2002. J2 Design also specializes in irrigation design, hydraulic and water resource engineering, urban design, and public involvement. J2 is an industry expert when it comes to creating livable spaces — from roadways to parks — customized to each unique community. The firm’s blend of civil engineers and landscape architects fosters an environment of creativity and functionality, integrated to reflect the client’s vision.

Wheat Design Group (now operating as Wheat, a J2 Design Studio) was founded in 1982 and has been focused on creating innovative and sustainable landscapes that enrich the local environment in ways that connect people, vegetation, and wildlife for public and private clients since their inception. Helping improve communities in context-sensitive ways that express the spirit of the Sonoran Desert and Southern Arizona was and remains a passion of the Wheat team.

Learn more about this change on our website: www.j2design.us/j2andwheatmerge