

# Jean Yang

jeanaliceyang@gmail.com  
1.310.430.6546

Working in real estate development, I saw the impact design has to our communities, culture, economics, ecology, and health. 8 years ago, I finished a master's in both Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. Since then, my work has focused on deep engagement, narratives, and cultural landscape mapping to develop equity-forward landscape interventions.

I would use the LAF fellowship to study the effectiveness of an iterative process (to include phases of deep engagement, connections, opportunities for reinforcement, implementation, and measurement) in unhoused communities. In addition to being a humanitarian crisis, unhoused and transient communities' structure of formation and modes of organization have important implications for urban spaces, engagement methodology, equity, and justice.

## EDUCATION

**USC School of Architecture** | Master's in Landscape Architecture

**USC Spatial Sciences Institute** | Certificate in Geographic Information Systems,

**UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs** | Master's in Urban Planning

**Cornell University** | Bachelor of Arts. Major in Economics and Government

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### TEACHING

**University Of Oregon**  
**Visiting Associate Professor, Design for Spatial Justice Fellow**  
Eugene, OR  
2020 - Now

## CORE IDEOLOGY

Inclusion by Design

## TYPICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

After one year of teaching at the University of Oregon, I am the acting BLA director and the faculty liaison for Landscape for Humanity and the DEI Committee. I am also carrying a teaching load of 3 studios and 3 seminars each academic year.

## KEY PROJECTS

I was recruited as a Spatial Justice Fellow because of my intersectional research. My pedagogy focuses on building student's capacity to bring their lived experiences, at the intersection of identity and design, to the table. My average student evaluation score for the 21-22 academic years is 4.8 out of 5.

As acting BLA director, I am also guiding initiatives to recruit, welcome, and support Black, Indigenous, Latin-a/e/o/x, Asian American, LGBTQ+ and other under-represented voices in our classroom

**UCLA Luskin**  
**Adjunct Lecturer**

Los Angeles, CA  
2016 - 2020

Innovation and Change

When I lived in Los Angeles, I ran two to three landscape-focused classes at UCLA Luskin's Urban Planning Department each academic year.

My landscape-focused planning courses included an urban design studio responding to the spatial politics of urban resilience and courses on the language and syntax of visual communication. My average student evaluation score for these classes was 4.85 out of 5.

### DESIGN / PLANNING

**Studio-MLA**  
**Senior Associate**

2016 - Present  
Los Angeles

Design by Advocacy

As a Senior Associate, I typically lead a 8-12 person project team and manage approximately half a million dollars of billing per annum.

My work focused on equity-based landscape-led infrastructure projects like Upper LA River and Tributaries Plan\*, Our County\* DPR. I also developed led geodesign and community analysis for SOFI Stadium\*, the University of California Irvine Vision Plan\* and the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum\*.

**John Kaliski Architects**  
**Urban Designer**

Los Angeles, California  
2014-2016

Everyday Urbanism

At JKA, I was a project manager and lead planner for the firm's urban design projects. I also provided landscape support for all architectural projects and was asked to create a landscape architecture division within the firm.

My work focused on city and neighborhood plans, specifically cities at high risk for climate disasters. Projects included the Santa Monica Memorial Park Plan, the Malibu Civic Center Plan, West Hollywood Division 7 Master Plan, the Temple City Rezoning Plan\*.

**KDI**  
**Urban Design Fellow**

Nairobi, Kenya  
2010-2012

The Power of Public Space

At KDI, I supported community organizing in the Kibera Public Space Network. This included deep listening, logistical support, recruitment, advocacy, and incubating new business with grant funding.

My work focused on transforming Kibera Public Space Project (KPSP) 01 into a local economic development corporation that is staffed and run locally. Local businesses (Kiki Weavers, Kibera Composting), community procedures, and mechanisms were set in place. More than 10 years after construction is finished, KPSP01 is enjoyed by hundreds of people a day.

### REAL ESTATE

**Westfield**  
**Strategy and Market Research Manager**

Los Angeles, CA  
2007-2009

Extraordinary and sustainable places

Produced reports for the executive team on centers being considered for development. Analysis included market sizing, positioning, consumers targeting, sales & rent analysis and competitive surveys.

I developed strategic recommendations on dozens of shopping centers, including Horton Plaza, Westfield UTC, Westfield Palm Desert, Westfield Mission Valley, and Westfield UTC. With a special focus on public space and programming, rents at the shopping center increased by up to 8%,

## RESEARCH INTEREST 1 CO-DESIGNING WITH DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

In addition to being a humanitarian crisis, unhoused and transient communities have important implications for urban spaces, equity, and justice because of their structure of formation and modes of organization. I am testing methods to co-design with vulnerable and isolated communities through a focus on existing resources, inclusion, discovery, and knowledge.

### OTHER CO-DESIGN PROJECTS

**2018 – 2021.** Project Manager, Studio-MLA Homeless Initiative, Studio-MLA

**2020.** Project Manager/ Lead Planner, Hansen Dam Park Vision, Studio-MLA

**2016.** Lead Designer, 88th and Vermont Transitional Housing, Studio-MLA

### CO-DESIGN TALKS

**2021.** “On Spatial [In]justice: An Interdisciplinary Exchange”, University of Oregon

**2021.** “Dignified Engagement”, CalPoyPomona Collaborative for Healthy and Inclusive Learning Environment

### CO-DESIGN COURSES

**2022.** Professor, “Measuring Dignity – A Path to Engagement”, University of Oregon College of Design

**2022.** Professor, “Myths of Nature – Decolonizing Cultural Perceptions”, University of Oregon College of Design

**2021.** Professor, “The Spatial Politics of Urban Resilience”, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

**2015.** Professor, “Terrain Vague – Designing with Ambiguity” CalPoly Pomona College of Environmental Design

### CO-DESIGN AWARDS

**2015.** Enterprise Rose Architecture Fellowship | Finalist | A Better City

**2015.** UD4U’s Urban Design | Honorable Mention | “Patchwork Agriculture”

**2014.** Ashoka Changemaker’s Sustainable Housing Competition | First Place

**2014.** Urban Inform Architecture of Social Investment | First Place



ABOVE  
The design, construction and management of Kibera Public Spaces focused on giving equal value to and acknowledging the information and skills of all community partners. The focus on an authentic process made room for co-defining the problem, co-generating new information and co-developing implications of design choices. The result is a community designed/built/maintained space where hundreds of people work, play, and meet daily.

## CODESIGN PROJECT HIGHLIGHT KPSP01 and KPSP06 Research Assistant 2010-2014

## RESEARCH INTEREST 2 LANDSCAPE-LED EVERYDAY URBANISM PROCESS

I work to understand, map, and finetune processes that inaugurate and structure the transformation of a site while remaining open to change and growth over time. My focus is on successional relational transformation in transitional communities through materials (soil and plants), forms (topography, trees), programming (nature, recreational), ordering systems (emergent ecologies) and landscape techniques (soil improvement, drainage).

The project preserves a 205-year history of Black people in the Los Angeles area and celebrates the largest Black community west of the Mississippi. The phased community collaboration process sought and mapped input from non-traditional and traditional stakeholders through storytelling, visioning, in-person meetings, online surveys, charrettes, and community workshops.

To acknowledge the multiple processes at play, the resulting design explored methods to fold contradictory realities or discourses into the design. In creating paradoxical spaces that go in different directions at the same time, this project aims to not only sustain but also derive its power from unsettled differences.

## EVERYDAY URBANISM PROJECT HIGHLIGHT Destination Crenshaw Lead Designer 2016-2021



### OTHER NOTABLE EVERYDAY URBANISM PROJECTS

**2019-2020.** Associate Designer, Taylor Yards Conceptual Design, Studio-MLA

**2018.** Associate Designer, University of Californian Irvine Naturescapes Vision Plan, Studio-MLA

**2016.** Project Designer, SOFI Stadium, Studio-MLA

### EVERYDAY URBANISM TALKS

**2021.** “Resilient by Geodesign”, University of Idaho Geodesign Summit Keynote

**2021.** “Framework for Collaboration”, Esri Geodesign Summit

**2020.** “Mapping Dignity”, CalPoyPomona CHILE

### EVERYDAY URBANISM COURSES

**2022.** Professor, “LA River – Emergent Ecologies, University of Oregon College of Design

**2021.** Professor, “TriMet – Community Vanguard”, University of Oregon College of Design

**2016-2021.** Professor, Visual Patterns and Language, UCLA Luskin

**2016.** Professor, “Everyday Urbanism and TODS”, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

**2015.** Professor, “The Death and (possible) Rebirth of the Office Park”, CalPoly Pomona

### EVERYDAY URBANISM AWARDS

**2021.** AZ Awards – Urban Design Visions for Upper LA Rivers and Tributaries Plan

**2021.** Cityscapes. AIA Los Angeles for Destination Crenshaw

**2020.** ASLA Southern California Honor Award for Upper LA Rivers and Tributaries Plan

**2019.** ASLA Communications, Honor Awards for ALMA