

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, Master of Architecture and Master of City & Regional Planning, 2010
Concentration in Housing, Community, and Economic Development. Thesis: *Inhabiting Neutral Ground: Creating Community Space in Post-Katrina New Orleans*. Sandy Hirshen Prize for Socially Responsible Architecture.

Brown University, B.A. Architectural Studies, 2006, *magna cum laude*
Honors Thesis: *Low-Cost Housing on the California-Mexico Border: Alternative Architectural Solutions*.
Coursework at the University of Barcelona.

TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Oregon, 2022-present
Introductory Architectural Design Studio III, ARCH 383, Fall 2022

Forthcoming:

Community Design, Seminar, ARCH 431/531, Winter 2023

Sustainable City Year Program, Architectural Design Studio, ARCH 484, Winter 2023

Architectural Contexts: Place and Culture, ARCH 430/530, Spring 2023

Professor of Practice, School of Architecture + Community Development, 2019-2022

University of Detroit Mercy

Community Resilience Hubs: Public Interest Design Studio, Winter 2022, ARCH 3100

Building Code/Zoning Analysis, Winter 2022, ARCH 3190

Community Resilience Hubs: Designing Just Environments, Public Interest Design Studio, Fall 2020, ARCH 3100

Civic Engagement and the Participatory Process in Community Development, Summer 2020, MCD 5028

Public Re-Purpose, Public Interest Design Studio, Fall 2019, ARCH 3100

Thesis Advisor, Master of Architecture & Master of Community Development, 2015-2022

Serve as an advisor to Master of Architecture thesis projects and Master of Community Development capstone projects at the University of Detroit Mercy.

2021-2022 Thesis Students: Donald Rainey, Joseph Silveira, Chelsea Short

Student Coop Supervisor, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, 2012-2022

Advise and provide mentorship for the professional educational experience of 2-5 University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture student interns per semester as part of an experiential learning program.

Associate Director, Master of Community Development, University of Detroit Mercy, 2017-2019

Support the administration of the Master of Community Development program, including coordinating the final capstone requirement, running a series of workshops, and assisting with special projects and grants.

Adjunct Professor, University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture, 2013-2019

Taught studio courses as an extension of my role at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center:

Detroit Equitable Mobility Studio, Vertical Studio, Fall 2018, ARCH 2300

Civic Engagement and the Participatory Process in Community Development, Summer 2018/19, MCD 5028

Reimagining the Civic Commons in Southwest Detroit, Vertical Studio, Fall 2017, ARCH 2100/2200/2300

Beyond the Public Square, Vertical Studio, Fall 2016, ARCH 2100/2200/2300

Community Landscape & Spatial Transformation, Vertical Studio, Fall 2014, ARCH 2100/2200/2300

Second Year Architectural Design Studio IV, Winter 2014, ARCH 1400

Second Year Architectural Design Studio III, Fall 2013, ARCH 1300

Ceara O'Leary, AIA

Invited Studio Reviews

University of Buffalo, Lawrence Technological University, University of Michigan, Columbia University, University of Detroit Mercy, Tulane School of Architecture, University of Texas Brownsville, UC Berkeley

Graduate Student Instructor, University of California, Berkeley, 2008-2010

Energy & Environmental Management, Arch 140, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.

Teaching Assistant, Brown University, 2005

Course: Modern Architecture, Architectural Studies, Professor Dietrich Neumann.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Registered architect in the State of Michigan

Sole Practitioner, Consultant & Advisor, 2022–present

Continue to partner on architectural and urban design projects that contribute to community development in Detroit while crafting a new expanded national practice.

Current projects:

Resiliency Planning with Detroit Neighborhoods

Community Resilience Hubs Documentation and Design

Live6 Alliance Corridor Placemaking Initiative

Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Co-Executive Director, 2019–2022

Co-led a ten-person multidisciplinary architecture, landscape and urban design office with an emphasis on community-engaged design at a range of scales. Collaborate with community, municipal and professional partners on projects that contribute to ongoing efforts in Detroit neighborhoods.

Select projects:

O'Hair Park Neighborhood & Housing Plan

Avalon Village Block Conceptual Design

Marygrove P-20 Cradle-to-Career Campus Community Engagement Strategy

Detroit Solar Feasibility Assessment Design Guidelines

McDougall-Hunt Neighborhood Sustainable Redevelopment Implementation Plan

Land Based Projects: A Pathway to Purchase, Permit and Design

Renewing Low-Density Neighborhoods Through Offsite GSI Investments

Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Senior Designer & Project Director, 2015–2019

Lead community design and development projects with an emphasis on neighborhood revitalization through collaborative partnerships. Projects range from neighborhood planning to small-scale community installations.

Select projects:

Bridging High & Low Density with Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Avis & Elsmere: Young Nation Community Space

Livernois-McNichols Streetscape & Public Space Plan

Fitzgerald Revitalization Project & Landscape Activation

Eastern Market 2025 Planning Strategy

Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow, 2012–2014

Managed and contributed to design and planning for a variety of sustainable community design and development projects, ranging from business corridor activation to green infrastructure strategies.

Ceara O’Leary, AIA

Select projects:

Livernois Community Storefront
Eastern Market Green Stormwater Management Strategy
Detroit Works Project Long Term Planning

buildingcommunityWORKSHOP, San Juan, TX, *Community Designer, 2011*

Established a satellite bcWorkshop office in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and contributed to a community-based planning project in eight colonias across Hidalgo and Cameron Counties in response hurricane risks.

Primary project:

Colonia Neighborhood Plan Implementation Strategies

Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, Biloxi, MS, *Public Design Intern, 2010–2011*

Contributed to architecture, urban design, planning, educational outreach, graphics and landscape projects for community development projects in collaboration with local stakeholders along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Select projects:

Bike Biloxi
Nguyen House
Shaw Homestead Educational Program
Howard Avenue Streetscape

ACADEMIC SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

University of Oregon Department of Architecture:

Undergraduate Admissions Committee, 2022-present
Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee, 2022-present
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, 2022-present

University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture + Community Development:

Public Interest Design curricular development and accreditation assessment, 2021-2022
Lecture Committee, 2020-2022
Master of Community Development Advisory Board, 2019-2021

University of Detroit Mercy:

Presidential Search Committee Faculty Committee, 2021-2022
Strategic Planning Implementation Committee, 2020-2022
Bioneers Program Planning Committee, 2019

Other:

Intersections Conference, AIA and Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, Reviewer, 2021-2022
Environmental Design Research Association, EDRA52 Conference, Reviewer, 2021-2022
Design Futures Student Leadership Forum Faculty, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Cohort, 2020-2021
Wayne State University Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability and Training (T-RUST) Graduate Program Advisory Board, 2017-2021
Converge, National Science Foundation, *Bridging Community Needs and Research through Action-Oriented Co-Design*, Working Group Member, 2020
Association for Collegiate Schools of Architecture, 109th Annual Meeting, Expanding the View, Reviewer, 2020
Journal of Architectural Education, Reviewer, 2019
USDA/NIFA Higher Education Challenge Grant, "Building Capacity and Diffusing Innovation in Community Development Education," Co-Principal Investigator & Lead Symposium Planner, 2017-2019

Ceara O’Leary, AIA

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, LEADERSHIP & BOARDS

AIA Housing Knowledge Community Advisory Group Executive Board, 2019 Chair; 2015-present
AIA Minnesota Housing Design Awards Jury, 2022
American Institute of Architects (AIA) Equitable Development Resource Advisory Panel, 2021-2022
United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Racial Equity Fund Workgroup, 2021-2022
Mayors Innovation Project + AIA Blueprint For Better Eastpointe Mayor’s Innovation Project, 2021-2022
American Institute of Architects Housing Awards, Jury Chair, 2021
Mayors Institute for City Design (MICD) Design Tank, University of Hawaii Community Design Center, 2021
Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship Selection Committee Advisor & Faculty, 2017-2020
Detroit Design 139 Advisory Committee, 2019
Denmark + US Travel + Talk Invited Program Participant, 2019
Reimagining the Civic Commons, Detroit Project Team, 2016-2019
Extra Mile Playwrights Advisory Board, Detroit, MI, 2014–2019
PublicXDesign: From Inclusion to Equity Program Committee, Detroit, MI, 2018
City of Detroit Green Task Force Water Subcommittee, Detroit, MI, 2012-2017
Citizens Institute on Rural Design Resource Team Member, Salmon, ID, 2017
ULI Larsen Center for Leadership, Class of 2015
National Endowment for the Arts, Our Town Program, Grant Review Panel, 2015
Glass Street Urbanism Workshop Facilitator, Chattanooga, TN, 2015
Bleeding Heart Design Advisory Committee, Detroit, MI, 2013–2015
Association for Community Design Board of Directors Executive Committee, 2012–2014
The Funders Network for Smart Growth, Research Trip Facilitator, 2012-2014
Enterprise Pre-Development Design Grant Facilitator, Philadelphia, 2012

HONORS & AWARDS

New Junior Faculty Research Award, University of Oregon, 2022
Michigan ASLA Honor Award, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, 2022
University of Detroit Mercy Faculty Research Award, “District 2 GIS Development Project,” 2020-21
AIA/HUD Secretary’s Award Community-Informed Design Award, Avis and Elsmere, 2019
AIA Detroit Architectural Honor Awards Small Project, Avis and Elsmere, 2019
AIA Whitney M. Young Jr. Award Winner, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, 2017
Curry Stone Design Prize, Social Design Honoree Circle, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, 2017
2017 Next City Vanguard, Top Urban Innovator Under 40, Class of 2015
SEED Award for Excellence in Public Interest Design, DCDC Community How To Guides, 2014
SEED Honorable Mention, bcWorkshop Colonia Neighborhood Plan Implementation Strategies, 2013
Sandy Hirshen Prize for Socially Responsible Architecture, UC Berkeley, 2010
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2009-2010

RECENT GRANTS

The Kresge Foundation – DCDC Project Funding, 2022
Ford Foundation – DCDC General Operating and Project Funding, 2021-2023
The Kresge Foundation – DCDC Project Funding, 2021
National Endowment for the Arts – HomeBase Design Stories Project Funding, 2021
The Kresge Foundation – DCDC General Operating, 2020-2022
The Kresge Foundation – DCDC Project Funding, 2020

Ceara O’Leary, AIA

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- “Community Resilience Hubs: Social and Emergency Infrastructure in Detroit’s Neighborhoods.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, 111th Annual Meeting, In Commons, 2023 (accepted).
- “Unpacking Engagement: Strategies for Context-Specific Community-Driven Design.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, 110th Annual Meeting: Empower, 2022.
- “Collaborative Community Practice: Evaluating Partnerships and Pedagogy.” *Expanding the View: 109th Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Annual Meeting*, 2021.
- “Towards a More Connected Field of Community Development Education: Encouraging Community Well-Being Through an Engaged Symposium.” Stanard, V., Hains, K., Knobloch, N., O’Leary, C., Reinhard, A., Hains, B., & Rios, M. *International Journal of Community Well-Being*, 2021
- “Shared, Offsite and Green: Leveraging Neighborhood Stormwater Infrastructure,” Dichotomy Student Journal, University of Detroit Mercy, 2020.
- “Bridging Needs with Research through Action-Oriented Community Design,” CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research Agenda-Setting Paper, co-authored with Jeff Carney, Ann Yoachim, et al., 2020.
- “Time as a Design Tool for Community,” *ACSA/AIA Intersections Symposium*, co-authored with Tadd Heidgerken, 2019.
- “Co-Creation: Collaborative Design Practice as Pedagogy,” *ACSA Fall Conference Proceedings*, co-authored with Ann Yoachim, 2019.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “8869 Avis,” *Community-Engaged Design*, Travis Hicks, ed. (invited case study, submitted for editing).
- “Renewing Low-Density Neighborhoods Through Offsite GSI Investments,” *Design Divides*, Lisa Berglund and Siobhan Gregory, eds. (competitive chapter, submitted for consideration).
- “Moving Forward Together: Engagement in Community Design and Development,” *Public Interest Design Practice Guidebook: SEED Methodology, Case Studies and Critical Issues*, 2015 (co-authored with Dan Pitera).
- “Ecodistrict Initiatives in Cleveland and Detroit” & “Federal Reserve-Philanthropy Initiative: Detroit Edition,” TFN Blog. The Funders’ Network for Smart Growth, January-April 2015.
- “Fashion Avenue Revitalized,” *Palmer Woods Post*, September 2014.
- “Detroit’s DIY Neighborhood Revitalization,” “Detroit Fellows and Collaborative Redevelopment” & “Detroit’s Vacant Land: Strategies and Support,” TFN Blog. The Funders’ Network. May-November 2013.
- “The Independent Community Design Center Model,” *The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice*, 15th edition. The American Institute of Architects, November 2013.
- “The Collaborative Design Center Process,” *AIA Practice Management Knowledge Community Digest*, Fall 2013.
- “Inland Empire: Green Economic Potential.” *Innovating the Green Economy in California Regions*. Center for Community Innovation, UC Berkeley, May 2009. Co-authored with Melissa Smith and Anita Roth.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- “Integrating Engagement: Lessons for meaningful community design processes,” American Institute of Architects A’22, Chicago, June 2022.
- “Planning for Community Resilience in Detroit Neighborhoods,” Environmental Design Research Association, EDRA53 Conference, June 2022.

Ceara O’Leary, AIA

“Pedagogies for Designing Spatial Justice,” Symposium with University of Oregon Spatial Justice Fellows, Environmental Design Research Association, EDRA52 Conference, May 2021, invited moderator.

“Scaling Community Open Space: Lessons for Leveraging Vacant Land.” Environmental Design Research Association, EDRA52 Conference, May 2021.

“Collaborative Community Practice: Evaluating Partnerships and Pedagogy.” Expanding the View: 109th Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Annual Meeting, April 2021.

“Value-Based Education: A Case for Biased Pedagogies and Practices in Detroit,” Environmental Design Research Association 51st Annual Conference, co-authored with Claudia Bernasconi and Virginia Stanard, April 2020.

“Co-Creation: Collaborative Design Practice as Pedagogy,” Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Fall Conference, Stanford, CA, co-authored with Ann Yoachim, September 2019

“Community-Engaged Learning,” Community Development Education Symposium, co-authored with Claudia Bernasconi, Lara Wasner, and Virginia Stanard, May 2019.

“Avis + Elsmere: Time as a Design Tool for Community,” Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture 107th Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2019.

“Aligning Consent Orders and Community Needs.” American Planning Association National Planning Conference, New Orleans, LA. April 2018.

“Healthy Communities and Housing: Lessons from the Field.” American Institute of Architects (AIA) Conference on Architecture, Orlando, FL. April 2017. Pre-Conference Workshop (organizer).

“Housing, Community Development & Design: Case Studies from Philadelphia,” AIA National Convention, Philadelphia PA. May 2016. Pre-Convention Workshop (organizer).

“Making and Teaching Change: Community Design Centers in Detroit and New Orleans,” AIA National Convention, Chicago, IL. June 2014.

“Emerging Leaders in Community Design: Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship.” AIA National Convention, Denver, CO. June 2013.

COMPETITIVE & INVITED EXHIBITIONS

American Institute of Architects Detroit (AIA) Celebration of Architecture, DCDC, 2022.

Detroit Design 139 Inclusive Futures, featured projects: Avis + Elsmere, Neighborhood HomeBase, Good Stock Offsite Green Stormwater Infrastructure, 2019.

American Institute of Architects Detroit (AIA) Celebration of Architecture, Office Showcase, 2019.

Commons and Communities Symposium & Exhibition, Dansk Arkitektur Center, featured project: Avis + Elsmere, Copenhagen, November 2019.

Detroit Design 139, Exhibition showcasing design excellence in the City of Detroit, 1001 Woodward, 2017.

“By the People: Designing a Better America,” Detroit Works Project Long Term Planning Civic Engagement, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, 2016-2017.

“DCDC’s 20th Anniversary,” Exhibition of 20 Years of DCDC’s work, Detroit Public Library, 2014.

“Infill Philadelphia: Soak It Up!,” Bloody Run Creek Greenway Redevelopment Project, Center for Architecture, Philadelphia, 2012.

COMPETITIVE & INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

“Collaborative Practice & Community-Engaged Design,” Perkins + Will, September 2022.

“Neighborhood HomeBase,” Association of Resilient Campus Design and Innovation Podcast & Case Study, 2022.

Ceara O’Leary, AIA

“Collaborative Practice & Community-Engaged Design,” Dunwoody College of Technology School of Design, Design + Construction Conference, February 2022, online.

“AIA National Housing Awards,” AIA Housing & Community Development Fall Forum, October 2021.

“Community Engaged Design,” Future of the American City with Charles Waldheim, Podcast, Office of Urbanization, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, February 2021.

“Navigating Change,” Association of Architecture Organizations, with Anne-Marie Lubenau and Ann Yaochim, December 2020.

“Community Engagement in Times of COVID-19: A Peer-to-Peer Conversation,” Webinar, Association for Community Design, December 2020, with Hester Street Collaborative.

“Collaborative Practice & Community-Engaged Design,” Salazar Architect, Inc. Speaker Series, October 2020. A New Way Forward: Reimagining the Nonprofit Workplace, “Creative Design Solutions for the Workplace,” Co.Act Detroit, panelist, July 2020.

Capital Impact Partners, Equitable Development Initiative, “Engaging Residents & Community Stakeholders as part of the Real Estate Development Process, panelist, May 2020.

AIA Cincinnati VISION, “Pocket Parks to Policy: Collaborative Practice & Community-Engaged Design,” February 2020.

“Reimagining the Civic Commons: Detroit Project Summary,” National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Roundtable on Population Health Improvement, The Value of Inclusive Places for Health, Equity, and Well-being Workshop, February 2020.

Reimagining the Civic Commons Closing Convening, Detroit panelist, Washington D.C., December 2019.

Commons and Communities Symposium, “How do we practice for sharing, collaboration, empowerment and engagement in communities,” Copenhagen, November 2019.

“Collaborative Practice & Community-Engaged Design: Land Opportunities,” Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, November 2019.

Better World by Design, “Meeting People Where They Are At: Community Engagement that Interrupts Daily Rhythms,” Providence, RI, September 2019.

University of Michigan, SUGI FEW Program, Food-Water-Energy Workshop, “DCDC Infrastructure Strategy & Collaborative Practice,” July 2019.

Association for Community Design Annual Conference, “Diversifying the Professional Development Pipeline,” & “Evaluating Engagement,” Greenwood, MS, June 2019.

“Teaching Community Engagement,” Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture 107th Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2019.

Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit, Madison, NJ, May 2018. “Creating Community Spaces with Green Stormwater Infrastructure.”

Smart Growth America’s LOCUS Leadership Summit, Washington DC, April 2018. “Leveraging the Civic Commons to Rebuild America’s Neighborhoods.”

Detroit City of Design Summit, Detroit, MI, September 2017. “Designing Cities that Work for People” (host).

Civic Commons Studio: The Initial Lessons, Akron, OH, September 2017. “CoLab as Neighborhood Civic Engagement & Collaboration Hub.”

Association for Community Design, Dallas, TX, June 2017. “Community Design + City Government: Lessons for Meaningful Partnerships.”

Ceara O'Leary, AIA

BuildingVoices Symposium, Honolulu, HI. April 2017. "Synchopating the Urban Landscape: Detroit Collaborative Design Center" (keynote) & "Placemaking* and Policy."

Architect LIVE! AIA Conference on Architecture, Orlando, FL. April 2017. "Synchopating the Urban Landscape: More People, More Programs, More Geographies" and "Collaborative Achievement Award Winner: Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship."

"Avenues of Exchange: Professionals, Educators and Communities Building Equitable, Healthy, and Resilient Cities." Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Housing & Community Development Workshop. Detroit, MI. March 2017 (organizer & presenter).

Cities of Service AmeriCorps VISTA Convening, Detroit, MI. July 2016. "User Centered Design."

Design Cents, Biloxi, MS. April 2016. "Plugging In and Piling On: Design and Development Lessons from Livernois Avenue."

Model D Speaker Series, Detroit MI. November 2015. "Designing Spaces Where Detroit Comes Together: What we can learn from Eastern Market and the Riverfront."

ULI Real Estate Forum, Detroit, MI. November 2015. "Eastern Market Stormwater Management."

Public Interest Design Institute, Detroit, MI. April 2015. "Livernois Community Storefront."

Public Interest Design Institute, Brownsville, TX. January 2015. "Engagement in Community Development: Livernois Community Storefront." Bruner Loeb Forum, Boston, MA. November 2014. "Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship 2012-2014."

University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture Lecture Series, Detroit, MI. October 2014. "Fellowships in Community Development."

Structures for Inclusion, New York, NY. March 2014. "Community How-To Guides, SEED Award Winner"

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, March 2014. "Recent Work."

Green Infrastructure Forum, SmithGroupJJR, Ann Arbor, MI. October 2013. "Sustainable Cities Design Academy and the Eastern Market Targeted Redevelopment Area."

Design Futures: Public Interest Design Student Forum, Austin, TX. May 2013. "Charting a Course in Community Design."

St.Paul Open Ideas Competition, St.Paul, MN. March 2013. "Community Art in Detroit."

NeighborWorks Training Institute, Young Professionals Symposium, Cincinnati, OH. August 2012. "New Ways of Doing Business: Emerging Designers in Community Development."

Lowering the Cost to Develop and Sustain Affordable Housing, Enterprise Community Partners & Deutsche Bank, New York, NY. July 2012. "Housing Policy in Weak Market Cities."

Association for Community Design, Salt Lake City, UT. June 2012. "School to Fellowship by way of Community Design."

Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design, University of California Berkeley. March 2012. Invited Lecturer: "School to Fellowship by way of Community Design."