

Jenn W. Low

Contact.

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Competencies.

Participatory Design
Human-centered Design
Co-Design
Design Justice
Prototyping
User Research
Ethnographic Research
Qualitative Research
Workshop Facilitation
Urban Design
Visual Design
UX Design
Strategic Planning
Program Design
Curriculum Design
Project Management
Program Management
Landscape Architecture

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Education.

MDes in Integrative Design, Stamps School of Art and Design

August 2020, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Thesis: Dear Chinatown, DC: Exploring New Ways of Public Engagement
Thesis Committee: Nick Tobier, María Arquero de Alarcón, and Ted Gong

Bachelors in Landscape Architecture, Dept of Landscape Architecture

June 2005, Magna Cum Laude, University of Washington

Professional Experience.

Director of Communications | June 2020 to Present

The Urban Studio, Washington, D.C. (Part-Time)

Lead communications and social media strategy at the Urban Studio team, a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to advance design thinking for equitable and sustainable urbanism that centers both co-design processes and experts of lived experience to achieve transformational change in how we plan and design our cities. I am project lead for a strategic master planning project in South Baltimore to develop inclusive virtual engagement activities for the project's advisory community and the development of strategic plans for youth engagement within the year-long master planning process.

Deputy Director and Chinatown Programs | Sept 2019 to Present

1882 Foundation, Washington, D.C. (Part-Time)

Lead the design and implementation of strategic partnerships for public history projects that center place-keeping in D.C.'s Chinatown, including Dear Chinatown, DC Mapping Project. Led design research project called, *Dear Chinatown, DC*, where we leveraged art and design tools and participatory design methods to investigate new approaches and design considerations to reimagine the District's participatory planning processes. I applied a range of qualitative research methods to this work, including participant observation, one-on-one interviews, open-ended surveys, asset mapping, design workshops, rapid prototyping and oral histories.

Program Manager | May 2016 to June 2018

Landscape Architecture Foundation, Washington, DC

Led program design, execution, and evaluation of the *LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership* a design research fellowship targeted to landscape architecture and urban design practitioners. In addition, I led and managed strategic planning, strategic partnership development, event planning, and visual communications for the organization's suite of leadership and scholarship programs, and the annual distribution of over \$90,000 worth of student scholarship awards.

Project Manager and Landscape Architect | Oct 2013 to Apr 2016

Site Workshop, Seattle, WA

Led management of a multidisciplinary team in the design and construction of a 20-acre waterfront park and former brownfield site in Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, Washington and the Block 19 Amazon corporate campus in South Lake Union, Seattle. Facilitated design review and permitting processes with architects, engineers, public artists, city and federal regulatory agencies, and construction managers. Total construction budget: \$60 million.

Skills.

AutoCAD
Revit
SketchUp
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Illustrator
Adobe InDesign
Adobe Premiere Pro
Squarespace

Fabrication, including:
Basic Woodshop
Lasercutter
CNC Router
Sewing

MS Office
G Suite
Asana
Slack
Notions
Miro
Mural

Project Manager and Landscape Architect | Nov 2012 to Sept 2013

CMG Landscape Architecture, San Francisco, CA

Led the design process and project management for Market Commons, a privately-owned, 19,000 s.f. public alley activation project at Twitter Headquarters in San Francisco. Design team collaborator for a 10-acre rooftop terrace of the Facebook MPK20 campus in Menlo Park, CA. Market Commons received the Honor Award for General Design by the American Society of Landscape Architects Northern California Chapter.

Project Manager and Landscape Architect | June 2007 to Oct 2012

MNLA, New York City, New York

Led the design process and project management for public realm projects across New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Experience in project management, design collaboration, and design production from conceptual design through construction on projects including Lincoln Center Redevelopment Projects, University of Buffalo Campus Master Plan, and the South Bronx Greenway Masterplan Projects in South Bronx, NY, and the New York City Schools.

Selected Design Research Projects.

Design Researcher | August 2019 to August 2020

1882 Foundation and MDes in Integrative Design
Supervisor: Ted Gong, Executive Director

In a review of strategic planning documents by DC's Office of Planning, Chinatown's cultural identity is defined through entertainment and tourism-centered objectives. Absent are recommendations that recognize the neighborhood's value and significance to its past and present residents, and as a result, private interests and capital have transformed the once predominantly residential neighborhood into the entertainment and tourism-centered hub it is today. (DC Office of Planning 2009 and 2011) The driving research question that guided my design inquiry on how we can design for better and more meaningful participatory planning models was: How can we connect existing neighborhood assets and the 1882 Foundation's cultural activities to inform place-keeping in D.C.'s Chinatown? Key takeaways included 1) minimize barriers to communication; 2) participatory processes should be seen as longitudinal processes and not on a project-by-project basis and 3) let's build up and not start from scratch.

Design Researcher, Curriculum Design & Facilitation | Dec 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019

MDes in Integrative Design, Assocreations, and Instituto Acaia
Supervisor: Roland Graf and Andrea Souza-Graf

In collaboration with my MDes cohort, we partnered with Instituto Acaia, an arts-based K through 6th grade school to develop and implement an 8-day workshop series with their 5th and 6th-grade students and teachers. We used these workshops as a vehicle to help us learn about Acaia's teaching philosophy and school culture alongside the students themselves. Over six-months, me, my MDes colleagues and Instituto Acaia identified the scope of our engagement and co-designed, prototyped, and facilitated a 2-week long series of design-based activities to facilitate our in-person engagement and co-learning exchange and exploration of their everyday environments.

Design Researcher | Jan 9, 2019 to May 1, 2019

Center for Educational Design, School of Education (CEDER), University of Michigan
Supervisor: Dr. Darin Stockdill

Co-led design and research study with my MDes colleague Colleen Clark and a high school social justice class to investigate how to motivate students towards action through CEDER's *Equitable Futures* social justice curriculum. This inquiry was led by the following research question: how can we begin to make students aware and articulate the changes they want to see in the world? Our hypothesis was that an important first step was through the lens of their everyday environments; their own school campus and community. Used the photovoice method, student-led interviews, small group discussions, brainstorming and ideation exercises, and a design charrette to facilitate engagement and generate insights that led to the design of our *MakingSPACE for Youth Perspectives*

Teaching Experience.

Visiting Faculty | Spring Quarter 2021

Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington

Design and instruction of an MLA Advanced Studio course entitled, "Place-keeping + Communities of Care". Students will be asked to generate visions for the visual, physical and spatial manifestations that support and amplify care systems in D.C.'s Chinatown neighborhood. This studio will explore the application of service design methods such as persona mapping, journey mapping, service design blueprints and storyboarding as tools of analysis.

Visiting Faculty | Winter Semester 2021

Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, Carleton University

Co-instruction of a six-week optional studio in partnership with the Dark Matter University collective and Quilian Riano entitled, "Cooperative Futures: A Study of Community-Wealth Building," an exploration of spatializing new, democratic and cooperative economies in Cleveland, Ohio.

Workshop Instructor | Jan 9, 2021

Urban and Regional Planning, Georgetown University

Design and facilitate an interactive workshop with the urban planning graduate students to discuss the application of design-based software tools in urban design and planning practice.

Graduate Student Instructor | Sept 2019 to April 2020

Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan

Instructed a class of 16 BFA students in their senior capstone studio course. Managed and supported two supervisors with course preparation, grading, critique, and content curation for this research-based art and design studio. As a co-instructor, I guide students in their making and design process, articulation and refinement in writing, verbal communication skills, and desk critiques.

Adjunct Lecturer | Sept to Dec 2017

Dept of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Maryland

Designed and taught course for 22 undergraduate and graduate students to explore career options. Adapted research methods such as semi-structured interviews, ideation exercises, and journey mapping to lead their professional inquiries. Students connected with local professionals, prepared resumes, and portfolio materials. Student evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and found content relevant and valuable. Offered position to teach again the following year.

Selected Press.

“Perspectives: Jenn Low”

Landscape Architecture Foundation, August 24, 2020

“Dear Chinatown’ at Lunar New Year”

D.C. Humanities Truck, February 2020

“Share the Problem Space”

Michigan Education, Fall 2019

“Designing for Equity in Public Education”

Stamps School of Art and Design, April 2019

“A Beacon to Connect: Red Crossing Premieres in Prague”

Stamps School of Art and Design, July 2019

“Red Crossing by Graf, Low, and Tobier at Winnipeg Design Festival”

Stamps School of Art and Design, November 2019

Leadership and Service.

Core Organizer | Aug 2020 to Present

Dark Matter University via DAP Collective (North America-wide, remote)

Supporting Organizer | Aug 2020 to Present

Design As Protest Collective (North America-wide, remote)

Volunteer | July 2019 to Aug 2019

Investigate Where We Live Program,
National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.

Program Coordinator | Sept to Oct 2017

2017 DC Design Week, Washington, D.C.

Program Coordinator | Board of Directors, May 2017 to June 2018

AIIGA-DC, The Professional Association for Design, Washington, D.C.

ACE Mentor | Oct 2014 to May 2015

ACE Mentor Program of America, Washington, D.C.

Co-Director of Summer Programs and Mentor | Sept 2007 to May 2010

Minds Matter NYC, New York, NY