

It Takes a Village

Reflections on a Community-led Design Process

SAT-C03

Saturday November 20, 2021

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Overview

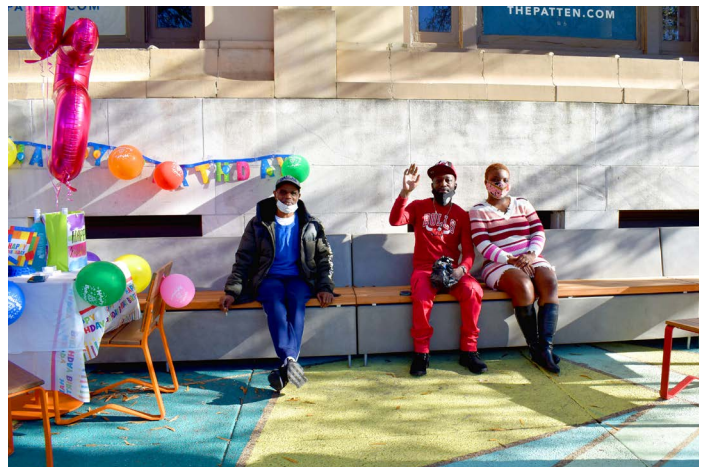
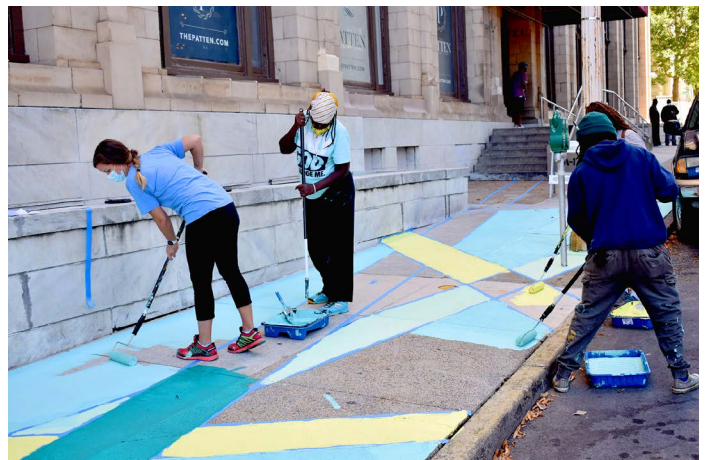
As landscape architects and allied design professionals work closely with underserved populations, it is imperative that we employ design processes that prioritize community-led action. This session offers a discourse in engagement, design, and implementation methodologies that empower communities to assert their right of civic ownership over public spaces.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Analyze the strengths of community-led design in navigating the social, legal, and political intersections between designers, community members, public entities, and private investors
2. Learn a variety of engagement methodologies that can be used with diverse audiences to build trust, elicit design inspiration, and sustain community consensus.
3. Discuss alternative methods of design documentation and implementation that foster collaboration, encourage inclusivity, and preserve the original design intention.

Resources

- Words in Grey: Genesis the Greykid, Genesis the Greykid
- <https://throughthegrey.com/>
- The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces, William H. Whyte
- Bloomberg Asphalt Art Guide
<https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/>
- Tactical Urbanist's Guide to Material and Design, The Street Plans Collaborative





Matt Whitaker PLA, ASLA, CLARB
 WMWA Landscape Architects, Principal

Matt is the founding principal of WMWA Landscape Architects. After working twelve years at award winning firms in Virginia and Washington, DC, Matt returned home to start his own firm. When Matt was 17, his high school art teacher took notice of his interests in art and nature and suggested that he study landscape architecture. Landscape architecture is his third profession after working as a butcher during undergrad and managing the production of cutting-edge drug delivery polymers shortly after he graduated. His bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from the University of Alabama in Huntsville centered on the macro and micro characteristics of plant ecology. Building on his interests, Matt applied his love for ecology and plant communities to a rigorous design curriculum while earning his Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design. As a lifelong student, his passion for ecology and natural systems heavily influences his work as a landscape architect. Matt loves the outdoors, good food, and is fascinated by plants. Matt's friend Tom Burford, a world-renowned apple and fruit expert, told Matt to go to Chattanooga and start a firm. When Tom Burford tells you to do something, you do it.



Genesis the Greykid
 Artist

I discovered about 10 years ago, my driving force within this life has been my passion for discovery within the creative world. Guided by my love for art, beautiful language, people and how those things relate to each other. Collaborating or producing experiences that wake something buried within our bones. I'll always create visual works of art, poetry, and music for the rest of my life... but as a creative, I'm currently looking to expand my journey and discovery in that world, with others as passionate as I.



Ryan Wang ASLA
 WMWA Landscape Architects, Project Designer

Ryan was born and raised in Taiwan. His childhood afforded extensive travel opportunities and was instrumental in cultivating a deep appreciation for natural and cultural landscapes. After taking several years of art classes in high school, he decided to pursue a career in landscape architecture from California Polytechnic University. During his academic career, he explored drought-tolerant planting design, artful stormwater management, and various software visualization techniques, which have influenced his approach towards sustainable design. In his short career, Ryan project experience includes urban planning and design, campus master planning, large-scale ecological management, mixed-use developments, and residential design.