



OLD REDFORD **LINK**

EXPLORING EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT IN NORTHWEST DETROIT

FRI-DD4

OVERVIEW

Friday, November 19, 2021

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

3.00 PDH, LA CES/HSW, AIA/HSW, AICP, FL, NY/HSW

Supported by a progressive City planning department empowering citizenry through equitable decision-making, the Northwest Detroit neighborhood of Old Redford is hitting its stride through community-led initiatives. A community leader, creative place-maker, Detroit City Planner, and empathy-focused landscape architects explore opportunities for equity, engagement, and empowerment.

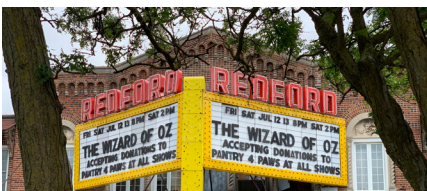


LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an appreciation on how Art and Community Driven Initiatives are catalysts for re-activating public spaces, insight economic investment, and uplift the human experience.
2. Gain insight on how practitioners can insert equity in decision making through engagement and inclusion in communities when designing public space.
3. Appreciate the transformational effects on quality of life and neighborhood identity through land use planning and pedestrian safety coupled with the empowerment of resident-led initiatives and neighborhood momentum.
4. Cultivate lessons and strategies on the level of adaption required for project managers to follow through on a community-centered design.
5. Explore models of engagement and community-led decision making through the lens of an Empathy Driven Process, demonstrated through a multi-faceted case study.
6. Gain knowledge on lessons learned around the creative successes and nuances of building Public-Private Partnerships in the Far Northwest region of Detroit.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

These questions are meant to assist in facilitating dialogue between us.



What are some of the hurdles you face within your community to planning and designing meaningful engagement that empowers citizen-led decision making?

How can designers, whom are often coming in as an outsider, build trust and breakdown barriers working in a community?

In what ways do we encourage active participation, representing the full breadth of a community, in the planning process?

Create your own question for the panel :

SPEAKERS

Brian C. Staresnick, ASLA
Landscape Architect, DAVID RUBIN Land Collective



Brian is a landscape architect and urban designer combining appreciation for the broad impact of large scale planning and a passion for enabling the nuances of well-designed spaces to flourish. With a focus on urban landscapes, his experience is spread across regions and multiple scales, from small urban plazas and productive rooftops to large waterfront parks and reclaimed lands. Brian is a landscape architect with DAVID RUBIN Land Collective, an empathy driven design studio that works on behalf of its clients' to illuminate issues that empower citizenry to write their own place.

Rachel J. Spencer, ASLA
Landscape Designer, DAVID RUBIN Land Collective



Rachel Spencer is a landscape designer with a Master in Landscape Architecture. Her most recent focus in research investigates a design process inspired by African-American Art and Culture as a mode of inspiring design creativity to address equity and affirmative spaces. Working for a firm centered around human-centered design thinking, our practice of community engagement requires active listening and a humble approach. Acting as collaborators on one such project in the historically Black neighborhood in Old Redford, Detroit we are working with community members at all levels to solve problems from community-led initiatives, to co-creating a design approach.

Michele Flournoy, AIA
Urban Designer / Architect, City of Detroit



Michele Flournoy is an Urban Designer with the City of Detroit Planning & Development Department. She has 10 years professional experience in architecture and community development. Prior to joining the City of Detroit in 2016, Michele worked as an architect in New York City focused on public and institutional projects. At the J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City, research and publication of "Mapping Legacy Cities", began her connection to Detroit and how thoughtful design can positively impact urban communities. She holds an MArch from The City College of New York and Bachelors from New York University.

Alicia George
Founder / Owner, Motor City Java House



Alicia Marion-George was born and raised in the city of Detroit. In 2000, Alicia dreamed of opening her own coffee shop in the neighborhood. She wanted to bring this business to an area that is located in the Old Redford District. This area did not have a lot of local businesses, and the city back then only had a few neighborhood coffeehouses, cafes or artist markets. Alicia wanted to bring her dream to the corner of that neighborhood so that it could be a place where the community could have cultural experience, hangout, and be proud of.

Ryan Myers-Johnson
Executive Director / Curator, Sidewalk Detroit



Ryan Myers-Johnson leads the Sidewalk Detroit team in developing and executing public engagement curricula and public art frameworks for a diverse set of stakeholders. Her passion for community led her to found Sidewalk Detroit in 2012 as a means to celebrate Detroit landscape and culture through the lens of creativity, while bringing resident perspectives to the forefront of design processes. Sidewalk Detroit's mission is to advance spatial equity through facilitating transformative experiences for residents, and artists in public spaces with an emphasis on green spaces and public parks. Ryan is an experienced facilitator who brings deep compassion to her practice.

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City of Detroit Planning & Development Department, "Grand River Northwest Neighborhood Framework Document" July 2018

<https://land-collective.com/>

