

ZOË TAFT MUELLER

Motivated by a commitment to the design of better shared spaces.

Animated by a passion for building stronger, more resilient communities.

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Cambridge, MA

Class of 2018

Master in City Planning with Urban Design Certificate. Thesis on planning of urban ports. GPA 4.8/5.0

Wesleyan University | Middletown, CT

Class of 2013

Bachelor of Arts. GPA 3.86 (93.61). Major: Urban Design + Cultural Geography. Minors: Environmental Studies; Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory. Thesis on creation of the US interstate highway system.

International Honors Program: Cities in the Twenty-First Century

Fall 2011

Interdisciplinary, comparative urban studies study abroad program in Brazil, South Africa, Vietnam.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Urban Planner + Associate, Utile Architecture + Planning | Boston, MA

January 2021 – Current

Urban Planner, Utile Architecture + Planning | Boston, MA

November 2020 – December 2020

Urban Planner, WRT Design | Philadelphia, PA

August 2018 – November 2020

Responsibilities include project management, business development and proposals, informing projects with design ideas, preparing graphics for presentations and reports, research, community engagement, quantitative and qualitative analysis, mapping, writing, public speaking, and plan design.

Planning & Urban Design Intern, WRT Design | Philadelphia, PA

Summer 2018

Urban Design Intern, Boston Planning & Development Agency | Boston, MA

Summer 2017

Aided in the development of urban design guidelines for large parcel dispositions and development project approvals. Also designed graphic aides and process guides to streamline internal workflows.

Housing Inclusion Specialist, Tremont West Development Corp. | Cleveland, OH

December 2015 – August 2016

Designed and implemented local inclusionary housing policy at City of Cleveland's Land Bank which ensures inclusion of affordable housing as part of infill development on vacant land. Designed real estate development pro formas that ensure inclusion of affordable units in larger-scale rehab projects. A time-limited research and advocacy position funded by Enterprise Community Partners.

Placemaking Fellow, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress | Cleveland, OH

March 2014 – June 2015

One year fellowship - responsible for project management, stakeholder engagement and strategic advancement of three initiatives: (1) Re-Imagining Cleveland - an award-winning competitive vacant land reuse grant program, (2) Kresge Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative and (3) West 25th Street Corridor - a complex transit oriented development and wealth building initiative intertwined with a grassroots cultural placemaking and economic development initiative, La Villa Hispana.

Junior GIS Analyst, Patrick Engineering | Boston, MA

September 2013 – February 2014

Responsible for GIS-based wind farm mapping project requiring project management as well as direct work of interpreting, validating, aggregating, and entering geographic data. Specialized in interpretation and quality assurance for parcel-based legal agreements. Clients were predominantly wind power generation, telecommunication, and rail companies within the continental US.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Phi Beta Kappa

Spring 2013

University Honors

Spring 2013

Highest academic award Wesleyan bestows. One of three recipients in a class of 785. Awarded in recognition of overall academic record and thesis blending history, art history, architecture, ethnography and political economy: *The Interstate System in the American Cultural Memory: The Creation and Contestation of the Highway Spaces of Cleveland and Detroit, Postwar to Present.*

SKILLS

Data Visualization + Mapping – Esri GIS products (ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Online, Operations Dashboard), Excel, R.

Graphic + Design Softwares – Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop), AutoCAD, Rhino, SketchUp.

Communication + Research – writing, editing, research (online, textual, archival, conversational, observational).

Project Management + Proposals – scoping, budgeting, scheduling, work plan design, reporting, quality assurance.