The Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) invites practitioners, researchers, and educators to join us at the 52nd annual conference to collaboratively rethink how environmental research and practice may serve as a foundation for change and justice. EDRA52 will take place VIRTUALLY in Detroit, Michigan, UNESCO City of Design.
mobile sessions

EDRA mission

EDRA’s purpose is to advance and disseminate research, teaching, and practice toward improving an understanding of the relationships among people, their built environments, and natural eco-systems.

The mission of EDRA is to provide a collaborative, multidisciplinary community to connect theory, research, teaching, and practice to recognize, create and advocate for environments that are responsive to diverse human needs. EDRA is committed to equity, inclusion, and respect for all persons.

EDRA52 will bring together researchers, teachers, and practitioners from around the world who are dedicated EDRA’s mission. The conference is our annual opportunity to share new work, celebrate our successes, and build new connections between the field’s current and future leaders in academia and industry.

EDRA vision

While most of our attendees come from academic institutions, we also host leading practitioners from the public and private sectors, in fields ranging from architecture and planning, to healthcare and governance.

EDRA bridges theory, research, teaching, and practice to:

- Recognize and create more humane environments in collaboration with global stakeholders and communities.

- Promote cutting-edge research and practice that is essential to improve quality of life for all people.

- Transcend disciplinary boundaries and industry sectors in collaborative pursuit of environments that are responsive to diverse human needs.

- Advocate for diverse voices in the pursuit of social justice and sustainable environments.

Mobile Sessions

May 19th - 23, 2021

This year EDRA52 DETROIT Just Environments: Transdisciplinary Border Crossings is excited to include Virtual Mobile Sessions in the conference program. These sessions will provide attendees with a virtual place-based experience and include an overview of important urban interventions and community engagement projects in the city, and showcase projects by local groups working towards justice.

Mobile Sessions are an opportunity for local organizations to be showcased at the conference and reach an international audience. Speakers at the Mobile Sessions will receive a free registration to EDRA52 DETROIT Just Environments: Transdisciplinary Border Crossings, as a recognition of the important contribution they represent for the relevance of the conference.
framing just worlds

This session will explore the theoretical nodes of connection between the physical environment, education, and justice.

>> The Why + How of Community-Engaged Design- A story of the Avis and Elsmere Renovation

Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) partnered with Inside Southwest Detroit (ISWD) to design an engagement tool that would act as a both a storytelling device for an ISWD development project as well as communicate the values and strategies that drive human-centered design and community organizing work. This tool describes why community-engaged design principles and tactics are impactful and how they came to life in the Avis and Elsmere development in Southwest Detroit. This tool combines audio and visual documentation to more fully tell the story of the impact and authenticity that a community engaged design process allows for. In this session, representatives from DCDC and ISWD will share the engagement documentation tool with session attendees and have a dialogue about the process of developing the tool, the importance of documentation, and have a Q+A.

Inside Southwest Detroit

Inside Southwest Detroit is a collection of initiatives that promote youth and community development through cultural and place-based initiatives. Inside Southwest Detroit has been working to develop a vision and practice of community-driven narrative building and asset-based organizing—identifying and responding to community needs with assets we share between us.

Erik Paul Howard is a photographer as well as co-founder of Inside Southwest Detroit, Young Nation, and The Alley Project in Southwest Detroit. Through cultural, place-based, and media projects he has been building with neighbors and youth in Southwest Detroit for over 20 years. Erik’s photography documents human interest and themes of community formed around shared passions and intersecting needs. He employs photography as a visual tool in storytelling, learning, teaching, and organizing around equity, social justice, access, and engagement. He was most recently a 2019 Magnum Social Justice Fellowship finalist and a 2017 Facing Change: Documenting Detroit fellow. Erik’s intersecting organizing and visual arts work has been featured in the Detroit Free Press, Lowrider Magazine, Detroit Metro Times, The Fence, the Venice Biennale, PhotoVille NYC, on NBC, NPR, and PBS as well as in galleries, cultural centers, and public spaces at home and abroad.

Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC)

The Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) is a multi-disciplinary, nonprofit architecture and urban design firm at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture dedicated to creating sustainable spaces and communities through quality design and the collaborative process.

Julia Kowalski is a designer and project manager at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC). She holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture. She is continually inspired by Samuel Mockbee’s decree, “proceed + be bold!” This boldness, coupled with compassion, is lived out through her work at the DCDC. Additionally, Julia was granted a Challenge Detroit Fellowship for 2016-2017. This has prompted her to dive deeper into the City of Detroit and further explore how design can be a tool that catalyzes social and individual change.
Building Just Communities

Explore the intersections of inclusive community engagement and equitable neighborhood and public space planning to promote just people, environments, relationships.

Working Together, Building Just Communities for Youth & Families

Join Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation and Brilliant Detroit as they talk about the collaboration between their organizations in the McDougall-Hunt Neighborhood. In this session you are going to hear about how two local organizations are working together and supporting one another to achieve each of their goals.

Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation

The Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation, was founded in 2013 by Katrina Keeby-Watkins. Dedicated to empowering her community in an impactful manner, Katrina created the Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation to help strengthen the McDougall-Hunt neighborhood by creating programs that encourage safety, sustainability, and stewardship.

Katrina Keeby-Watkins is a former educator, therapist, social worker and long-time resident of Detroit, MI.

Brilliant Detroit

In 2015 Brilliant Detroit was created to provide a radically new approach to kindergarten readiness in neighborhoods. The idea was to create a unique delivery model in our approach to early childhood development by using underutilized housing stock to create early child and family centers in neighborhoods. Brilliant Detroit was born to create kid success neighborhoods.

Cindy Eggleton has more than 25 years of experience helping organizations clarify and achieve their goals. A passionate advocate for people and community, Cindy understands how to bring groups together and activate them around a common goal. She is a strategic thinker who knows how to develop on-target processes in order to achieve the desired outcome. A team builder, Cindy has a proven track record for leading teams to be more productive and create better defined systems and practices. Her strength lies in her ability to understand the depth and breadth of an issue and develop a realistic plan that moves an idea from concept to implementation.
sharing just resources
This session will explore experiences and visions of just and equitable stewardship of environmental and ecological resources.

An interactive panel will discuss and highlight some of the ways that key groups in Detroit are implementing green stormwater infrastructure across the city and the benefits they see residents experiencing as a result of these installations.

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, Great Lakes Program
The Sierra Club’s members and supporters are more than 2.7 million of your friends and neighbors nationwide. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.

Erma Leaphart-Gouch is a Great Lakes Organizer with Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. Her work involves promoting green (nature-based) infrastructure for managing stormwater and helping reduce sewage overflows and polluted runoff into local waterways. She facilitates green infrastructure workshops, rain garden installations, and advocates for sustainable, triple bottom line policies to protect Great Lakes water quality and assure clean and accessible water for all. Erma serves on the Governance Board and Equity Action and Advisory Committee of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition and is co-chair of the Detroit City Council’s Green Task Force – Water Committee. Previously, Erma worked for the State of Michigan as a Human Resources Manager and Public Health Consultant.

Detroit Future City
Detroit Future City is a nonprofit charged with catalyzing implementation of the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework, a 50-year vision for the City of Detroit developed with input from more than 100,000 Detroiters.

Nicole Brown is a Cohort IV Detroit Revitalization Fellow serving as the Sustainable Landscapes Manager for Detroit Future City (DFC). In her role, Nicole works to equip Detroiters with the tools and resources needed to be land and water stewards. She also organizes, promotes and manages green infrastructure education forums and installation workshops, including assisting Detroit residents with efficiently transitioning to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department’s newly-revised water rates and drainage charges. Nicole joins DFC with nearly 10 years of leadership in marketing, communications and community engagement in metro Detroit.
Eastside Community Network

Eastside Community Network’s team implements and facilitates programs and projects to support our community, with a specific focus on Business & Economic Development, Climate Equity, Community Organizing & Planning, and Youth Development.

Ricky Ackerman started at Eastside Community Network in February 2018 and currently serves as the Director of Climate Equity. While at ECN, Ricky has worked to engage residents around green stormwater infrastructure, air quality issues, resilience hubs, and other climate change-related topics. Prior to starting at ECN, he received his masters in Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment. For his master’s capstone, he researched community resilience in six coastal, natural resource dependent Oregon communities through stakeholder interviews. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Government and Philosophy from Centre College in Kentucky. He began his career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador where he spent three years working on a range of sustainability projects, including waste management outreach for the local government, environmental clubs in high schools, a reforestation initiative, and business development with local reserve owners.
sharing just resources
This session will explore experiences and visions of just and equitable stewardship of environmental and ecological resources.

>> Expanding sustainability in Detroit through green stormwater infrastructure

There are increasing numbers of contaminant exposure pathways. Contaminants of emerging concern, or CECs, are showing up in increasing concentrations in our waterways and there is limited research on the prevalence of these contaminants in drinking water coming from these waterways. There is also inadequate understanding of the effect that these contaminants have on the people who are drinking this water. On top of this, residents of urban areas are particularly vulnerable to exposure to contaminants due in part to the concentration of industry and aging infrastructure. Numerous studies have shown that underserved populations are most at risk for exposure to contamination and pollution.

This panel will discuss the various sources of CECs and other contaminants, and their research around monitoring and mitigation of the effects they might be having on organisms, including humans. Additionally, the greater prevalence and impact of these contaminants in underserved communities will be considered.

Healthy Urban Waters
Healthy Urban Waters (HUW) is a program at Wayne State University that promotes and delivers research, education, technology development and public engagement on water resources in the urban environment. Their mission is to engage and empower the public in creating a sustainable urban environment based on sound science.

Jamie Steis Thorsby is a Program Coordinator with the Healthy Urban Waters program at Wayne State University. She is a professional civil engineer who coordinates multifaceted projects that include topics related to green infrastructure, sewer infrastructure, flooding, and water quality analysis. Jamie has a Bachelor’s degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from University of Michigan and a Master’s Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Wayne State University.

Dr. Yongli Zhang is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Her teaching and research interests focus the sustainability of water-energy nexus, and the challenges to providing clean water, including emerging contaminants in watersheds. Dr. Zhang’s research group is interested in tackling these challenges by integrating bioenergy generation and water management for simultaneous production of bio-based energy and water quality improvement in an integrated, strategic manner via a combination of life cycle modeling and targeted laboratory experiments.

Dr. Shirley Papuga is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Science at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Papuga’s interdisciplinary research focuses on the land-atmosphere exchange of energy, water, and carbon.

Dr. Tracie Baker is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Department of Pharmacology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. The Baker Lab is focused on multidisciplinary, translational research that bridges human, animal and environmental health. Specifically, the lab aims to inform the connection of toxicant-induced phenotypic and functional abnormalities from multiple generations.
with changes in genome function and epigenetic regulation, as well as to identify critical windows for biomarkers of effect and interplay among pathways mediating toxic endpoints. Thus, her research goal is to provide critical insights into transgenerational, environmentally-induced disease.
creating just societies
This session will explore transdisciplinary intersections among theory, research, and practice to promote just relationships between people and environments in terms of social sustainability.

>> Sowing seeds, growing just societies

In this session learn about the different ways in which local Detroit organizations are creating just societies through urban gardening. Join HUDA Clinic and Urban Garden, Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, and Manistique Community Treehouse Center as they chat about the different ways in which they are teaching their communities about environmental, mental, and physical well-being.

HUDA Clinic and Urban Garden
HUDA Clinic first opened its doors in May 2004, initially providing solely medical services, we have since expanded to include a full range of dental, podiatry, ophthalmology, and mental health services. The HUDA team is constantly working to engage the local community, make the residents healthier, and prevent disease.

Babar Qadri cultivated an interest in medicine when he worked as a Athletic/Personal Training & Health Director. He graduated from Mercy College in Bronx, NY, where he received a Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. After PA school he practiced home health care, ortho primary care, urgent care, along with surgery per deim. All of these training and exposures in different facets of the medical discipline has not only allowed him to understand patient care but also patient environment and condition, which plays a larger role than most providers realize. Through these various positions, he could understand various connections that attribute to the success, or decline, of a patient’s overall health condition. This training has allowed Babar Qadri to teach students and patients how to be well rounded in understanding and suggestions/treating a patient’s obstacles or medical strategies.

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, a nonprofit organization, is committed to improving the environment and strengthening the economy of Southwest Detroit. Working together with residents, community organizations, government agencies, schools, and businesses, SDEV tackles environmental issues. Of these include indoor and outdoor air quality, and incompatible land use.

Raquel joined Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision in 2019 as Executive Director to build out SDEV’s community outreach program, to cultivate resident civic engagement, expand the voting base, and grow membership. SDEV’s outreach connects residents to local environmental policies that impact their health and the health of their Southwest Detroit neighborhoods. Previously, she was the Director of Housing and Special Projects for Global Detroit where she cultivated support for immigrant integration economic development initiatives like affordable homeownership, landbank engagement, financial literacy, language access and worked to grow community awareness about the City of Detroit’s revitalization initiatives. Previously, Raquel was an immigrant rights organizer, electoral campaign organizer, and spent 15 years in higher education in Detroit. She serves on the Detroit City Council Immigration Task Force, is a Co-Chair of the Immigrant Support Services Committee, serves on Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation’s board and DTE’s Community Advisory Board. Raquel is passionate about leadership development of Latino youth, her new board development work, connecting
and empowering residents and neighbors by meeting people where they are, meeting them face to face at their door.

**Manistique Community Treehouse Center**

The Manistique Community Treehouse Center’s mission is to help our youth and community gain mental and physical well-being as well as a well-rounded view of life with an understanding of their environment and culture. We will empower youth with independence, and collaboration skills.

My name is Tammy Black, the creator of this Treehouse project. I am a 54 year old mother of 6 kids. Yes! My house is the house where all the kids love to be, to eat, play, and just to talk to me about issues or just daily life. I have been living in this neighborhood of Jefferson/Chalmers for 5 years. I love this neighborhood because everyone is committed to making it a good place to live for everyone. It is something about being close to nature that I feel helps us all to release some of our anxiety. What better place for kids and young adults to develop their creativity and gain a positive peace of mind. I have been an advocate for kids all my whole life. I always loved to help the kids that no one felt would succeed. I felt the children needed to be heard and understood. The Treehouse will be a place without judgement and allowing individuals to be themselves with a focus on what their interests are and how they can develop them. My hope is that they will gain life long friendships. This Treehouse is not just for the kids on the block of Manistique, but it is for all children, adults, veterans, and families in the metro area.
supporting just movements
This session will explore the connection of race, culture, and identity with issues of power and resistance, diversity of thought, and lived experiences of people in immigrant or marginalized environments, particularly with regard to displacement and mobility.

>> Freedom House Detroit: Seeking Asylum, Finding Community

As an international border, Detroit has always been a destination and waystation for people fleeing persecution and torture. In 1983, Freedom House Detroit was founded by Detroit and Windsor community members to help the Salvadorans who were making the dangerous 3,000-mile trek from El Salvador to Detroit to escape their country’s bloody and violent civil war.

Today, Freedom House Detroit is a temporary home and lifetime community for indigent survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the United States and Canada. Because of their political, religious, or sexual identities, asylum seekers are targeted, often violently, by their home countries’ governments or groups their governments will not or cannot control. By definition, asylum-seekers cannot return home.

FHD is the only full-service asylum agency in Michigan. On a typical night, 52 people call FHD home (about 115 people annually). They are individual men and women and families from every corner of the globe, including Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Nearly all of them (98%) are survivors of torture.

Join FHD Chief Executive Officer Deborah Drennan as she takes us behind the headlines and into the lives of the asylum-seekers who have made FHD their first home in the United States.

Freedom House Detroit
Founded in 1983, Freedom House Detroit is the first, and continues to be the only, organization in the U.S. that offers free comprehensive services to international survivors of persecution that treat the whole individual: starting with legal aid and shelter, we deliver a continuum of services, free to indigent asylum seekers, that guide them toward asylum, help them heal from the traumas of persecution, and teach them the skills they need to be successful and self-sufficient in the U.S. We are a pathway for these survivors to rebuild their lives and unite with families as they embark upon their journey towards full citizenship.

Deborah Drennan, has been with Freedom House Detroit for 15 years serving as executive director since 2010. Deb has a long history of working for social justice. With more than 45 years in non-profit experience, Deb has helped thousands of people rekindle their spirits and renew their purpose.

Prior to joining Freedom House in 2006, Deb worked at Women ARISE, a reentry program in Detroit, for women involved in the criminal justice system. Meeting women in correctional facilities, their houses, or at the Women ARISE site, Deb worked with women, their families

Working as the transitional housing program director and community relations/intake coordinator at the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS), in Detroit, the organization was able to house hundreds of individuals and families Deb managed and directed into their programs and services, navigating them towards self-sufficiency and long-term housing.
supporting just movements

This session will explore the connection of race, culture, and identity with issues of power and resistance, diversity of thought, and lived experiences of people in immigrant or marginalized environments, particularly with regard to displacement and mobility.

Caribou à lunettes: a French youth library with creative workshops and activities with authors and illustrators, for native speakers and learners. She recently launched an online bookstore to support parents and teachers in the United States in their search for books in French, offering quality, diverse and inclusive stories. Because understanding and sharing cultures is the key for just movements. Original idea, texts, stage direction and co-scriptwriting.

Mélissa Lefebvre holds a bachelor’s degree in drama arts education from the École supérieure de théâtre de l’UQAM. She has written and directed numerous plays for various groups of students, always placing them at the heart of her creation. Her keen interest in the young immigrant students classes has led her to carry out many projects, including the theatrical play Bagages, winner of the “Essor” and “Forces Avenir” 2015-16 awards, as well as the documentary of the same title, released in 2017, in connection with the play.

Filmmaker specialized in animation and documentary films, Paul Tom is also a professional editor, a museum exhibition video designer, and a cultural mediation trainer for projects in various communities. Born to Cambodian parents in a refugee camp in Thailand, his favourite themes are: identity building, family relationships and everything related to the intimate side of human beings. His short films have been selected in some forty festivals around the world. His 2017 feature documentary Baggage (Bagages in French) collected many awards and nominations and has been shown in France, Australia and the US.

Baggage opens the stage and turns the spotlight on newly arrived teenage immigrants studying at Paul-Gérin-Lajoie-d’Outremont High School in Montréal. Through drama workshops, theatre production and deeply personal interviews, the film gives voice to their stories of immigration and integration. Their accounts move between an “elsewhere” and a “before” to become a “here and now”. With a wisdom well beyond their years that will leave no one unmoved, these students share poignant narratives about their journeys with compelling emotion and a disarming level of authenticity.

Mélissa Baril is an ideater and problem solver. Her common thread: publishing. Her approach: transmission. The big idea: to connect people through cultural diversity. Moving to Detroit, she found out a new playground to promote French youth literature and culture in a community surrounded by francophone roots. As a parent, she was struggling to find books and resources to nurture the language with her children. She figured out she was not the only one and created the
Mobility-City: Co-creating equitable transportation solutions in Detroit

New mobility solutions are changing the landscape of transportation on an almost daily basis. The pandemic has only accelerated these trends, but it has also shined an even brighter light on how inequitable access to mobility can be. Detroit is at the forefront of defining and implementing equitable mobility, redefining what it means to shape mobility policy and implement projects that meet community needs and increase access and choices, while minimizing displacement and disenfranchisement and driving shared prosperity with meaningful metrics. Recent pilots with partners including MoGo, Via, SPIN, GM, Ford, and Lyft help provide multiple ways for front-line workers to safely get to work and access COVID testing sites. Miles of new protected bike lanes, shared streets, trails, and expanded bike share are connecting neighborhoods and improving access to jobs and recreation, building on the advocacy of Detroit’s over 60 neighborhood bike clubs and advocacy organizations. From the City’s Strategic Plan for Transportation, to its neighborhood plans and new complete streets it is working with citizens and community organizations to create and pilot mobility solutions that respond to the needs of its citizens, build community capacity, and make Detroit not just the Motor-City but the Mobility-City.

Through an interactive panel discussion and highlighted “site visits” and interviews this virtual mobile workshop will explore how Detroit is repairing past transportation injustices, piloting new mobility partnerships to support those most impacted by the Corona Virus, and crafting equitable neighborhood plans grounded in the concept of 20-minute communities connected with improved streets, a robust trail network and improved transit.

SmithGroup
At SmithGroup, we embrace opportunities to work alongside clients, partners, and colleagues who dare to push boundaries and pursue bold “what if” dreams. Creating partnerships with others who share our goals, values, and visions for creating a better future has yielded outstanding results. Our trophy shelf is packed with proof.

Janet Attarian has over 25 years of experience in creating beautiful, livable cities with a focus on inclusive neighborhood development, urban mobility, and ecological infrastructure. In her leadership role as Senior Mobility Strategist she helps craft SmithGroup’s vision for multi-modal mobility that is focused on people and planet, and has a gift for synthesizing the multiple disciplines it takes to create vibrant streets and innovative mobility policy and programs. She brings her technical expertise and innovative thinking together with a commitment to inclusive, equitable development, and meaningful, public engagement; with years of experience working to build trust and support in disadvantaged and disinvested communities. Before joining SmithGroup, Janet was Deputy Director of the City of Detroit’s Planning and Development Department, and Complete Streets Director for the City of Chicago’s Department of Transportation.

Kenneth Kokroko is a landscape architect with unique experience leading a community-based planning and design process for park, open space, and neighborhood projects. His research background in anthropology, environmental science and community supporting just movements
This session will explore the connection of race, culture, and identity with issues of power and resistance, diversity of thought, and lived experiences of people in immigrant or marginalized environments, particularly with regard to displacement and mobility.
development brings a fresh, holistic perspective to his design approach. Through his work in community-based projects, Kenneth became passionate about meaningfully connecting people with the built environment to improve social and ecological outcomes. His multidisciplinary training and experience collaborating with community partners from diverse backgrounds have also informed his approach to implementing equitable and inclusive engagement, planning and design strategies for public open space development. As an emerging leader and advocate for racial justice in design, Kenneth’s approach embodies a critique of historic practices and a vital redefinition of what design success means in a community context.

City of Detroit, Mayor’s Office of Mobility Innovation

The Transportation and Mobility Team at the City of Detroit, Mayor’s office of Mobility Innovation provides city-wide transportation planning, design, and departmental/public coordination, tasked with supporting neighborhood stabilization and revitalization through improving infrastructure and striving to provide the highest level of comfort and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit-users, and all Detroit residents.

Justin Snowden is a Senior Advisor and Project Manager in the City of Detroit’s Office of Mobility Innovation. In these roles, Justin works to identify business case models for testing and deploying new technology, with the goal of bringing advanced mobility options to Detroit. He is also working on a number of initiatives to more effectively leverage data from City-owned intelligent assets for advanced analytics and improved service design. Justin is a resident of Detroit’s North End neighborhood. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

MoGo

MoGo is a Detroit-based non-profit organization that strives to serve a wide range of people and needs. Whether by offering affordable pass and payment options, providing innovative programming that promotes health, safety, and connectivity, or forming partnerships with other organizations to reduce barriers to biking, MoGo is focused on getting people where they need to go in a convenient, affordable, and fun way.

Lisa Nuszkowski is the founder and executive director of MoGo, Detroit’s nonprofit bike share system, serving the city of Detroit and five suburban communities with 620 bikes and 75 stations. Lisa has also served as the project lead for Open Streets Detroit, an annual program that temporarily closes major roads to vehicles and opens streets up for people to walk, run, bike, play and engage with the community. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Central Michigan University and a Master of Public Policy from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She was recognized as one of Crain’s Detroit 40 Under 40 in 2016.
accessing just technologies
This session will explore the connection of social issues to the design of human-technology interactions and promote justice in both built and virtual environments.

>> Developing and delivering information for equitable cities
This session will explore the work of Data Driven Detroit and Walker Miller Energy Services. The session will touch on the ways in which Data Driven Detroit collects, analyzes, interprets, and shares data to drive informed decision-making and increase data-driven outcomes. The session will also touch on the ways in which Walker-Miller Energy Services promote innovative and cost-effective strategies to achieve high energy efficiency to improve infrastructure while also promoting equity through energy education.

Data Driven Detroit
Data Driven Detroit collects, analyzes, interprets, and shares high-quality data to drive informed decision-making and increase data-driven outcomes.

Noah Urban is a Co-Executive Director of Data Driven Detroit (D3). Prior to joining the D3 team in 2013, he worked as a Graduate Research Assistant and Research Technician at Wayne State University. At D3, Noah collaborates on setting organizational strategy and policies, manages the organization’s portfolio of projects, coordinates the analytical team, and works with prospective partners to develop new collaborations. He has led work with a diverse range of organizations, including Microsoft Corporation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Kresge Foundation, Forgotten Harvest, and Capital Impact Partners. Noah sat on the Executive Committee for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership from 2017 through 2020. He has a master’s degree in Urban Planning from Wayne State University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from James Madison College at Michigan State University.

Walker-Miller Energy Services
Walker-Miller Energy Services is an energy waste reduction company promoting innovative and cost-effective strategies to achieve energy efficiency. Our services and products improve infrastructure while also promoting equity through energy education.

Ben Dueweke; In my role as Director of Community Development at Walker-Miller Energy Services, (WMES) I am responsible both for engaging diverse communities around issues of energy and sustainability, as well as developing and managing practical solutions that address these issues. In my tenure with WMES I have managed programs throughout Detroit aimed at curtailing energy burdens, increasing health and safety in homes, and providing training and workforce development - specifically within low-income communities of color. These programs require myself and my team to first demonstrate a willingness to be present and hear the needs of a community, and then to develop strong relationships, educate people on various opportunities, and advocate on their behalf to develop solutions that are right for them. Building and maintaining trust within these communities has proven to be one of the most important aspects of my work, and this ability will be an integral aspect to identifying opportunity and implementing solutions throughout the state.
designing just places
This session will explore sustainability and resiliency in the just design and preservation of place.

The intersection of community, collaboration, and design

Description of talk: (Not yet finalized)
This session will explore sustainability and resiliency in the just design and preservation of place. In a beautiful space, a renovated archetypal neighborhood building, HomeBase is rooted in community gatherings, contemporary design and civic engagement. It is home to Live6 Alliance and the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, with shared space for the City of Detroit Planning & Development Department, local block clubs, non-profit community organizations and other local partners. Join Live6 Alliance and the DCDC at the Livernois and 6-mile intersection as they share more about this beautiful space and the work they do along these commercial corridors and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Live 6 Alliance
Live6 Alliance is a nonprofit planning and development organization that has a mission to enhance quality of life and economic opportunity in Northwest Detroit. The organization acts as a conduit between the institutions and their surrounding communities, with a particular focus on the McNichols and Livernois corridors.

Caitlin Murphy serves as the Civic Commons Coordinator on behalf of Live6. “Reimagining the Civic Commons” is a national which invests locally in the Fitzgerald community supporting park creation stewardship and advocacy, resident driven programming and commercial corridor development. Caitlin also manages Neighborhood HomeBase, a community storefront that opened in April of 2019. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit Mercy.

Detroit Collaborative Design Center
The Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) is a multi-disciplinary, nonprofit architecture and urban design firm at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture dedicated to creating sustainable spaces and communities through quality design and the collaborative process.

Christina Heximer is the Associate Director of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture. Christina received a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Miami University. She also received a Master of Architecture, and a Master of Social Work with a focus in community organizing and social systems from the University of Michigan. She has worked at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center since 2002.
designing just places
This session will explore sustainability and resiliency in the just design and preservation of place.

Community Pavilions: Learning From and With Your Neighborhood

With many youth in our community experiencing a lack of connection because of online (as opposed to in-person) learning, we awaken the idea of community building by enacting outdoor learning spaces by creating neighborhood pavilions as infrastructure and connections to local knowledge, resources and power thru a mesh network of accessible structures in Brightmoor. Each provides internet access and tactile experiences connecting hands, hearts, minds and bodies recognizing the continued need for social connection even with physical distance.

In order to critically envision how to and create an equitable, sustainable and just maker community designed and built by and for its residents we propose a radical rethinking of ownership, stewardship and sovereignty, value creation. Not ownership solely in Capitalism’s terms of property and exchange value, but in aspirations, in fulfillment and in owning choice and possessing agency. Our base is Brightmoor, in Northwest Detroit, where every stage of the process in this process will be community driven. Emboldened and informed with these skills and critical framework, neighborhood youth in turn are equipped to design and choose their futures through access to tactile, kinesthetic and visual education portals. We will be connected to corresponding efforts in the scholarship and practice of self-determination through utopian communities internationally. We are interested in full ownership—of place, of choice, of culture through full access to power and decision-making.

Visit our Pavilions, work with us on site with your hands and hearts, meet our partners and take part.

Partners include Patton Pioneers Block Club, Brightmoor Alliance, Brightmoor Education Action Team (BEAT) Sidewalk Festival, Friends of Eliza Howell Park, St. Suzanne’s Cody Rouge Community Action Network, Wellspring Center.

Brightmoor Makerspace
The Brightmoor Maker Space is an incubator for creative enterprises and a community space for developing skills. The project is a collaboration between the Stamps School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan, the Brightmoor Alliance, Detroit Community Schools, and you!

Nick Tobier has worked in Brightmoor and Detroit Community Schools since 2009 and is a co-founder of the Brightmoor Maker Space. He is an artist and designer with grants from the NEA and the Harpo Foundation among others and previous experience as a youth community leader and landscape architect for the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation / Bronx Division, and Detroit public schools including Butzell, Bennett and Greenfield Union. He is a Professor at the University of Michigan Stamps School of Art and Design, a life long builder.

Bart Eddy is the Community Outreach Director and founder of Detroit Community Schools and the co-founder of the Brightmoor Maker Space. Bart has worked with young people in Detroit for the past thirty years. He has co-founded the Barnabas Youth Opportunities Center in 1983, Detroit Community High School in 1997 and the Sunbridge International Collaborative in 2013. During this span of years, he has
taken a class from grades 1-8 at the Detroit Waldorf School and taught woodworking (Psychology of Work) at Detroit Community High School. He is currently involved as a community engagement activist through the introduction of the “Entrepreneurship in Action” programs that operate out of Detroit Community High School. With his colleagues, it is his intention to expand these ideas and activities throughout Detroit and the international community under the auspices of experiential learning as offered by the Sunbridge International Collaborative.

**Brightmoor Alliance**

The Brightmoor Alliance is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations dedicated to serving northwest Detroit’s Brightmoor community. Together, we pursu a vision for our community that is built on faith and provides opportunities for all residents of the community to pray, grow, learn, thrive and play. Founded in 2000, the Alliance was established in response to conditions in the community, including poor housing, a high crime rate, and a staggering amount of vacant land. Community organizations – many of which had partnered with one another over the years – felt that the time was right to mobilize community resources and focus their combined efforts to revitalize the area.

Dawn Wilson-Clark a co-founder of BEAT (Brightmoor Education Action Team) was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Upon graduation from Detroit’s Redford High School, she served in the United States Army during Desert Storm. Professionally, Dawn is also known as “Kuddles The Clown” and has spent the last 2 decades bringing love, laughter and life lessons to children of all ages performing at thousands of birthday parties, hundreds of schools, churches and community events. Dawn is committed to positive change and innovation in her community. She donates her time, energy, enthusiasm and talents to several boards throughout the city, to her neighbors and friends and to her children’s schools.

The Rev. Larry L. Simmons, Sr. has lived a life of advocacy, beginning as a student radical pushing for change in the 1960s, as a staff member at the Detroit Urban League, as political director in the administration of Mayor Coleman A. Young, as an ordained pastor and, more recently, adding the duties of Executive Director of the Brightmoor Alliance. As pastor of Baber Memorial A.M.E. Church, he’s deeply ingrained in the fabric of the community, Simmons has been devoted to empowering families from diverse backgrounds with the resources needed to thrive.
designing just places
This session will explore sustainability and resiliency in the just design and preservation of place.

Exploring Design Core’s Design Guide for Real Estate Development

This session will explore the LOVE Building, a local development project that exemplifies how to create community spaces that are welcoming, accessible, sustainable. The LOVE Building is one of several local development projects highlighted in Design Core’s Design Guide for Real Estate Development. Launched by Design Core as the second of a series, the Design Guide for Real Estate development was produced through a crowdsourced effort with local stakeholders from the design, community development, and real estate community in Detroit. Join Design Core’s Olga Stella as she talks with some of the partners leading the LOVE Building project to understand the partner’s process and vision, as well as a firsthand look at how this project is being implemented. The session will include a pre-recorded conversation followed by a live Q&A with attendees about how to support more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable development in Detroit and cities all over.

Design Core Detroit
Design Core Detroit champions design-driven businesses and their role in strengthening Detroit’s economy. It offers services to strengthen, grow and attract design businesses, increases market demand for design services, and tells Detroit’s design story locally and globally. Design Core is a department within College for Creative Studies.

Olga Stella has almost 20 years of experience in economic development, public policy and coalition-building in Detroit. Her career has spanned working alongside residents in Detroit neighborhoods to helping to facilitate over $200 million in investment in the city. Olga lives with her family in Detroit and is active in the community, serving on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy.

Detroit Disability Power
Detroit Disability Power’s is a nonprofit social-impact organization who’s mission is to leverage and build the organizing power of the disability community to ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities in Metro Detroit.

Dessa Cosma grew up in the Deep South, splitting her time between New Orleans, LA and Augusta, GA. She has been a social justice advocate for as long as she can remember, starting her environmental, LGBT, and reproductive justice efforts in high school. In 2018, Dessa started Detroit Disability Power to grow the organizing power of the disability community and to continue bridging the gap between the disability community and larger social justice movements. She has a particular interest in disability focused political work that is grounded in anti-racism and economic justice. She is currently the Twink Frey Visiting Social Activist at the Center for the Education of Women at University of Michigan.

Allied Media Projects
Allied Media Projects (AMP) cultivates media for liberation. Our media includes all the ways we communicate with the world. Our liberation is an ongoing process of personal, collective, and systemic transformation. We are a network of people and projects, rooted in Detroit and connected to hundreds of other places across the globe. Together, we grow
and exchange ways of using media to create the world we need.

Jeanette Lee (she/her) is the co-executive director of Allied Media Projects (AMP), where she has worked in various leadership roles since 2006. Over this period she has led the growth and evolution of the organization through facilitative leadership, innovative program design, resource mobilization, and network cultivation. She received her education in visionary organizing from her involvement with the youth leadership organization, Detroit Summer (founded by the late James and Grace Lee Boggs), and the national feminist collective INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence. She studied comparative literature at the University of Michigan. She is a mom, a dancer, and a motorcycle rider.

Quinn Evans
Since our founding in 1984, Quinn Evans has looked forward. Advancing sustainable design. Unlocking the potential of existing buildings. And unleashing new and innovative possibilities—always with respect for the heritage of the communities shaped by our work. Along the way, our diversity and expertise have grown, bringing us to where we are today. A thriving, multifaceted team with six offices, national impact and a shared commitment to helping places and people thrive.

Saundra Little, FAIA, LEED AP, NOMA is an accomplished architect and dedicated advocate for the revitalization of the urban realm. With expertise in building assessments and creative yet practical design strategies, she helps clients transform buildings, increase property values, and bring new life to aging communities. Saundra’s portfolio reflects the diversity of the neighborhoods she champions, with successful cultural, institutional, educational, and commercial projects of all sizes. Her work in design, revitalization, and adaptive use projects consistently demonstrates a respect and sensitivity to the unique architectural heritage of local neighborhoods. Through her devotion to this challenging work, she has helped renew, uplift, and sustain vulnerable communities.
EDRA52 organizing committee

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Claire Antrassian
Architectural Designer at Quinn Evans Architects

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Associate Professor, School of Architecture, University of Detroit Mercy, EDRA Program Committee Chair, EDRA Board of Directors

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Designer & Project Manager, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, University of Detroit Mercy

James Leach
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, University of Detroit Mercy

Erika Lindsay
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, University of Detroit Mercy

Carol Miller*
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Kris Nelson
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Felice Gianluca Sperone*
Lecturer, College of Liberal Arts, Wayne State University

Noah Resnick
Associate Dean, Professor, School of Architecture, University of Detroit Mercy

*Conference Review Committee members. The Conference Review Committee is responsible for overseeing the peer-review process and organizing submissions into conference tracks.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ONLINE AT EDRA52 IN MAY 2021!