

Public Interest Design Fellows 2015



public interest design public interest design what is it?

“Public Interest Design” has become the latest buzz word in the design community. What does it really mean? Here’s what we think:

Public Interest Design asserts that good design is a basic human need, and that it must be made available to all. It recognizes “good design” as a means of appropriately serving a community and improving quality of life. Design, as a way of imagining and creating change, should be driven directly by those it serves [who better understands the needs and nuances of a place?] while thoughtfully responding to broader public issues of equity, economy, the environment, and social and cultural infrastructures. In practice, public interest design is participatory and experimental, working toward an inclusive, collaborative design process that best serves the interests of those it affects.

Public Interest Design is inclusive, collaborative, thoughtful + responsive. It seeks change through design. It insists upon quality of life. It listens to every voice.

the tulane city center

The Tulane City Center brings together creative makers and doers, working to advance community-driven ideas through collaboration, design education, and problem-solving. Our vision is a strong New Orleans where vibrant neighborhoods are shaped by engaged citizens and thoughtful designers.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the Tulane City Center's tenth birthday, our work is shifting to a more strategic, long-term effort to educate public interest designers, engage citizens in design, and use public interest design to make communities more equitable.

The Public Interest Design Fellowship offers an opportunity for young designers seeking to further their knowledge in serving the public interest. This Summer's fellowship began with the Design Futures Conference, followed by intensive projects in each of our program streams:

imagine.build.explore.inform



photo by David Armentor

2015 design fellows

JD Scott was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He received his Bachelor's of Art in Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis in 2012, where he developed his passions for youth empowerment and making. After graduation, JD worked as a construction site supervisor and intern architect in both Colorado and New Mexico. In the summer of 2013, JD served as a route leader for Bike & Build, a non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for affordable housing through cross-country cycling trips. Through his work at the Tulane City Center, JD hopes to use design as a tool for community empowerment and social justice.

Lindsay Girardeau has just completed her 4th year in the 5 year MARCH program at Tulane University. She grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and chose to attend Tulane University for its strong emphasis on public service in the New Orleans area. This past semester she participated in a DesignBuild studio in the Lower 9th Ward, working with CSED (Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development) to construct an outdoor classroom and educational landscape. Lindsay looks forward to furthering her work in Public Interest Design.



photos by David Armentor

Ashley Ricketson is originally from Midland, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Environmental Design and Minors in Business and Art + Architectural History from Texas A&M University in 2014. She is currently pursuing a Master of Architecture at Tulane University. Ashley believes that design is a powerful tool in creating positive change and has plans to use her skills to cultivate quality, innovation, and opportunity with communities. Her passion for Public Interest Design is what drew her to New Orleans and the Tulane City Center. She is excited to learn from the TCC's model of outreach and community engagement.



Gustavo Rodas, originally from Quito, Ecuador moved to the United States to pursue a Master's of Architecture at Tulane University with a minor in Urban Studies. He was able to study abroad in Barcelona and participate in a Design-Build studio last semester, which sparked an interest in Public Interest Design. He is hoping to learn more about socially responsible design practices and outreach opportunities of the architecture profession by interning at the Tulane City Center. His other interests include graphic design, travel and learning languages.



Lauren Taylor is currently pursuing a Master of Architecture degree in Tulane's 3.5 year program. Originally from Richmond, VA, she graduated from the University of Virginia in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Architectural History. In the interim between undergraduate and graduate school, Lauren participated in design-build programs with the Asheville Design Center and Build Lightly Studio, while making mixed media drawings and paintings for individual and collaborative exhibition. Her interest in architecture stems from the role of the built environment in reflecting and shaping social and cultural values, and from her joy in the process of making. She is excited to explore design as a way to thoughtfully address the needs of communities through creative strategies, across scales and disciplines.



educating the next generation of engaged citizen designers

Design offers a unique platform to amplify voices, empower communities, and address issues of health and equity. Yet often the communities who are most in need of good design are the communities who can least afford them. A growing number of designers, students, and educators are questioning the typical Architect-Client relationship, and developing methods of practice that reach all people – and we are proud to be among the institutions leading this charge.

Our work addresses issues ranging from neighborhood planning, cultural and historic preservation, affordable housing, and small-scale design build. It is important that each project begins as a proposal from a community nonprofit and designs are developed by a team, comprised of students, faculty and consultants, in close collaboration with the nonprofit stakeholders, incorporating feedback from the client all along the process to best meet their needs.

A key component of Tulane City Center's mission is to cultivate the next generation of design leaders, to give them experience working on public interest design projects, and to encourage their participation in this critical dialogue about the designer's role in shaping our cities.

In our ten years of community work we have offered educational opportunities to our students through project based internships and coursework. In recent years, we have seen a growing student desire for deeper engagement and expanded impact, and have responded with a summer Public Interest Design Fellowship program. These fellowships offer students an opportunity to work full time in an office setting on real projects in under-served communities over the course of 8 weeks alongside TCC staff and faculty of the Tulane School of Architecture. The 2015 fellows worked with us on developing new frameworks for our new program streams, alongside a deep study of community engagement strategies, which will continue to inform Tulane City Center's work. This group of fellows is a range of graduate and undergraduate Tulane Architecture students who exemplify what it means to be engaged citizen designers.

We are excited to present to you the 2015 TCC Public Interest Design Fellows. The following pages will give you a sense of the important and exciting work they are engaged in with a range of partners in the City of New Orleans. We hope that you will visit us at our new home in Central City at 1725 Baronne Street to learn more about projects and programming, and we welcome your involvement in supporting these opportunities for our students!

Maggie Hansen
Interim Director, Tulane City Center

design matters

Having spent the last thirty years as an architect and educator, it is particularly heartening to see the emergence of Public Interest Design as a vibrant and defining characteristic in some communities and schools. The so-called Boyer Report (Building Community: A New Future for Architecture Education and Practice, 1996) highlighted the crucial need for schools and educators to shift focus toward urgent needs in society rather than perpetuating internal and self-referential obsessions. Dr. Ernest Boyer and Lee Mitgang's prescient study noted that architecture students should prepare for lives and careers of greater civic engagement:

In the case of architecture education, it isn't enough for [graduating] students to [be] able to create beauty...they should be prepared for the broader professional mission of promoting the value of beauty in society, for connecting buildings to human needs and happiness, and for creating healthier, more environmentally sustainable architecture that respects precious resources.

The Tulane School of Architecture has been at the forefront of this agenda for the past nine years through the agency of the Tulane City Center and other community outreach programs. Our support and advancement of Public Interest Design Fellowships and programs is only the latest chapter in an ongoing story of civic engagement. We are not only collaborating in building community, we are educating a new model of engaged professional: inclusive, creative, collaborative, empathetic and dedicated to the idea that design matters in the many challenges faced by communities.

- Kenneth Schwartz, FAIA
Favrot Professor and Dean of the
Tulane School of Architecture

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imagine

build

explore

inform

design futures conference

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, MAY 29 - JUNE 2

The Summer began with the fellows' participation in the third annual Design Futures Conference, this year held at the University of Kansas. The conference brings together academics, movement thinkers and leading practitioners from across the nation for a five-day, interdisciplinary forum on public interest design. Through interactive workshops, excursions around the city, and time for discussion and exchange, participants are able to build and nurture connections, creating a large network of public interest designers.

|| I am urging you to promote dissonance, and dissonance is the beauty of conflict. It's when you're having these questions, questioning your beliefs and you're actually being challenged. That's when true innovation sparks.

- Nick Okafor, Washington University







imagine camp city park

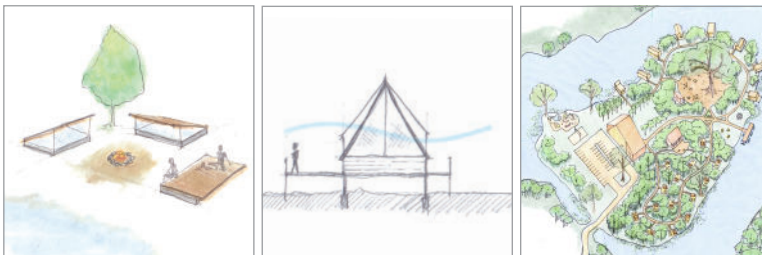
JUNE 15 - 26

Camp City Park was a collaboration of City Park of New Orleans and the Tulane City Center to propose an urban camping experience within the dense environment of the park. Surrounded on three sides by water, the 5 acre site on Nursery Island provides the ideal oasis for camping and immersion in the natural wonders of City Park.

The project scope included the research and design of market and operation strategies, a master plan, and accommodation designs. The goals of Camp City Park were aimed towards designing an accessible, flexible, and sustainable campground and program to encourage exploration of and education on the natural environment of Southern Louisiana.

|| Camping is highly valued in society because it is, in essence, a form of community building. Camping facilitates a heightened connection with the outdoors and strengthens human relationships; it underscores the importance of physical activity, play and quiet contemplation in both adults and children.

- JD Scott, M.Arch. 2016



camp city park engagement



project duration: 2 weeks

JUNE

- Brainstorm with City Park leadership + First site visit
- Target user workshop with NET Charter High School
- Camping on Nursery Island
- Site documentation & analysis
- Review with City Park leadership
- Internal visioning
- Target user workshop with Kuumba Institute

Community Partner: City Park of New Orleans
Other Consultants: Ashé Cultural Arts Center, NET Charter School

Frequent meetings with representatives from City Park guided the design, from programming and economic strategies to issues of equity. Other engagement activities with local students offered insight into camp activities, security, and accessibility. A night of camping on Nursery Island, as well as several site visits, further engaged TCC fellows with the landscape and potential experience.



JULY



*add final photos

build

APEX "play"making

JULY 13 - 24

The APEX Youth Center and Tulane City Center have built a lasting relationship through continual projects focused on creating an identity for the well-used youth center. Located just blocks away from the City Center in Central City, APEX provides a safe retreat by offering an affordable summer camp and serving as a year-round drop-in center for teens.

This Summer, TCC spent two weeks at APEX, getting to know the kids and working with them to design a small-scale intervention in their outdoor space. One week of engagement and design followed by a second week of building led to the making and installation of 3 shade structures, street-front signage, and a colorful intervention in the entryway.

|| It was incredible to witness the sense of community and pride that the kids at APEX feel about their youth center. One of our main objectives in this project was to give the spaces a sense of cohesion and intentionality - an identity - as well as to find ways to enhance the outdoor spaces and make them more usable. After a short amount of time, it became obvious that shade was a huge necessity. Five minutes into a mocked-up shade structure, the kids playing outside had already moved their playground equipment into the shaded area. We hope that the interventions we have built will not only improve the quality of the space but also create a memorable place that everyone at APEX can recognize as their own.

- Lauren Taylor, M.Arch. 2017



JUNE

APEX "play"making engagement



Immersion

- + Interview with APEX Junior Counselors
- + Expert Interview with Program Director

| Workshop with APEX campers

| | Review with Program Director

| | | Prototyping with NET Charter High School

| | | | Final review at APEX with Program Director & Co-founder

JULY

project duration: 2 weeks

Community Partner: APEX Youth Center

Other: NET Charter School

Youth engagement informed each step of the process at APEX. The TCC team conducted initial interviews with APEX Junior Counselors to determine wants and needs. Mockups of shade structures were built on site to test placement options. And finally, students from the NET Charter High School were brought to APEX to design games and small installations for the playground; this proved to be an empowering experience for all involved.





Bald Cypress



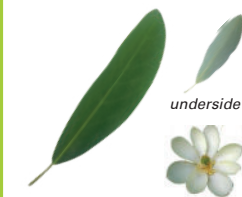
needles

Southern Magnolia



5-10"

Sweet Bay Magnolia



3-5"

Eastern Redbud



3-5"

Common Fig



5-10"



o.c. haley neighborhood tree canopy mapping

JUNE 1 - 12

The Tree Canopy Mapping project is part of a larger effort to address the importance of urban forests and advocate for improved streetscapes in New Orleans. By creating a framework for recording location, species, and health of the street trees, the hope is that future volunteer groups, neighborhood non-profits, and school classes can easily continue toward this goal.

In order for any and all citizens to participate, a tree mapping packet complete with instructions, worksheets, and a tree i.d. guide was created providing the necessary information to expand the documentation. The second component is a CAD file, which works as a digital database for all information collected out in the field.

|| Urban trees can play an important role in the environmental wellness of a neighborhood. They create a healthier atmosphere, detain rainwater and runoff, and simply create a more beautiful streetscape.

- Ashley Ricketson, M.Arch. 2016



JULY

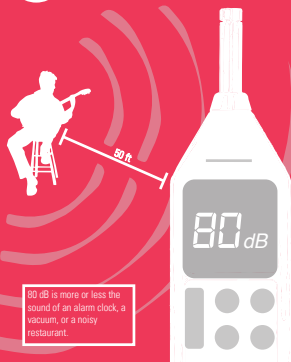
Community Partner: Neighborhood Residents

In New Orleans, residents are responsible for the public right of way in front of their property. As a result, a large number of trees in Central City were planted by residents. This created an opportunity for engagement: in the process of mapping the tree canopy, the TCC fellows spoke to residents about the trees and cataloged their stories. The project highlights the urban tree canopy as a public amenity, one that holds great environmental and cultural value for the city.



7 STEPS TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE

1 KEEP IT BELOW 80 db FROM 50 FEET AWAY



2 ON BOURBON & FRENCHMEN DON'T COMPETE WITH THE CLUBS

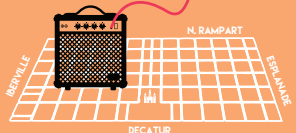


Bourbon's entertainment strip is very loud and crowded, it also has some of the most strict noise ordinance limits. It is against the law for any person to perform any type of street entertainment on the street or sidewalk of Bourbon Street from Canal Street to St. Ann Street between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

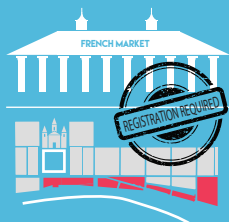
It is technically legal to perform on Frenchmen at night, however be respectful of music venues and try not to compete with their own performances as to avoid future issues.

3 DON'T BE AFRAID TO AMP UP...

In The French Quarter (Area shown below) You are allowed to use sound-amplification equipment in the public right-of-way, including streets or sidewalks as long as the sound produced cannot be measured above 85 db at a distance of 30 feet from the amplifier.



4 YOU **DON'T** NEED A PERMIT TO PERFORM ON THE STREET, BUT NOTE...



In the French Market, you must obtain a free registration badge to perform. Note that this area **DOES NOT** include public passages, i.e. sidewalks. **LEARN MORE INSIDE.** Find out specific rules, including how to obtain a registration badge, on the next page!

5 LET THE SIGN DO THE TALKIN'



Do not verbally solicit money from spectators as this is considered aggressive panhandling.

Instead, you can make a sign asking for tips and donations.

Selling CDs and other merchandise is not legal. However, you are allowed to give them away in exchange for donations. Suggesting an amount is not allowed. You have the right to deny any donations.

6 KEEP LANES CLEAR



It's up to you to ensure that your crowds do not block public passages. This includes streets, walkways, and any doorways and operable windows.

There are also specific 'clear lanes' in Jackson Square - find them on the map inside!

7 BE QUIET, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE



It is unlawful to create any noise above 78 db at a distance of 50 ft from the source during religious services in St. Louis Cathedral. Conspicuous signs should be displayed outside the cathedral during the conduct of such services.

KNOW WHO'S AROUND!



STATE POLICE

Between 50-60 troopers help patrol NOPD's 8th district (French Quarter, CBD & Marigny)



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Main police force in the city. The French Quarter falls on its 8th District



NOLA PATROL

An unarmed civilian police force in the French Quarter, aimed to crack down on bad drivers and chase gutter punks off.



FRENCH QUARTER TASK FORCE

A new patrol of off-duty New Orleans police officers dedicated to the city's historic epicenter. They are equipped with all-terrain vehicles

DON'T GET BURNED BY THE FIRE CODE!

-Do not let your crowd block any doorway or operable windows whether open, closed, or locked at any time. (m.c.s. 22958)



-A permit is required to have a tent, tarp, or canopy. Permits are granted by the Fire Prevention Division of the New Orleans Fire Department. Umbrellas with a diameter of 8 feet or less do not need a permit. (sec. 26-15 and m.c.s. 22958, sec. 105.8)



guide to new orleans street performance

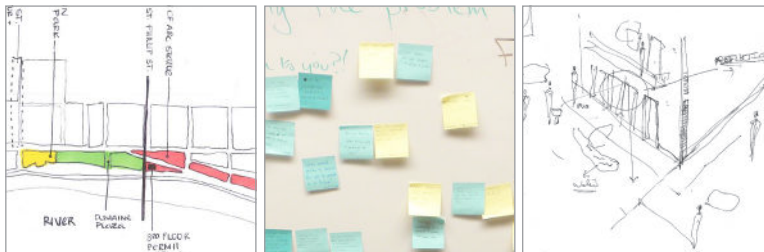
JUNE 15 - 26

The Guide to New Orleans' Street Performance was conceived by the Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) to create a comprehensive document outlining the rights of street performers in the French Quarter and Marigny. MaCCNO engages local musicians, politicians, and activists in an effort to "bridge the gap between the needs of the cultural community and legal/government policy in New Orleans." [source: <http://maccno.com>]

As an expansion of the Tulane City Center's graphic advocacy work, the fellows generated a pamphlet distilling and graphically representing the sound ordinance of New Orleans. The handout aims to address the controversial situation surrounding the noise ordinance and to educate all parties on either side of the issue of the legal rights of New Orleans' street performers.

|| It felt great to empower a community through our graphic work, be able to educate, and hopefully make a change in the way people perceive the musical culture of the city.

- Gustavo Rodas, M.Arch. 2016



JUNE

guide to new orleans street performance engagement



Brainstorm with MACCNO leadership
+ Group interview with musicians

Graphics review with MACCNO leadership & musicians

Interviews with street musicians in French Quarter

Constituent review with MACCNO at Circle Bar

Expert interview with Mayor's Office of Cultural Economy

JULY

project duration: 2 weeks

Community Partner: Music & Culture Coalition of New Orleans
Other: Street Musicians + Office of Cultural Economy

Representatives from MaCCNO, as well as musicians and other cultural advocates, played an integral role in the project from start to finish. Frequent meetings over the course of two weeks allowed the TCC team to thoroughly understand and address the situation, and to ultimately create a document that will serve MaCCNO and the musical community of New Orleans.



summer fellowship

The summer fellowship offered a wholistic immersion into public interest design. In addition to the four project streams, the fellows engaged in weekly reading discussions, traveled to relevant sites within the city, and participated in community events. These explorations allowed the fellows to situate their work within a greater context, while encouraging a comprehensive, critical, and reflective approach to public interest design.



reading list

"The Word Itself" from Discovering the Vernacular Landscape

J.B. Jackson, 1984

Whitney M. Young Jr.'s unedited speech to the AIA, 1968

Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Richard Louv, 2008

Place, Community, and Economic Development

Presentation by Donovan Rypkema to alumni of the Mayor's
Institute on City Design, 1994

Live Music and Noise Debates in New Orleans Post-Katrina

Sara Le Menestral, 2014

Planning as Craft and as Philosophy

Ann Markusen, from The Profession of City Planning: Changes,
Images, and Challenges 1950-2000

New Orleans' \$6.8 Billion Water Problem

Sarah Goodyear for Next City, 2014

The Urban Precariat, Neoliberalization, and the Soft Power of Humanitarian
Design

Cedric G. Johnson, 2011

Participatory Action Research from the Inside: Community Development
Practice in East St. Louis

Ken Reardon, John Welsh, Brian Kreiswirth, John Forester

To Hell with Good Intentions

Ivan Illich, 1986

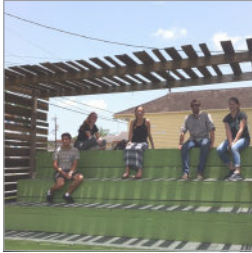
New Orleans considers new downtown homeless shelter

Katherine Sayre for NOLA.com, 2015

Million-Dollar Murray

Malcom Gladwell, 2006

site visits



Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Tour
 -Myrtle Banks Building: Jack and Jake's Market
 -New Orleans Jazz Market
 -Southern Food and Beverage Museum
 -Café Reconcile
 -Eskew Dumez Ripple

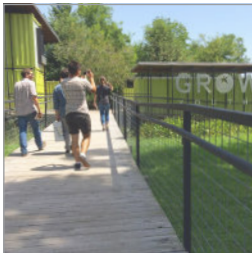


Central City Tour
 -Urban Build/TCC projects
 -YaYa Arts Center
 -APEX Youth Center

Parisite Skatepark

City Park Tour

-Grow Dat Youth Farm
 -Eco Pavilion-Botanical Gardens



Columbus Greenway

Bayou Road Tour

-Community Book Center
 -Pagoda Café
 -King and Queen Emporium

Lower Ninth Ward

-CSED outdoor classroom
 -Guardians Institute

Waggoner and Ball Architects

Cotton Press Building

-New Orleans Boulder Lounge



reflections

One of the main questions asked by family and friends is “What are you going to do after school?” The preconceived idea is that architecture graduates are trained to start working right away at large design firms, designing houses or high rises. The Public Interest Design Fellowship offers an enriching and educational experience to learn more about working in the field of social-impact design. This past summer we, as a team, were tasked with addressing large, systemic issues through our skills in design thinking, collaboration, and architecture. I am genuinely excited for the future of this fellowship because it prepares Tulane students to become emerging leaders in this growing discipline. I can now say that I feel ready to enter my final year of school and equipped to pursue a career path in Public Interest Design.

- lindsay girardeau

I am so grateful I was able to be a part of this fellowship, as it is a completely unique experience compared to a normal summer internship elsewhere. It is a great way to be exposed to working collaboratively, gain leadership skills and learn how to engage the community in the design process, which you don't get to do during a normal architecture education. Working on the framework of socially responsible design has shown me such a wide range of skills and project types that we as architects are equipped to handle, from graphic design to build projects. Public interest design has opened a whole new range of career paths that I wasn't even aware existed.

- gustavo rodas

The most rewarding part of the fellowship for me was the community engagement. It was great getting to hear the opinions and advice of people who are potential stakeholders and users of the spaces we were designing. I also appreciated the opportunity to experience a wide range of projects and activities, which was only possible through a collaborative work setting. This summer was an incredible opportunity to expand my views on the role of design, as well as a great introduction into the world of Public Interest Design.

- ashley ricketson

To me, public interest design is about the development of an inclusive, immersive, and self-critiquing process. This summer, our process has been shaped by many forms of community engagement. Engagement often begins with citizen interviews. It involves asking the right questions and listening intently; this summer, we learned to truly listen instead of merely seeking out those items that fit a preconceived design agenda. We discovered that engagement can be an inward-looking endeavor — it entails an understanding of how we collaborate, how we approach a site, how we deal with ourselves. Engagement is also the study of widespread social issues; it is the realization that these problems affect us all. And while there is much work to be done and many struggles ahead, engagement gives us the tools to cultivate those relationships that might bring about real progress.

- jd scott

It is incredibly encouraging to see the growing network and energy surrounding Public Interest Design, and the expanding role and definition of design within that. Architecture has historically been perceived as a solitary act of designing spaces for a client. Through Public Interest Design, architecture becomes a way of holistically understanding and addressing issues: a way of actively, critically, and creatively approaching challenges and working toward thoughtful and sustainable solutions, with and for all parties. This summer, we not only had the opportunity to try our hands at multiple applications of design, but also engaged in this larger discourse on our role as designers - as participants in a conversation - toward better spaces and systems for people.

- lauren taylor

