

# CHARLOTTESVILLE VIRGINIA

May 31 to June 4, 2022

Cover Photography by Scott Smith

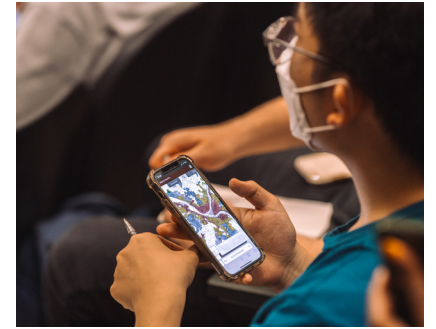
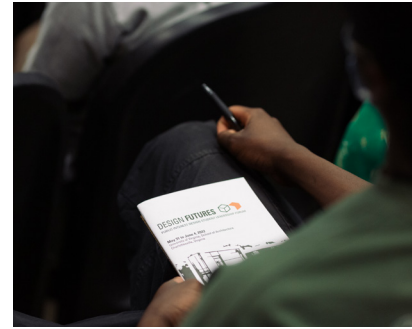
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DESIGN  
FUTURES



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
SCHOOL of ARCHITECTURE







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## from the PROGRAM DIRECTOR

### Dear Beloved Design Futures Family,

Welcome! We have been waiting for you! Take a breath and take a moment to arrive and settle in.

Exhale.

For the next five days we are honored to be in close community with each other reading, studying, listening, intuiting, speaking and manifesting our dreams into reality. Here at Design Futures we like to say that the Student Leadership Forum is a convening shaped by all that we wished for while in school- an emotional, intellectual, spiritual, political space where we can bring our whole selves to. A space where we can process all of the harm of cemented legacies of oppression and inequality in the built environment and also hold space for radically imaginative design futures. A space to push design(ers) to be more accountable to the communities we serve, especially those who have been historically excluded.

Design Futures is a space that intentionally disrupts the status quo, the “normal”, and centers care, connection, and well-being. While many of us have always been sensitive to all that we are up against, the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism have arrested our collective attention, and if they have reminded us of anything, it is that the status quo has not worked for far too many and as Frederick Douglass stated in 1857, that power concedes nothing without a demand.

In this time of great need we have all been forced to pause and adapt to new ways of relating to one another: physical distancing and masks, mutual aid and collective care. Alternative and more just futures are possible and in the current moment, with widespread discussions of a return to “normal,” it is clear that there is a need for reflection and interruption. How can designers and built environment practitioners reflect deeply on all that has brought us to this point? What will it require of us, our allies, and accomplices to truly

interrupt white supremacy culture and other systems of oppression that would have us return to a new normal on the other side of this?

Throughout the week we will collectively explore past and present struggles toward social equity and racial justice rooted in Charlottesville and stretching across the country to all the communities we live and work in.

Beyond learning, Design Futures is a community of care, we will continue to lovingly support our students, our faculty, our practitioners, and our neighborhoods, and try our best to minimize harm and create spaces of greater safety, self-awareness, and intentionality to center Black, Indigenous, and People of Color’s experiences. We will celebrate the wins as much as the tragedies and will not stop until these spaces of care are sustained and widespread in all communities, in all built environments.

We encourage you to participate fully in the Forum and invite you to co-create the spaces of support and growth that you need. Journal, sketch, ask questions of others and ask questions of yourself. Connect with other people during the in between times, in breakout groups. Self-organize additional spaces of conversation, analysis, and shared understanding. Shape Design Futures to be a place of embodied learning, stretching, and reflection that best supports you in this moment.

We are excited to build with you over the next week and beyond. Our work together is only starting and we need each other to design the future that we all long for.

And don’t forget, have fun!

With Love,  
**Theresa and the entire DF team, past, present and future**



*The UVA School of Architecture is committed to cultivating democracy and to the sustained, critical rethinking of our institutional policies, practices and structures. We recognize our own privileges as an institution, and we honor the consequential responsibilities to move our society towards an inclusive future that recognizes and serves all people, regardless of gender, race, sexuality, nationality, citizenship status, ability, or socioeconomic standing.*

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from the  
UVA SCHOOL OF  
ARCHITECTURE

Dear Design Futures Family,

Welcome to the University and Virginia and Charlottesville!

We are excited to meet, share, and learn from you all. From your first day here at the UVA School of Architecture, you'll experience our dedication to the fairest and just of futures. Our support of Design Futures is a constant, with annual participation and learnings from the conference embedded in our curriculum, thoughts, and conversations. Design Futures has UVA roots - with Barbara Brown Wilson, Associate Professor in our Urban + Environmental Planning Department and Faculty Director of the UVA Equity Center, a co-founder. The conference was held here in 2016, and we are honored to host again in person this year.

During your time here, you'll find that we are a school dedicated to ensuring a space for cultivating democracy. This critical rethinking is to do no harm, co-create, share resources within our community, and operate with humility and respect. As noted in our JEDI work, our School understands the importance and urgency of this moment, working hard to transform through co-creation and implementation of long-term approaches, methods, and intentionality in our mission, operations, and culture. We aim "to be a nexus of thought leadership on Justice, Democracy, and Design — cultivating and disseminating knowledge on architectural empathy, on climate justice, on cultural landscapes, and on community-driven design that help transform our professions and disciplines."

Our School's active role in Design Futures is part of this work. We look forward to sharing with you the work we've done and what we will do. Lastly, I'd like to thank the vast UVA support for the Forum from **Dean Malo Huston, Professors Ila Berman, Beth Meyer, Barbara Brown-Wilson**, and the **UVA Equity Center**.

And a special thank you to our student Design Futures Ambassador, **Christine Le**, for her dedication to a successful week, and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to be in community with you!

**Elgin Cleckley, NOMA**

Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design Thinking, with an appointment in the School of Education and Human Development and the School of Nursing  
Director of Design Justice, UVA Equity Center  
University of Virginia, School of Architecture  
Design Futures Board Member

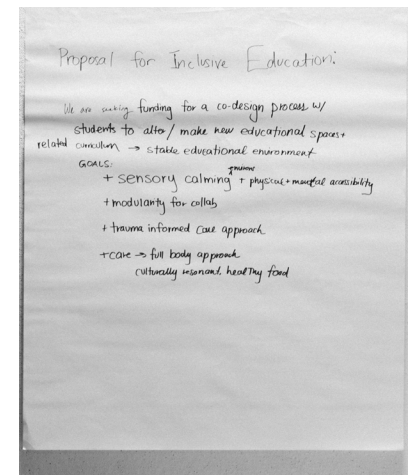


# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

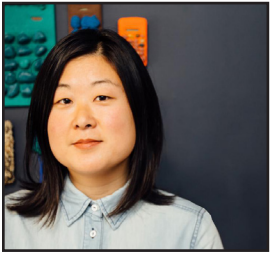
Please join us in acknowledging the **Monacan People** as the traditional custodians of the land in and around the lands we are on today. Disposessed from these lands and continuing to live with that legacy, we pay respects to their elders past and present. Our acknowledgment of the Monacan People reflects a commitment to respect and greater inclusion through a formal recognition of those who were here first and whose continued presence is important to our future.

We also acknowledge and pay respect to the individual lives of the African peoples and their descendants who were forced to dedicate their labor to the construction of what is now the University of Virginia. Scholars estimate that at least 5,000 enslaved Black enslaved laborers worked on the Grounds, with many in residence, starting with the construction of the Lawn in 1817 and lasting through the end of the Civil War in 1865. These enslaved people built and then sustained the everyday life of the University.

These acknowledgments are but one form of a public intervention, but serve a necessary step toward honoring the Monacan People and Enslaved Laborers. We reflect on the injustices committed to these native communities and enslaved peoples. We honor their stories, told and untold, and their descendants past, and leaders, present and emerging.



## DESIGN FUTURES FORUM TEAM



### **THERESA HYUNA HWANG**

(she/her/hers)

Theresa Hyuna Hwang is a community-engaged architect, educator, and facilitator. She is the founder of Department of Places, a participatory design and community engagement practice based in Los Angeles, CA. She has spent over 14 years focused on equitable cultural and community development with multiple groups and campaigns and community development with multiple groups and campaigns. She is the Program Director of Design Futures.



### **ELGIN CLECKLEY, NOMA**

(he/him/his)

Elgin Cleckley, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at UVA with an appointment in the Curry School of Education and the School of Nursing. He is a designer, director, and principal of \_mpathic design – a Design Thinking pedagogy, initiative, and professional practice focusing on intersections of identity, culture, history, memory, and place.



### **CHRISTINE LE**

(she/her/hers)

Christine Le is a graduate student at the University of Virginia, School of Architecture, studying Urban and Environmental Planning. Her interests are at the intersection of inclusive, community-led, participatory planning, equity, public health, and accessible communications. Christine has been involved in a variety of projects and fields of work including local food systems planning, transportation planning, business development, research and communications development, agricultural preservation, and in-patient healthcare.

## DESIGN FUTURES FORUM ADVISORY BOARD

**ELGIN CLECKLEY, NOMA**, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

**CHRISTINE GASPAR**, CENTER FOR URBAN PEDAGOGY

**LIZ OGBU**, STUDIO O

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thank you!



# SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, MAY 31

\*all times are in Eastern Time (ET)

1:00pm	<b>WELCOME OPENING CIRCLE</b>
2:30pm	<b>HOLDING SPACE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE: RACIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS' STRUGGLE TO DEMOCRATIZE PUBLIC LANDSCAPES</b> Jalane Schmidt
4:00pm	<b>CORE 1 WORKSHOP ON THIS SITE: UNCOVERING THE (RACIALIZED) HISTORY OF SITE, PLACES, AND NEIGHBORHOODS</b> Bernadette Onayaka, Jess Zimbabwe
5:30pm	Opening Reception

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

9:00am	<b>CORE 2 WORKSHOP INSIDER/OUTSIDER: IDENTITY, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND IMAGINATION</b> Khalilha Haynes, Rajan Hoyle
	<b>CORE 3 WORKSHOP POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND POSITIONALITY</b> *(STUDENTS ONLY) Liz Ogbu, Christine Gaspar
11:30am	<b>ALL ATTENDEE WORKSHOP SITE MAPPING: ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH AN ORGANIZING LENS</b> Zain AbuSeir, Joana Dos Santos
	<b>REFLECTING ON RUPTURES: EMBODIMENT &amp; CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES FOR LIBERATION</b> Sarah Sao Mai Habib, Shalini Agrawal
2:00pm	<b>ELECTIVE WORKSHOP THE PRACTICE OF SHIFTING POWER: TOOLS AND TACTICS</b> Ezra Kong, Liz Kramer
	<b>CREATING STRONG FOUNDATIONS: BUILDING EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND FOSTERING COLLABORATION</b> NDC: Julia DiMauro, Angelica Arias, Sophie Morley

## THURSDAY, JUNE 2

- 9:00am      **CORE 2 WORKSHOP**  
**INSIDER/OUTSIDER: IDENTITY, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND IMAGINATION**  
Khalilha Haynes, Rajan Hoyle
- CORE 3 WORKSHOP**  
**POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND POSITIONALITY**  
\*(STUDENTS ONLY)  
Liz Ogbu, Christine Gaspar
- WALKING THE GROUND(S): EXPLORING SITE HISTORY, DESIGNER POSITIVITY AND MATERIAL ENTANGLEMENTS THROUGH CURIOSITY AND MAKING\* (FACULTY ONLY)**  
Alissa Ujie Diamond, Hannah Jane Brown
- 11:30am    **ALL ATTENDEE WORKSHOP**  
**SITE MAPPING: ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH AN ORGANIZING LENS**  
Zain AbuSeir, Joana Dos Santos
- REFLECTING ON RUPTURES: EMBODIMENT & CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES FOR LIBERATION**  
Sarah Sao Mai Habib, Shalini Agrawal
- 2:00pm      **ELECTIVE WORKSHOP**  
**DESIGNING FOR INCLUSION AND SOCIORACIAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
Todd Levon Brown
- RACISM UNTAUGHT**  
Lisa Elzey Mercer, Billie Conaway
- 5:30pm      **KEYNOTE LECTURE:**  
**DISRUPTING NARRATIVES OF DESTRUCTION**  
Lorenzo Dickerson, Jordy Yager

## FRIDAY, JUNE 3 - LOCAL DAY

- 9:00am      **LOCAL TOUR: GRAPPLING WITH THE PAST IS THE FUTURE OF DESIGN: A CASE STUDY ON THE MEMORIAL TO ENSLAVED LABORERS**  
DeTeasa Brown Gathers, Kellen Dunnavant Renner-Thomas
- 11:00am    **EQUITY CENTER VISIT TO THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL - AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER**  
Ben Allen, Barbara Brown Wilson
- 12:00pm    The Equity Center at UVA
- 1:00pm      CHOICE OF:  
**SELF-GUIDED TOUR**
- 2:45pm      **GUIDED WALKING TOUR: CHARLOTTESVILLE'S HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MALL**  
Beth Meyer, UVA Professor of Landscape Architecture

## SATURDAY, JUNE 4

- 9:00am      **STUDENT-LED, COLLECTIVE CLOSING CIRCLE**
- 12:00pm    Closing







## HOLDING SPACE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE: RACIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS' STRUGGLE TO DEMOCRATIZE PUBLIC LANDSCAPES

JALANE SCHMIDT



### JALANE SCHMIDT

**Director of the UVA Democracy Initiative's  
Memory Project, Associate Professor of  
Religious Studies**

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<https://memoryproject.virginia.edu>

Twitter: @jalane\_schmidt

Jalane Schmidt is the Director of the UVA Democracy Initiative's Memory Project, and an Associate Professor of Religious Studies. As a scholar of African diaspora, Caribbean, and Latin American religions, she has conducted field research for three years in Cuba, and she is the author of *Cachita's Streets: The Virgin of Charity, Race & Revolution in Cuba*, a study of Cuban national identity, religion, politics, memory, and public events.

Dr. Schmidt teaches courses on race and social change movements, and she serves on the City of Charlottesville's Historic Resources Committee. With community partners, she plans and leads walking tours, pilgrimages, and other public history events focused upon Civil War memory, Jim Crow, the history of the local African American community and the Civil Rights Movement. As scholar-activist, Jalane organized progressives' turnout to the City of Charlottesville's 2016 Blue Ribbon Commission on Race, Memorials, and Public Spaces public hearings, which shifted public opinion to favor removal of the Confederate statues. Jalane helped found a local chapter of Black Lives Matter, she participated in Charlottesville's 2017 Summer of Hate counterdemonstrations, and her political involvement in confronting white supremacy is ongoing. Jalane co-founded Take 'Em Down Cville and the 2020 Monumental Justice Virginia campaign which organized affiliates statewide and successfully lobbied the Virginia General Assembly to overturn a century-old state law which had prohibited localities from removing Confederate statues.

Jalane writes op-ed pieces and speaks about democratizing public space, and she is writing a book about Charlottesville's Civil War and Reconstruction-era history, local neo-Confederate organizations and their Jim Crow monuments, and racial justice activists' resistance to white supremacy. The Memory Project is a supporter of the Swords Into Plowshares effort to melt down Charlottesville's statue of Robert E. Lee, and re-purpose its bronze to create new public art. Jalane's first documentary film, "Unveiling: The Origin of Charlottesville's Monuments," will be released soon.

## ON THIS SITE: UNCOVERING THE (RACIALIZED) HISTORY OF SITE, PLACES, AND NEIGHBORHOODS

BERNADETTE ONYENAKA, JESS ZIMBABWE

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The tools of segregation still haunt cities and towns across America. They lurk in the deeds of hundreds of thousands of homeowners living in neighborhoods in cities across the country that have underlying deeds that read “No person or persons of Asiatic, African or Negro blood, lineage, or extraction shall be permitted to occupy a portion of said property.” They linger in the monuments to and schools named after Confederate heroes. They remain in modern-day calcifications of redlining maps that directed investment away from whole sections of cities across the country.

Participants will learn about the history of race-based zoning, redlining, block-busting, racially restrictive covenants, and confederate monuments in American cities. They will also learn how to research specific events that may have taken place on or near a site, as well as public memorials and markers in a place. They will gain the skills to find records, such as historic newspaper reports, to get a better understanding of the history of racial segregation in their city or any other site where they are working.



**BERNADETTE ONYENAKA**

(she/her/hers)

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Bernadette Onyenaka is a racial equity facilitator and consultant. Driven by a vision liberation from all forms of oppression, she co-founded the O&G Racial Equity Collaborative, where she curates and co-creates O&G’s racial equity curriculum, learning and practice experience.



**JESS ZIMBABWE**

(she/her/hers)

[jess@thezimbabwes.org](mailto:jess@thezimbabwes.org)

Jess Zimbabwe is the Executive Director of Environmental Works Community Design Center in Seattle. Previously, she led Plot Strategies, the Rose Center for Public Leadership, and the Mayors’ Institute on City Design. She serves on the boards of Next City, the National Main Street Center, and Colloqate. She teaches urban planning at the University of Washington.

## **INSIDER/OUTSIDER: IDENTITY, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND IMAGINATION**

**KHALILHA HAYNES, RAJAN HOYLE**

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This interactive workshop is intended to be a space for participants to consider their own identities and understand how their different identity areas, and those of others, intersect and affect their work as designers. Using excerpts from Audre Lorde's *Sister Outsider* as our grounding and guiding text, participants will work together to create shared definitions of systems of oppression, including: racism, sexism, ableism, classism, and others. We will study how these systems regularly manifest in our personal lives, the built environment, community processes, and in our institutions. Together, we will imagine new, more radical ways of relating across differences and implementing tools and techniques that work to dismantle oppressive systems and shift power to the most marginalized.



**KHALILHA HAYNES**

(she/her/hers)

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Khalilha Haynes is an urban planner based in Oakland. She got into planning because she wanted to do work that meaningfully improves people's everyday lives. She's worked on projects related to equitable economic development, environmental justice, and stakeholder engagement. She has a MA in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA.



**RAJAN HOYLE**

(he/him/his)

[rajanhoyle@gmail.com](mailto:rajanhoyle@gmail.com)

Rajan is an urbanist and multimedia storyteller. A recent graduate of the Master in City Planning program at MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, prior to graduate school Rajan worked for the City of Long Beach. He previously directed a year-long, participatory GIS mapping project with Garifuna youth in rural, coastal communities in Honduras. With wide-ranging experience at the intersection of spatial analysis, public policy, and participatory planning, Rajan has consulted with local government, nonprofits, and research institutions on design workshops and initiatives in Los Angeles, Houston, and Mexico City among others. He is a Design Futures alum, and has served as an Advisory Board Member and Program Manager of the organization.



## CORE 3 WORKSHOP \*(STUDENTS ONLY)

Wednesday, June 1 & Thursday, June 2

# POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND POSITIONALITY\*

LIZ OGBU, CHRISTINE GASPAR

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This workshop will outline and collectively explore concepts of privilege and power and how these important ideas exist in community-engaged design. Participants will reflect on their own positionality, including their fragility and their privilege, and understand how these are fluid and complex in projects. Students will workshop tools around personal agency and how to leverage their power but also learn to identify fragility and how this can also impede projects.

**\*This workshop is for students only.**



**LIZ OGBU**  
(she/her/hers)  
[liz@lizogbu.com](mailto:liz@lizogbu.com)

A designer, urbanist, and spatial justice activist, Liz is an expert on engaging and transforming unjust urban environments. Her multidisciplinary design practice, Studio O, operates at the intersection of racial and spatial justice. Among her honors, she's a TEDWomen speaker, Public Interest Design's Top 100, and Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar.



**CHRISTINE GASPAR**  
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[christine@welcometocup.org](mailto:christine@welcometocup.org)

Christine Gaspar (she/her/hers) is Executive Director of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), a New York-based nonprofit whose mission is to use the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement in partnership with marginalized communities. Her 15+ years of work in community-engaged design draws on her degrees in architecture, urban planning, environmental studies, and her experience growing up in an immigrant family. She is on the board of Design Futures.

## **SITE MAPPING: ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH AN ORGANIZING LENS**

**ZAIN ABUSEIR, JOANA DOS SANTOS**

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In this interactive workshop, participants will learn to use spatial analysis to solve community-identified problems. Mixing action-network theory (or ANT) and community organizing, participants will learn how to use a site mapping method to work with communities to identify, make visible, and prioritize their needs. The ANT is a visual representation tool that maps a community's interconnected networks, actors, flows, and processes. They will pair this with a community organizing tool, a power analysis, to gauge who has the power to shift resources to achieve the community-identified solutions, seek allies, and prepare for any opposition. In addition, participants will learn how to partner with ongoing local efforts (instead of imposing ideas or strategies). A critical focus of this exercise will be how to work with communities they may not be a part of or share social identities with.



**ZAIN ABUSEIR**

(she/her/hers)

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Zain AbuSeir is a lecturer in Architecture at Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. She has worked at RVTR and Atelier Mankouche in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While at RVTR, she has contributed to the NorthHouse Project, the Stratus Project, Conduit Urbanism and the Post-Carbon Highway Project. Her work has focused on graphic representation, book design and mapping.



**JOANA DOS SANTOS**

(she/they/theirs)

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Joana (SHO-AH-NA) is a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) consultant and coach. With over 15 years of experience, their work centers on co-creating policies and practices for systemic change with the people affected by them. Currently, Joana serves as Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Chief DEI Officer.

## **REFLECTING ON RUPTURES: EMBODIMENT AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES FOR LIBERATION**

SARAH SAO MAI HABIB, SHALINI AGRAWAL

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Relationships to our bodies, time, land and other beings have been severed by white supremacy and other forms of systemic violence and oppression. We will (re)weave and (re)connect to the web of community through mindfulness at the scale of body, place and time. We will (re)claim practices informed by personal cultural and spiritual lineages as acts of compassion, resistance and resilience. These often marginalized practices are liberatory technologies that help us to see clearly, and address both the gifts and trauma that exist within ourselves and ancestors, so that we may serve future generations. This workshop will complement core themes of place, identity, power and privilege by introducing practices that support deep reflection, generational connection through time and relationships.



**SARAH SAO MAI HABIB**

(she/they)

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Sarah Sao Mai Habib is a multidisciplinary artist, builder, and cultural worker. For over a decade she has been engaged in and organizing for intersectional healing. Whether that took the form of housing projects, intergenerational workshops, border mutual aid, or studying & facilitating contemplative practice for social & ecological repair. She is the creator of Home Sovereignty Studio, a practice dedicated to remembering ancestral, spiritual & land based wisdoms as a path towards liberation.



**SHALINI AGRAWAL**

(she/her/hers)

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Shalini Agrawal is founder & director of Public Design for Equity and Pathways to Equity. She is core organizer for Dark Matter University, and Associate Professor in Critical Ethnic Studies, Interdisciplinary Studios and Decolonial School at California College of the Arts. Shalini's research and practice focuses on decolonizing design practices in support of land sovereignty.



## THE PRACTICE OF SHIFTING POWER: TOOLS AND TACTICS

EZRA KONG, LIZ KRAMER

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In this workshop, we will introduce the opportunity that design has to disrupt and shift power dynamics in processes towards equity and justice through careful facilitation, organizing, and tactics. Participants will explore frameworks for power that articulate and visualize dynamics at play and guide people leading processes in shifting those dynamics. Participants will learn to shift power dynamics from “Power Over,” where there are high levels of control over resources and decision-making to forms of power that activate the power within, power under, and power with. To make these shifts, participants will be exposed to tools and tactics, and practice through embodied activities that build on the techniques of Theater of the Oppressed.



**EZRA KONG**

(they/them/theirs)

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Ezra Kong is an equity design facilitator based in Oakland. As a co-founder at Reflex Design Collective, they have been developing methodologies to embed equity in both processes and outcomes of mission-driven institutions. Ezra co-leads projects on transportation equity, homelessness, and displacement to build grassroots access to decision making power.



**LIZ KRAMER**

(she/her/hers)

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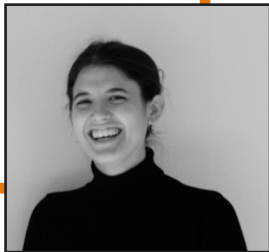
Liz (she/her/hers) is a founder and principal at Public Design Bureau, a human-centered design organization based in St. Louis that works with people working for the public good. She is particularly interested in supporting people to have the skills to understand others' experiences and perspectives while still getting things done.

## **CREATING STRONG FOUNDATIONS: BUILDING EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND FOSTERING COLLABORATION**

**NDC: JULIA DIMAURO, ANGELICA ARIAS, SOPHIE MORLEY**

Community design projects are only as successful as the partnerships that gave rise to the work. Strong partnerships value community time and expertise as equal to technical design support and are the foundation for safe and trusted design processes. Our workshop will focus on the close work we do with groups to understand what they need and want from a project, their current and future capacity, and their connection to the wider community. Building trust, respecting difference, and active listening are key to the success of these partnerships as well as addressing power dynamics and positions of privilege.

This workshop will share a process, including tools and methods, for creating equitable partnerships and articulating clear goals for community design projects that are rooted in elevating marginalized voices and challenging systems of oppression.



### **JULIA DIMAURO**

**(she/her/hers)**

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Julia is an urban historian with a background in participatory design and planning. After working and studying in Berlin, Germany, she returned to her hometown of Baltimore to join the Neighborhood Design Center in supporting locally-driven initiatives as Program Manager for the Community Design Works program in Baltimore City.



### **ANGELICA ARIAS**

**(she/her/hers)**

**aarias@ndc-md.org**

Angelica Arias is a project coordinator at the Neighborhood Design Center. Angelica holds a passion for elevating underserved communities through human-centered design thinking. She has come full circle as she now supports partner-driven projects for communities in Prince George's County, MD - where she grew up and currently lives.



### **SOPHIE MORLEY**

**(she/her/hers)**

**smorley@ndc-md.org**

Sophie Morley is a UK registered architect with a background in inclusive design and community development, she leads the Community Design Works Program in Prince George's County. She came to the Neighborhood Design Center from her home city of London where she was working on affordable housing projects for charities, social landlords and Councils. Since 2010, she has been collaborating with the architecture organization Architecture sans Frontieres, leading projects in Ghana, South Africa and Sierra Leone. She has taught architecture at several UK universities, focusing on equitable practice and social justice in the built environment.

## **WALKING ON GROUNDS: EXPLORING SITE HISTORY, DESIGNER POSITIONALITY, AND MATERIAL ENTANGLEMENTS THROUGH CURIOSITY AND MAKING\***

ALISSA UJIE DIAMOND, HANNAH JANE BROWN

Our workshop will have two parts: an introductory conversation, followed by a site walk where participants will conduct active sketching as we explore the environs near the conference site. First, a lecture/discussion facilitated by Ujie Diamond and Brown will introduce various concepts and methods that support a practice of embodied exploration of site histories through making. Multiple theoretical frames on ground and site work will be introduced. Second, participants will explore the outdoor spaces near the conference site, and facilitators will provide a few locally sourced drawing materials so that participants can process what they experience through spontaneous making. Our session would conclude with a participatory sharing of work generated during the session, and discussion of how the frames and methodologies introduced might be generalizable to design pedagogy and practice.

**\*This workshop is for faculty only.**



**ALISSA UJIE DIAMOND**

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Alissa Ujie Diamond is a landscape architect and a candidate in the Ph.D. program in the constructed environment at the University of Virginia. Her current research examines the intersections of design, everyday life, and racial history in Central Virginia, focusing on how racism is enacted through space, and how spatial practices can become levers for social change. Alissa teaches in the urban and environmental planning and architectural history programs. In addition to her studies, Alissa is currently working with the UVA Equity Center on collaborative research for a regional equity atlas.



**HANNAH JANE BROWN**

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Hannah recently completed her Master's in Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia. Through her work, she strives to realize more just and joy-filled futures for marginalized landscapes and publics. Hannah's thesis work focused on the Shockoe Hill African Burial Ground in Richmond, Virginia.

## **DESIGNING FOR INCLUSION AND SOCIORACIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**TODD LEVON BROWN**

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This workshop will challenge many of the major notions and assumptions prevalent in pedagogy and praxis around the socioracial neutrality of architecture and the built environment. Attendees will learn and understand how designed spaces and places come to embody racialized ideologies and also how their form, function and perception may often frequently materialize a variety of other social qualities that signal class, gender and power relationships among others.



**TODD LEVON BROWN**

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Dr. Brown works at the intersection of architecture, environmental psychology and critical [race] theory to explore the ways in which the built environment is produced, perceived and evaluated as racialized and embodying other social qualities. His overall goal is to promote environmental justice, socioracial sustainability and inclusion in urban design.



## **RACISM UNTAUGHT**

LISA ELZEY MERCER, BILLE CONAWAY

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Racism Untaught is a research study focused on developing tools to facilitate discussions on racialized design. We will guide participants through the design research framework. The workshop begins with the first step, Context, where participants are given over 70 elements of racism. They will contextualize the prompt with the Levels of Oppression, which links the prompt to beliefs, agentic action, institutions, and cultural ideologies of oppression. In the next step, Define, participants are prompted to analyze research methods they might use to further contextualize the prompt. In the next step, Ideate, participants work through ideas to re-imagining a form of racialized design. Next, the participants move to the fourth step, Prototype, creating their first iteration of an idea that re-imagines a form of racialized design. Lastly, participants further analyze the potential impact their solution could have in the last step, Impact.



### **LISA ELZEY MERCER**

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Lisa Elzey Mercer (she/her/hers) is a designer, educator, and researcher. Her interests are in developing and executing design interventions focused on the topics of human-trafficking, incarceration, race, and racism. She is an Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and Design for Responsible Innovation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



### **BILLE CONAWAY**

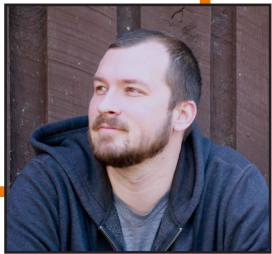
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Billie Conaway (she/her) is a Montessorian who has dedicated her practices in education to social justice, culturally responsive pedagogies, elevating the voices of the Global Majority and dismantling systems of oppression. She is currently a Workshop Facilitator with Racism Untaught and in a year long Community Equity Program with The Wilder Foundation intersecting her passion for education and policy.

## DISRUPTING NARRATIVES OF DESTRUCTION

JORDY YAGER, LORENZO DICKERSON



**JORDY YAGER**

Journalist  
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Jordy Yager is a journalist based in his hometown of Charlottesville, Va. where he currently serves as the Digital Humanities Fellow at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center. There, he helped launch the African American Oral History Project, as well as the Mapping Cville and Mapping Albemarle projects, the region's first comprehensive mapping of racial covenants, infrastructure investment and neglect, wealth, and land loss.

His journalism has appeared in local publications such as Vinegar Hill Magazine, Charlottesville Tomorrow, and C-Ville Weekly, and national outlets such as NPR, PBS, and The New Yorker. It has won multiple first place awards from the Virginia Press Association, the Virginia Association of Broadcasters, and the Society of Professional Journalists.



**LORENZO DICKERSON**

Filmmaker/Photographer  
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Lorenzo Dickerson is a filmmaker/photographer and founder of Maupintown Media with documentary films that focus on sharing stories of African-American history and culture in Virginia. Lorenzo's films have been shown in various film festivals, broadcast on PBS, and used as a teaching tool in K-12 and college classrooms throughout the country.

His own Maupintown Film Festival is held annually at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

A native of Charlottesville/Albemarle, Lorenzo earned a BBA in business management and MBA in marketing from Strayer University and got started as a filmmaker sharing the stories of his own family, including being enslaved at Castle Hill plantation, their participation in the Great Migration, attending an historic Rosenwald School, and desegregating Albemarle County Public Schools.

His dedication to community work in the local area was awarded with the 2019 Community Leadership Award from the Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Charlottesville, and he is a 2022 Community Fellow In-Residence at the Equity Center at the University of Virginia. Lorenzo now serves on the board of directors at Charlottesville's Paramount Theater, Preservation Piedmont as well as VPM's Community Advisory Board.

## **GRAPPLING WITH THE PAST IS THE FUTURE OF DESIGN: A CASE STUDY ON THE MEMORIAL TO ENSLAVED LABORERS**

DETEASA BROWN GATHERS, KELLAN RENNER-THOMAS

Led by DeTeasa Brown Gathers, Descendent of Enslaved Communities at the University of Virginia (DEC-UVA), the tour will invite attendees to sit in the intersection of the reality of our past and its effect on present and future design. The tour experience is approximately one hour in length, and centers the voice of the enslaved (and free) community and descendants as it relates to and influences the design. Contrary to much of the design practice, the MEL design team first engaged in extensive listening, focus groups, and surveys with the local Charlottesville community to decide every major decision of the Memorial – location, design, and the narrative.



### **DETEASA BROWN GATHERS**

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DeTeasa Brown Gathers is a native of Charlottesville and a Founding Leader of Descendants of Enslaved Communities at the University of Virginia (DEC-UVA) a long-term employee of the UVA Department of Surgery and First Baptist Church West Main. She loves her large family and is a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and Auntie to many. DeTeasa enjoys serving her community as a Tour Experience Guide to DEC-UVA, a docent to Beloved Community C-Ville (Virtual Tours), and serves as an advisor to Birth Sisters of Charlottesville.



### **KELLAN RENNER-THOMAS**

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Kellen Renner-Thomas is a friend, colleague, community-engaged designer, adventurer, storyteller, and construction worker. Originally from Roanoke, VA (a quick two hours from here), Charlottesville has been home for the past 7 years. With a Bachelors of Arts in Race, Place, and Space through the American Studies Department and a Masters of Urban and Environmental Planning through the School of Architecture, Kellen has always been interested in the intersection of humanity and the built environment. As a graduate student, Kellen interned on the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers construction project and continues to serve on the MEL Community Engagement Committee. Kellen now works in the Capital Construction and Renovations department of UVA Facilities Management managing large-scale renovation, design, and new construction projects for the University. Around town, you can find Kellen biking almost anywhere, running on the Rivanna River Trail, and telling anyone who will listen about women in construction!



## VISIT WITH THE EQUITY CENTER: A UVA DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE CENTER FOR THE REDRESS OF INEQUITY THROUGH COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

BEN ALLEN, BARBARA BROWN WILSON

The Equity Center grows out of many years of social justice advocacy in Charlottesville and the surrounding region, and the groundbreaking work of organizations like UCARE that have worked tirelessly to call on our university to redress racism in the local community. The Center's mission is to tangibly redress racial and economic inequity in university communities by advancing a transformative approach to the fundamental research mission, which will, in turn, reform institutional values, pedagogy, and operations. The Center envisions universities that serve local communities by bringing rich research resources to bear on the work of redressing poverty and racial inequality, and also equip students to lead in building a just society.

About the **Jefferson School - African American Heritage Center**

<https://jeffschoolheritagecenter.org/>

"Located in the Jefferson School City Center, The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center's mission is to honor and preserve the rich heritage and legacy of the African-American community of Charlottesville-Albemarle, Virginia and to promote a greater appreciation for, and understanding of, the contributions of African Americans and peoples of the Diaspora locally, nationally and globally. The Center features a permanent historical exhibit, a rotating contemporary art gallery, and a robust calendar of events, all of which combine to highlight Charlottesville's African American history and culture of the African diaspora."



### BEN ALLEN

[eba5b@virginia.edu](mailto:eba5b@virginia.edu)

Ben Allen is the Executive Director of the UVA Equity Center. He is a first-generation quadruple Hoo born and raised in Charlottesville. He earned his Ed.D. from the School of Education and Human Development and has research interests around culturally responsive leadership and establishing strong community partnerships. He has worked as a high school history and AVID teacher in Washington, D.C. and Charlottesville and most recently as an elementary school associate principal in Albemarle County. He is also a Captain in the Army Reserves and has served as a logistician, military police officer, and currently as an intelligence analyst.



### BARBARA BROWN WILSON

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Barbara Brown Wilson is an associate professor of urban and environmental planning at the UVA School of Architecture, and co-founder and faculty director at the UVA Democracy Initiative Center for the Redress of Inequity through Community-Engaged Scholarship (aka The Equity Center). Her research and teaching focus on the history, theory, ethics, and practice of planning for climate justice, and on the role of urban social movements in the built world. Dr. Wilson writes for both academic and mainstream audiences, and is the author of *Resilience for All: Striving for Equity through Community-Driven Design* (Island Press: 2018), and co-author of *Questioning Architectural Judgement: The Problem of Codes in the United States* (Routledge: 2013). Her research is often change-oriented, meaning she collaborates with community partners to identify opportunities to move our communities, and the field of urban planning, toward social and environmental justice.

## WALKING TOUR OF THE DOWNTOWN MALL

BETH MEYER

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The Downtown Mall in Charlottesville (1973-1976) is one of a handful of pedestrian streets designed in the aftermath of mid 20th century urban renewal that still exist. Former UVA Planning professor Bill Lucy attributed the Mall's success as a public space to several factors: its minimalist design vocabulary that allows for changing activities over time; the long tenures of a Charlottesville City Manager and City Planner who stewarded the Mall's evolution; its location in a college town; the small scale of the Downtown's urban blocks (200' x 200') that brought frequent north-south pedestrian movement across the Mall; the infusion of dot.com wealth into the region in the late 1990s that created a clientele for fine dining and entertainment; and the maturing of the willow oak bosques which created a cool summer microclimate for strolling, shopping and dining. Our walk and talk will examine the gap between the aspirations of the 1970s design and the lived experience of the Mall today.

This walking tour will describe this 8 block long public space as: a modernist landscape designed by Lawrence Halprin Associates that included a 40 block urban design plan and Charlottesville's first community engagement process; a public space that has been compromised by the privatizing forces of capitalism; a public space that has grown increasingly exclusionary due to do programming and design codes; and a public space capable of reinvigoration through appropriation, small scale design tactics and ongoing maintenance.



### BETH MEYER

**Merrill D. Peterson Professor, Landscape Architecture, University of Virginia**

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Landscape architecture is a socio-ecological spatial practice with its own vocabularies and theories, yet discourse about the designed landscape is hampered by reliance on interpretations by those outside our field. Since the late 1980s, Meyer has addressed this problem by produced a substantial body of theory and criticism that has altered how practitioners around the world create new landscape imaginaries. Grounded in the materiality and experience of actual sites as well as contemporary cultural issues, Meyer's public lectures and essays challenge conventional design practice by questioning the separation of aesthetics and sustainability; race theory and urban topography; public space, living systems and non-human species; cultural landscape interpretation and innovative design. Currently Meyer is writing a book, *The Margins of Modernity*, that reframes the history/theory of modern landscape architecture as a vital, but marginal, practice of city formation and place-making defining this 160-year-old profession's significance in its hybrid spatial logics, material practices and temporal rhythms.

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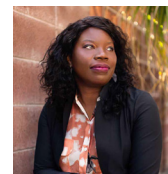
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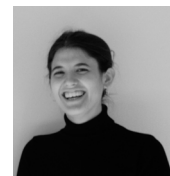
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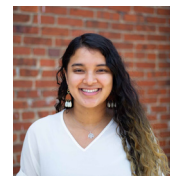
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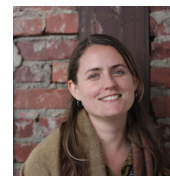
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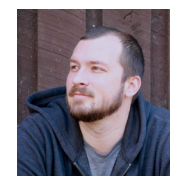
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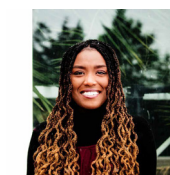
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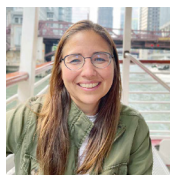
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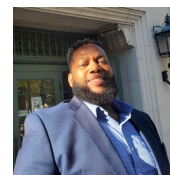
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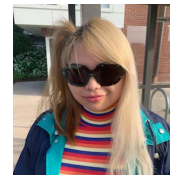
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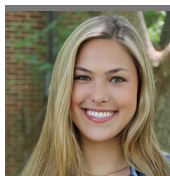
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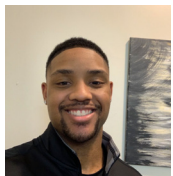
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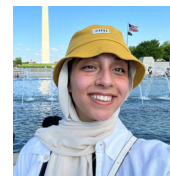
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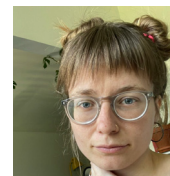
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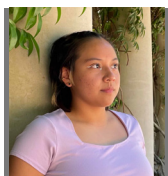


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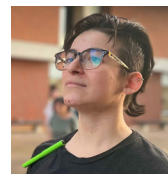
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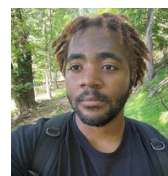
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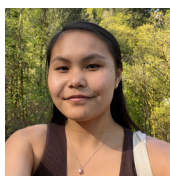


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