

I am a strategic community planner with eight (8) years of direct experience in urban planning and four (4) additional years of related experience in sustainability, community economic development, and marketing communications. My professional experience and interests in planning range widely, from design to data analysis and from community engagement to law. Over the course of my career, I have worked in the nonprofit, private, and public sectors alike, and with clients from all three sectors.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Associate and Project Planner

Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates, Inc. (SGA)
Pittsburgh, PA | August 2022 – present

- Manage projects ranging from brownfield redevelopment plans to historic district design guidelines to multi-municipal planning efforts in all corners of the United States
- Draft written content for plans, studies, and proposals, including site reuse plans, park operations and management plans, and public outreach summaries
- Perform quality control and editing of planning documents prior to finalization and submission to clients
- Conduct research on grants, funding programs, demographics, and environmental histories for use in strategic planning documents
- Develop maps and perform geospatial analyses for planning and landscape architecture projects
- Coordinate with clients, consultants, and subconsultants on a daily basis to advance projects from start to completion

Neighborhood Planner

City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning (DCP)
Pittsburgh, PA | June 2020 – August 2022

- Served as the Neighborhood Planner for seven (7) neighborhoods in the East End of Pittsburgh: Bloomfield, East Liberty, Friendship, Garfield, Highland Park, Larimer, and Morningside; covered several additional neighborhoods including Downtown and Lawrenceville when the Strategic Planning Division experienced staff shortages
- Managed the Development Activities Meeting (DAM) component of the City's Registered Community Organization (RCO) program, which requires development applicants to meet with RCOs representing various city neighborhoods prior to public hearings before City boards and commissions; tasks included hosting and moderating City-led meetings, attending and participating in RCO-led meetings, working with multiple constituent groups on meeting scheduling and other consensus, recording meeting minutes, creating meeting advertisements, and answering questions about policies and responsibilities
- Served as a liaison for a variety of constituents, including neighborhood groups, community members, and development teams, to connect them to City services and direct contacts, help them interpret City Code and policies, and inform them of processes and timelines
- Worked with colleagues to prepare the Oakland Plan and Greater Hill District Master Plan Update for public review and eventual adoption, including formulating goals and strategies, seeking input from community members, drafting written narrative, and helping with meeting coordination
- Worked with colleagues to prepare an inclusionary zoning overlay expansion for adoption by Planning Commission and City Council, including legislation, postings, fielding of questions and comments, community outreach, and presentations before the Commission and Council
- Developed a scoring system for the Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections (PLI) to rank condemned buildings for preservation priority based on factors such as placemaking value and historical significance
- Served as the City project manager and liaison for community projects such as the Friendship Asphalt Art Project and the Equity and Community Engagement in Neighborhood Planning toolkit for Garfield
- Served on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Neighborhood Initiatives Fund (NIF) project review committee

Community Planner

Environmental Planning & Design, LLC (EPD)

Pittsburgh, PA | August 2015 – June 2020

Land Use Planning:

- Worked with colleagues and municipal staffers on over forty (40) zoning ordinances – both Euclidean and form-based – in communities of different sizes across Pennsylvania and Ohio, including the preparation of land use inventories, use regulations, dimensional regulations, and other provisions for zoning districts and overlays
- Reviewed and interpreted zoning, subdivision/land development, and other relevant codes (stormwater, floodplain, historic district, etc.) as well as studies on parking and transportation from the perspectives of both local governments and land users/developers, for projects involving teams of planners, landscape architects, engineers, developers, local elected officials and municipal staffers, and legal professionals
- Worked with colleagues on comprehensive plans and redevelopment plans for over twenty (20) communities across Pennsylvania
- Drafted a new subdivision/land development ordinance for Indiana County, Pennsylvania and prepared sections of subdivision and land development ordinances for other communities
- Wrote provisions for historic districts, mixed-use districts, heritage and form-based overlays, sign regulations, and design guidelines for multiple municipalities in Pennsylvania and Ohio
- Ensured compliance of zoning ordinances and subdivision/land development ordinances with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), where applicable

Infrastructure and Transportation Planning:

- Worked with colleagues and Mt. Lebanon Municipality's economic development director on a parking infrastructure, circulation, and policy improvement plan for the Beverly Road business district in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania
- Completed a pedestrian improvement and traffic calming plan for Oakmont, Pennsylvania
- Prepared concept plans, site plans, cross sections, and cost estimates for several recreational amenities, including portions of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and a proposal kayak rental facility on the Allegheny River for Kayak Pittsburgh/Venture Outdoors
- Mapped the optimal routing of a potential future extension of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, from Millvale to Freeport, Pennsylvania, based on field visits and the incorporation of existing trail planning efforts
- Recalibrated the SouthSide Works parking demand modeling tool used by the Soffer Organization, former owner and developer of SouthSide Works, to simulate and project parking needs for current and future development
- Prepared zoning ordinance provisions that incorporated alternatives for land users/developers to reduce off-street parking requirements through shared parking, off-site parking, and other incentive-based options
- Prepared street character analyses and mapping for use in redevelopment plans and form-based code

Economic Development and Housing:

- Worked with a large landowner client in Columbus, Ohio on real estate consulting, resource management, fiscal analysis, and development guidance for their land, totaling over two thousand (2,000) acres; completed research and due diligence to prepare the client for a major land sale for the construction of a new data center
- Prepared a study for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to determine the feasibility of a large-landscape management partnership in Northwestern Pennsylvania centered around natural and historic resources, outdoor recreation, and local economies; proposed funding alternatives and management recommendations for such a partnership
- Completed a comprehensive housing analysis and plan for Braddock, Pennsylvania
- Completed a mixed-use and multifamily residential market analysis for Robinson Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
- Worked with a neighborhood community development corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia to prepare a developers' package to be solicited to mixed-use and multifamily developers
- Completed analyses of comparable sales and listings in specific market areas and industry sectors to determine appropriate fair market values for land sale and eminent domain negotiation

Other Duties:

- Wrote five (5) expert witness opinions submitted as exhibits before local zoning hearing boards on topics such as use and dimensional variances, wireless communication facilities, and planned residential developments; contributed to additional opinions written by colleagues
- Researched, filtered, and interpreted demographic and economic data for a number of planning projects in Pennsylvania and Florida, including comprehensive plans, redevelopment plans, and park and recreation plans
- Prepared proposals in response to RFPs for planning and landscape architecture/urban design projects
- Developed visually engaging diagrams for municipal clients highlighting MPC processes related to zoning code and map amendments, approval of ordinances, and review of planned unit developments
- Led or helped facilitate community charrettes, presentations, and client work sessions; attended public meetings and pre-proposal meetings on behalf of firm
- Edited and wrote copy for professional publications, presentations, meeting materials, and correspondence
- Served in backup role on graphic design and GIS mapping tasks

Program and Operations Assistant

Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone (ARTEZ)
Millvale, PA | February 2014 – July 2015

- Assisted in the daily operations of running a small nonprofit community economic development organization
- Managed design and outreach communications, including monthly newsletter, website, annual report, social media, flyers, brochures, presentations, and maps
- Researched and wrote grants and letters of inquiry, interest, and support
- Identified and communicated with potential organizational and project partners
- Facilitated the ARTEZ Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
- Coordinated meetings for Executive Director and community stakeholders; attended and occasionally led meetings, trainings, and conferences on behalf of Executive Director; recorded minutes for board and committee meetings
- Oversaw financial and accounting activities, including bookkeeping, generation of finance reports through QuickBooks, and preparation for audits
- Coordinated outreach events to promote ARTEZ and to serve community residents and businesses; assisted with community activities, including tree plantings and festivals

Intern Director of Youth Education and Training

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden
North Fayette Township, Allegheny County, PA | May 2013 – October 2013

- Supervised young adults from work placement and foster care programs in site plan implementation to prepare for the opening of the first phase of the garden (tasks included trail building and maintenance, landscaping, brush clearing, and fence building)
- Developed concepts for a landscaping/horticulture educational and certification program for young adults
- Educated visitors on the development of the garden, its sustainable features, and the importance of preserving native species and ridding the site of invasive plants
- Led corporate and community volunteers on volunteer work days

Green Cities Sustainability Fellow, Sustainable Businesses and Communities

Student Conservation Association (SCA) / Sustainable Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA | February 2012 – December 2012

- Coordinated the Sustainable Business Designation Program (now called Sustainable Pittsburgh Shop) for small business sustainability certification

- Crafted an improved and more comprehensive sustainability certification checklist, redeveloping the criteria
- Developed and presented focus groups and workshops on sustainability for small business owners
- Promoted the program to hundreds of business owners through in-person visits and follow-up communication
- Worked with the Executive Director to develop and launch the Sustainable Community Essentials Certification (now called Sustainable Pennsylvania) for local government sustainability
 - Developed certification criteria, point values, and a merit-based award system
 - Wrote and edited criteria descriptions and performed testing for the web-based evaluation portal

Trail Town Outreach Corps Member, Community Outreach and Sustainability

Student Conservation Association (SCA) / The Progress Fund
Connellsville, PA | February 2011 – December 2011

- Coordinated the Great Allegheny Passage Sustainable Business Network (GAP SBN) of tourism-related businesses in towns along the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) bike trail from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland
 - Managed, developed, expanded, and marketed the GAP SBN program, including the recruitment of seven (7) new businesses
 - Completed sustainability assessments for small businesses and advised them on how to lower their carbon footprints while saving money
 - Facilitated community events and meetings to engage small businesses, residents, and other stakeholders in sustainability topics and practices
- Oversaw the Great Allegheny Passage trail count program for the electronic and manual counting of trail users
 - Gathered and synthesized data for trail use studies and economic impact reports
 - Coordinated community volunteers for trail-wide counting days

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis

Bachelor of Arts, 2010

Major: Environmental Studies

Minor: Anthropology

Other significant coursework: Architecture, Business, Urban Studies

CERTIFICATIONS

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

American Planning Association (APA) | December 2019 – present

LEED AP Building Design + Construction

Green Building Certification Inc. / U.S. Green Building Council | June 2014 – present

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher) – high proficiency
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat) – high proficiency
- Zoom and Microsoft Teams – high proficiency
- ArcGIS (online and desktop) – working proficiency