

Melon Wedick

Education

Master of Urban Planning

Concentration in Physical Planning & Urban Design; Phi Kappa Phi; Academic Achievement Award.

University of Michigan, April 2008

Bachelor of Arts

Majors: Theatre, Philosophy. Recipient of James S McLaughlin Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Student Theatre.

Oberlin College, May 2000

Relevant Work Experience

Planner

Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects & Planners: September 2010-May 2014

- **Project Manager: Gowanus Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Nomination Study (Current Project)**
The BOA program is a state-funded initiative to encourage catalytic economic development and investment in areas profoundly affected by brownfields. As the project manager and lead planner for this multi-firm, community-based project addressing a gentrifying, Superfund-adjacent neighborhood, I:
 - Coordinated the work of a multi-disciplinary and multi-firm team;
 - Met with clients, stakeholders, and City, State, and Federal representatives;
 - Maintained overall file and data organization over a period of more than a year;
 - Developed workshop exercises and materials for two highly interactive stakeholder meetings;
 - Conducted outreach to business and property owners;
 - Created research methodologies, performed research, and directed the work of two off-site interns;
 - Developed and managed a project GIS that combined city administrative data (including zoning, property ownership, building records, etc.), Sanborn map findings, 3rd party economic and environmental data, primary land use observations, and site photographs;
 - Geocoded results from a survey of businesses and associated resulting data with building and parcel data to analyze findings for geographically relevant findings;
 - Developed a user-friendly interactive guide to local development and brownfield remediation incentives;
 - Developed graphics, maps, and presentations suitable for a variety of audiences; and
 - Worked collaboratively with the project team, client, and state representative to integrate findings and draft the final Nomination Study document (*in progress, January 2014*).
- **Public Outreach Coordinator & Plan Co-Author: Rebuild by Design (BIG Team)**
Rebuild by Design was a federally-funded competition to design solutions that would protect areas ravaged by Superstorm Sandy from future climate change and storm events. As part of the BIG Team, I:
 - Reviewed and summarized a decades' worth of existing plans for the area;
 - Designed the agenda, content, and materials including presentation slides, worksheets, and surveys for four highly interactive public outreach meetings on the Lower East Side;
 - Analyzed all feedback from the public workshops and summarized for the team; and
 - Wrote roughly 60 pages of the team's final report.
- **Project Manager & Plan Author: BQE Enhancement Study, Design The Edge: Hallets Cove**
As project manager and plan author for these community-based, conceptual design projects, I:
 - Facilitated communication and organization among multi-disciplinary, multi-firm project teams, City clients, and City agencies;
 - Assisted with public presentations and stakeholder workshops, developing presentations, display materials, and interactive exercises;
 - Conducted precedent, policy, and regulatory research;
 - Tabulated and analyzed workshop exercise results;
 - Assisted with preparation of capital and maintenance cost estimates;
 - Developed graphics, diagrams, and maps appropriate to a range of audiences; and
 - Worked collaboratively with project teams and client groups to create final report documents, appendices, and marketing materials.
- **Public Outreach Coordination: Hoboken Lot 12 Park,**
I offered workshop agenda and exercise design guidance to generate engaging, meaningful, and usable public input.
- **POPS zoning analyses and diagrams: plazas at W57th Street and E92nd Street**
I developed comprehensive zoning analyses and illustrative diagrams for clients wishing to create POPS according to New York City's public plaza guidelines.

Senior Planner/Assistant Director, Regional Planner

Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (an MPO): November 2008-September 2010

- **Safe Routes to School Master Plan, Plymouth CT:** I led the Town of Plymouth's effort to secure Safe Routes to School funds for a sidewalk improvement near two schools in their Terryville village district. For this project, I:
 - Coordinated and led all committee meetings;
 - Administered, collected, and analyzed surveys;
 - Geocoded survey results and used ArcGIS's Network Analyst to create a student walkshed analysis to guide the site selection process;
 - Coordinated a Walk to School Day attended by 170 parents, students, and staff members;
 - Conducted a walking conditions survey of sidewalks and intersections;
 - Wrote the master plan and project application; and
 - Presented about the project at the PTA, a town informational meeting, and a public hearing.The project was awarded \$430,000 by the CT DOT, and the master plan was posted on the state website as an example. The GIS walkshed was awarded an honorable mention at CT GIS Day in November 2009.
- **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan:** I was the principal planner and sole author of the region's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (approved by FEMA in February 2011). For this project, I:
 - Worked extensively with local planners, public works officials, and emergency management directors to ascertain local needs and priorities regarding hazard mitigation;
 - Devised and prioritized strategies for implementation on the local and regional levels;
 - Collected, analyzed, and symbolized data;
 - Created GIS maps and other tables and visual representations as necessary; and
 - Wrote the plan document.
- **Other Projects:**
 - **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** I was the principal planner in charge of developing the region's 5-year CEDS update. I also successfully applied for the \$64,000 grant from the US EDA which is supporting this work.
 - **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail:** I assisted the town of Plainville, CT with efforts to find a suitable route for this regionally significant trail to follow through their town, by participating in their meetings, assisting the town with hiring of a consultant to prepare a concept plan, and writing the final report from the routing study conducted by CCRPA.
 - **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT):** I coordinated three CERTs in our region and participated in regional and statewide coordinating councils representing these volunteer groups.
 - **General Transportation Planning Duties:** I prepared quarterly updates of the UPWP, as well as Title VI reports for federal highway funds, as required by federal law.

Research Assistant

Professor Margaret Dewar, University of Michigan: May 2007 – October 2008

- **Indicators Project:** I performed quantitative analysis comparing changes in Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data with changes in Census demographics in order to test the hypothesis that HMDA data could act as early-warning indicators of neighborhood decline.
- **Auctions Project:** I used GIS in combination with County Assessors' data to examine the extent to which land bank and city/county property auction sales resulted in the formation of blots in Flint and Detroit (where blots are defined as three or more residential parcels on the same block owned by a single individual). I also created tables, charts, and PowerPoint presentation slides.
- **CDC Capacity Project:** I used GIS, aerial photos, city administrative data, and Sanborn fire insurance maps to assess what percent of parcels successfully developed by housing CDCs in Cleveland and Detroit had been vacant, abandoned, or contaminated, as part of an effort to determine what helps and hinders CDCs trying to reuse property and develop housing. I also conducted background research into individual CDCs and arranged and assisted with interviews of CDC representatives and city staff.

Skills

Computer Literacy: Type 80 wpm. Equally comfortable on PC and Mac platforms. Skilled in: MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher), ESRI ArcGIS 10 (and prior versions; ArcInfo, ArcEditor, Network Analyst, Spatial Analyst, etc.), Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Acrobat Professional, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, SketchUp, Google Earth, SPSS. Experienced in: VectorWorks, AutoCAD, Wordperfect, Access.

Other: Prior to becoming a planner, I acquired skills in bookkeeping, customer service, carpentry, welding, and technical theatre. I have excellent research, project management, and time management skills, and am an extremely fast learner.