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ABBY ZAN

URBAN PLANNER | STRATEGIST | ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

*Committed to the collaborative, imaginative pursuit
of more equitable, just, and sustainable cities.*

EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE, PLANNING

2022-Present

SENIOR URBAN PLANNER

2021-2022

URBAN PLANNER

2019-2021

WXY Studio

NYC / Washington, DC

- Manage complex planning projects with a focus on equity in local and regional planning processes, culture and placemaking, and engagement.
- Steward strong working relationships with a range of clients in the private and public sectors, to ensure timely project delivery and develop collaborative solutions to planning challenges.
- Analyze, synthesize, and communicate information to a wide range of audiences through compelling graphics, writing, presentations, reports, and public speaking.
- Collaboratively lead diverse, inter-disciplinary teams while applying an equity framework in the development of creative plans, studies, and programs.

RESEARCHER & TEACHING ASSISTANT

2017-2019

Parsons School of Design

NYC

- Scoped and managed research processes within a critical urban planning and design context, including the development of Climate of Change program.
- Developed effective writing and presentation materials to convey information to academic and non-technical audiences.
- Developed curriculum and taught course on social practice and tactical urbanism.

PROJECT MANAGER

2016-2017

Sheldon Scott Studios

Washington, DC

- Managed communication, partnerships, and production processes for social practice art and design studio.
- Managed budgets and conduct financial analysis to ensure smooth project implementation.
- Developed externally facing materials to communicate studio projects and programs.

CONNECTIVITY ASSOCIATE

2014-2016

Woolly Mammoth Theater

Washington, DC

- Designed and led community engagement strategy and developed equity programs for trailblazing cultural organization.
- Built & nurtured more than 35 community partnerships to amplify the reach of the organization with a focus on engaging marginalized communities in D.C.
- Developed more than 90 unique public programs from the ground up, including concept development and coordinating outreach and communications.

EDUCATION

PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN
THE NEW SCHOOL
2017-2019

M.S. DESIGN & URBAN ECOLOGIES

Departmental Honors; Co-Chair, Hub for Urban Practices

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
2014

CERTIFICATE, CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
2008-2012

B.A. PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Summa Cum Laude

LANGUAGES

SPANISH (*fluent*)

FRENCH (*fluent*)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

DESIGN (ADOBE CREATIVE SUITE)

COMMUNICATION (WRITING, LAYOUT, STRATEGY)

GIS (QGIS, CARTO)

ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING