

Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Master of Landscape Architecture

May 2023 (expected)
Directed Research: How can regional nursery stock facilitate habitat connectivity for endangered species among remaining Kankakee ecosystems?

DePaul University, Chicago, IL Bachelor of Arts in Geography

May 2014 Summa cum laude
Independent Study: Liminal space analysis of hip hop, community gardens and food culture

Columbia College Chicago

Sept 2010 - May 2012 Coursework in Marketing, Public Relations, Environmental Science

Skills

Site Design & Design - Build
Plant Selection & Curation
Edible Landscapes
Public Engagement & Speaking
Program & Project Facilitation
Strategic Thinking
Construction Details

Softwares

Adobe Creative Cloud
AutoCAD & Rhino
GIS
Microsoft Office Suite

Awards

Wildcat Excellence, Community Partner Award
Northwestern University, (2018)

Outstanding Senior in Geography

DePaul University, (2014)

Outstanding First Year Student
Columbia College Chicago, (2011)

Earth Mama Design

Founder & Operator

May 2018 - Present
Bourbonnais, IL

- Design and build concepts to meet clients' goals, while implementing successful land and water management, facilitating increased pollinator habitat and creating beautiful outdoor spaces
- Respond creatively to site specific challenges and assets, revealing and facilitating favorable site conditions including new views, circulation flow, material diversity and texture
- Budget, schedule and source materials for multiple projects concurrently, adjusting to dynamic project needs in Bourbonnais, Chicago, Evanston and Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Transform residential properties with multi-layered perennial landscapes and four-season interest
- Introduce berm and swale techniques, elevating user experience and landscape performance through strategic, site-specific design methods and sensitivity

Black Oaks Center

Landscape Architecture Intern and Program Coordinator

May - October 2022
(Pembroke Township) Kankakee, IL

- Developed map diagrams for 15 farms showing topography and water flow, Natural Resource Conservation Service native ecologies, soil types and drainage using ArcGIS Pro and Adobe Illustrator
- Designed agroforestry land management infographics in collaboration with Savanna Institute Technical Service Provider using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
- Documented site-specific field notes land management considerations for each farmer in Microsoft Word
- Created farmer training workshop series to build land owner stewardship capacity in the rare black oaks savanna (*Quercus velutina*) and coordinated niche expert teachers for land-based skills like composting, mushroom cultivation, high tunnel production, silvopasture, foraging and working-lands system design

A Just Harvest

Program Director of Education and Community Development

Aug 2015 - Nov 2018
(Rogers Park) Chicago, IL

- Led community-based fundraising project, grant writing and collaborative design initiatives yielding \$200k+ in publicly funded garden infrastructure improvements for Chicago Public Schools' Gale Academy, an outdoor perennial garden built in students' vision, featuring edible and native plants
- Provided 1,500+ garden-based environmental education experiences for youth preK - 8th grade resulting in completed Next Generation Science Standard-aligned learning objectives and improved teacher attitudes toward school garden and indoor greenhouse
- Created and facilitated after school garden club engaging 15 youth K - 6th grade resulting in increased stewardship over green spaces and 100% positive survey results measuring participants' opinions

Greencorps Chicago Youth Program

Instructor promoted to Coordinator

May - Aug 2014, '15 & '16
Chicago, IL

- Designed, budgeted and managed youth-led experiential education design-build projects with stakeholders across public Chicago sites including churches, schools and community gardens, facilitated perennial installs and troubleshoot issues as project manager
- Trained instructors, promoting effective teamwork skills and proven place-based education techniques
- Coordinated instructors across south and west side locations, providing curriculum and emergency support; curated site-specific plant selections and placed orders; scheduled bus transportation

Peterson Garden Project

Intern promoted to Program Coordinator

Sept 2011 - Feb 2015
(Albany Park, Edgewater, Ravenswood & Rogers Park) Chicago, IL

- Managed 1,000 membership enrollments at six community gardens, organized database, troubleshoot customer concerns and maintained a positive company reputation with growing client base
- Developed public education events as a self-starter, enabling participants to successfully grow annual food crops in urban environments and cook their own food at the Broadway Armory Community Kitchen