

Melon Wedick

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Education

Master of Urban Planning

University of Michigan, April 2008

Concentration in Physical Planning & Urban Design

GPA 8.111 out of 8.0; Phi Kappa Phi; Academic Achievement Award

Capstone Project: "City as a Model of Sustainability," an architecture / planning project reinventing a disinvested area of Detroit as a regional center for bartering, resource reuse, and recycling.

Bachelor of Arts

Oberlin College, May 2000

Majors: Theater, Philosophy

Recipient of the James S. McLaughlin Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Student Theatre

Notable Work Experience

Research Assistant, Professor Margaret Dewar

University of Michigan, May 2007 – present

CDC Capacity Project

Summer 2007

- Used GIS, aerial photos, and Sanborn maps in combination to assess what percent of parcels developed by CDCs in Cleveland and Detroit were vacant, abandoned or contaminated.
- Conducted additional research into CDC activities in Cleveland and Detroit through background research and literature review.
- Arranged and provided support during interviews with CDC representatives.

Auctions Project

May 2008

- Used GIS in combination with County Assessors' data to examine the extent to which land bank and auction sales resulted in formation of blots in Flint and Detroit.
- Created tables, charts, and PowerPoint presentation slides as needed.

Cities After Abandonment Project

Ongoing

- Currently researching scholarship in various fields about the ways in which abandonment (due to the foreclosure crisis, economic restructuring, or other factors) reshapes the city, and how management of vacant property can / should affect outcomes. This is the first step in collecting background information for a book Professor Dewar hopes to edit.

Co-Founder & Director, Greenville Shakespeare Festival

April 2002 – September 2003

The Festival was launched under the umbrella of the Center for American Studies as a combined arts and community development project meant to bring performance and educational opportunities to Greenville, NH, while helping to draw media attention and local support to The Greenville Project, a local grassroots organization dedicated to revitalizing downtown.

- Participated in meetings of The Greenville Project, helped them draft a mission statement, publicized their goals, held benefit performances, attended their public events, and raised funds for them.
- Oversaw two epistolary fundraising campaigns, applied for and won a \$5,000 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, and managed all long-term and day-to-day financial and logistical aspects of the Festival's operations.
- Drafted all written content for web & print publicity, press releases, solicitation letters, donor correspondence, etc.
- Developed relationships with local business and venue owners, church groups, residents, civic groups, and town leaders.
- Developed a roster of classes, workshops, performances and benefits that offered local community members opportunities to participate in a host of different activities relating to Shakespeare, theater performance & production, and dance.

- COMPLETE WORK HISTORY AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST -

Skills

Computer Literacy

I am comfortable and equally skilled on PC and Macintosh platforms, and type at 80+ wpm. Skilled in: MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, ArcGIS, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, SketchUp, QuickBooks, Quicken, MYOB, and all standard internet browsers. Proficient in: Acrobat Professional, SPSS, Dreamweaver, Access, Wordperfect, MS Works, etc. I am an extremely fast learner, and enjoy learning new skills.

Other

I have additional experience in: customer service (face-to-face and over the telephone), bookkeeping, stage and production management (including choreographing set changes and training crews), scenic and finish carpentry, MIG and TIG welding, hand drafting and drawing, theatrical electrics, and puppet- and model-making. I am a published short-story author and thrive under deadlines. I can whistle and hum simultaneously.