

Mary Elizabeth deLaittre

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Groundwork: The Foundation for City Building 2006 – present

Groundworkcitybuilding.com

Founder and Principal

A consultancy that operates at the intersection of design and public policy – bringing together various stakeholders, and providing expertise to help realize complex city building projects.

Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition present

Minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com

Competition Manager

Groundwork is consulting to the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and creative partners, the Walker Art Center and the University of Minnesota College of Design, developing and coordinating a design competition that re-evaluates 5.4 miles of the Minneapolis Riverfront. The competition is the first demonstration project of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation's 'Next Generation of Parks', a design-driven initiative for a 21st century park system sponsored by the Minneapolis Parks Foundation and developed by Groundwork.

2020 Partners 2007 – present (formerly DAG 360 and 2010 Partners)

the2020partners.com

Co-Founder and Development Consultant

2020 Partners is a forum to facilitate the continuing transformation of a vital and unique place. Its goal is to lay the foundation and attract investment for future development by knitting together communities and leveraging the assets of Target Field, Minneapolis Farmer's Market, transit and energy.

SiteLines Education (formerly Environmental Literacy: Neighborhood-Based Learning) 1999 – present

Sitelineseducation.org

Founder and Executive Director

SiteLines, a 501(c)(3), conducts research and develops educational materials, programs and events about neighborhood planning and design.

SiteSeeing: Making Neighborhoods Visible

Author

An elementary and high school curriculum, SiteSeeing teaches students how to see and think critically about the built and natural environment and create communities that connect rather than segregate.

Award: Committee on Urban Environment – 2004

Twin Cities Design Celebration: University of Minnesota Design Institute 2002 – 2005

General Manager

A year-long series of design commissions, events and publications that include:

Design Camp – A five-day camp that introduces teens to design using structured activities and hands-on experience with the creative process. Now in its fifth year, internationally acclaimed designers lead all workshops.

Award: Metropolitan Home 100 Best of the Best - 2003

Knowledge Maps – An international design competition that involved nine teams of researchers and graphic artists creating maps that reveal characteristics unique to the Twin Cities.

Award: Committee on Urban Environment – 2004

Big Urban Game – A five-day mass participation game played across Minneapolis and St. Paul to encourage residents to rediscover the Twin Cities.

Award: Committee on Urban Environment – 2004

IDEA Conference – Innovations in Design Education and Application conference created to shape the course of future Design Institute initiatives and guide the direction of the new College of Design.

Safety and the Urban Environment: University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture 1992 – 1993

Co-creator and Project Director

A design competition, symposium, and catalog addressing personal safety and the design of the urban environment.

Planning to Stay: University of Minnesota Design Center for the American Urban Landscape 1990 – 1992

Research Assistant

Conducted research and collaborated on writing and creating artwork for this guide to neighborhood development.

ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

Residence: Minneapolis, MN 2005 – 2006

Design/Builder

Built seven-room, two-storey home featured in 2006 Twin Cities Home Tour

Miller-Dunwiddie Architects: Minneapolis, MN 1998 – 1999

Architectural Designer and Project Manager

Vincent James Associates Inc: Minneapolis, MN 1996 – 1998

Business Manager, Marketing, Master Planning

Western Initiative for Neighborhood Development: St. Paul, MN 1994 – 1996

Community Development Consultant

Dayton's Bluff Center for Civic Life: St. Paul, MN 1994 – 1995

Community Development Consultant

Capital Area Architecture and Planning Board: St. Paul, MN 1992 – 1993

Planner I

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

University of Minnesota: College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Lecturer 1997 – 2005 Taught undergraduate urban design studio courses.

Award: Frederick Mann Award for Disciplinary Service 2003

Coordinator 2000 – 2001

Undergraduate Design Studio

Project Associate 1993

Research relationship between public transportation, land use and personal safety

Research Assistant 1993

Civilizing Suburbia: A study of sustainable development for third-ring suburbs

Teaching Assistant 1992 – 1993

Undergraduate Urban Design courses

SELECT LECTURES

Met Council, Planners Network Conference on Design, CELA, AIA, APA, Minnesota Science Museum,

University of Minnesota, North Dakota State University, University of St. Thomas, University of Utah

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hennepin County

Designer Selection Committee

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

Board member

Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee member

Nokomis East Station Area Plan

Steering Committee member

Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association

Board member

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Masters of Architecture,

Concentration in Urban Design

Brown University, Providence, RI

Bachelor of Arts, Art History

L'Université de Lyon, Lyon, France

Architectural History

BIBLIOGRAPHY, TRAVEL, CONFERENCES AND LANGUAGES

Available upon request