

MEGAN OLIVER AICP

Urbanist & Happiness Enthusiast

443-631-0060

HELLOHAPPY.DESIGN

SUSTAINABLE.MEG@GMAIL.COM

EXPERTISE

Urban Design
Participatory Planning
Graphic Design & Arts

PROFICIENCY

Adobe Creative Suite



SketchUp



Esri/ArcGIS



AutoCAD



Microsoft Office



Public Participation



EDUCATION

2014

Morgan State University

Master of City and Regional
Planning, *Specializing in Urban
Design & Sustainable Cities*

4.0 GPA

2014 American Institute
of Certified Planners,
Outstanding Student Award

2009

Maryland Institute College of Art

Bachelor of Fine Arts,
Environmental Design

Dean's List 2008

2005

School of Visual Arts

Foundation & Studio

Coursework, *Interior Design*

RECENT EXPERIENCE

12+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

2020 to
Present

Hello Happy Design | Baltimore, MD

Independent Design & Planning Practice

- » Apply understandings from psychological and social sciences to the design of environments as a method to help individuals and communities thrive

January
2021 to
Present

Hume / The Centre for Conscious Design | Remote
[Tel Aviv, Israel / London, UK]

Design & Research Intern

- » Facilitate widespread use of a science-informed architecture and urban design approach through the collection and presentation of research and design insights
- » Translate scientific insights and design concepts into compelling visuals for practitioners
- » Support the development of a forthcoming website

2019
to 2020

RK&K | Baltimore, MD

Healthy Communities Planner

- » Engaged with residents and project stakeholders to identify community function, future opportunities, and what actions are needed to implement change
- » Encouraged healthy, active transportation choices through spacial design and placemaking strategies

2014
to 2019

Mahan Rykiel Associates | Baltimore, MD

Associate Planner

- » Created award-winning master and strategic plans
- » Structured and followed an iterative community participation process that fostered a sense of public ownership in design
- » Employed human-centered and asset-based design approaches to celebrate community culture and identity
- » Designed infographic, report, and marketing materials
- » Illustrated and rendered planning and design concepts
- » Analyzed social, economic, and environmental conditions

2013
to 2014

Baltimore Office of Sustainability | Baltimore, MD

Sustainability Planner; AmeriCorps Service Member with Civic Works

- » Served as lead editor and designer of the Disaster Preparedness Project and Plan (DP3), as well as the 2012 and 2013 Annual Sustainability Reports
- » Managed the integration of citywide planning efforts using the STAR Community Rating System as a structural framework
- » Created and executed a public sustainability outreach campaign using print and digital platforms

EXPANDED WORK HISTORY

MICA
Graduated, BFA

MAHAN RYKIEL
ASSOCIATES INC
Landscape Architecture & Planning Firm



RESEARCH

- 2020 to 2021** **Hello Happy**
Self-funded research sabbatical into science-informed design and planning strategies for shaping places for improved mental well-being
- 2016** **A Little Piece of Havn: How Copenhagen Redefines Waterfront Development**
Founder's Travel Fund Award for Personal Research Project | Copenhagen, Denmark
» *Traveled to Copenhagen to study waterfront urbanism in the re-development of Nordhavn for comparison with development in post-industrial port cities of the United States.*
- 2016** **Equitable + Diverse Engagement**
Firm Research Initiative, Mahan Rykiel Associates | Baltimore, MD
» *Led a team in identifying challenges and alternatives to conventional public participation techniques.*
- 2014** **Deep Ecological Urbanism: A framework for integrating science and ethics into the planning and design of human-dominated ecosystems**
Graduate Dissertation, Professional Project at Morgan State University | Baltimore, MD
» *Developed the Deep Ecological Urbanism framework and created a series of tools to aid planners and urban designers in applying scientific research in practice*
- 2013 to 2014** **Deep Ecological Urbanism: Ecology, efficiency, and ethics in urban design**
Student Fellowship, Environment, Natural Resources, & Energy Division | APA National
» *Reviewed existing literature in the fields of ecology, deep ecology, ecological urbanism, and urban planning to define my "Deep Ecological Urbanism" framework, folding an understanding of the principles of natural sciences, as well as the ethical consideration of nature, into the planning of healthy, ecological, and equitable cities*

TEACHING

- Spring 2017** **Open Up Baltimore: Landscape Architecture Studio, Co-Teacher**
Morgan State University School of Architecture & Planning, Master of Landscape Architecture Program
» *Instructed students on concepts of community engagement and public space design*
» *Introduced students to technical skills for site analysis, public participation, and graphics production*
- 2013** **Deep Ecological Urbanism, Guest Lecture**
Community College of Baltimore, Horticulture Program

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- Emerging Leaders Program, 2017 Cohort**
Greenland and Associates
- Certified Planning Professional, 2015**
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

- January 2021** How to Pandemic-Proof Community Service
Planning Magazine
- April 2014** Deep Ecological Urbanism: A framework for integrating science and ethics into the planning and design of human-dominated ecosystems [Capstone Project]
- May 2013** Deep Ecological Urbanism: Ecology, efficiency, and ethics in urban design [Supervised Research]

PUBLICATIONS AS CONTRIBUTOR

- Campo, D. (2016). Historic Preservation in an Economic Void: Reviving Buffalo's Concrete Atlantis. *Journal of Planning History*, March 2016. [Contributed research]
- Campo, D. (2013). *The Accidental Playground: Brooklyn Waterfront Narratives of the Undesigned and Unplanned*. New York: Fordham University Press. [Contributed artwork]

PRESENTATIONS + EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** Design for Distancing: Reactivating Baltimore's Public Realm | Panelist
The Nature of Cities Festival, Virtual
- 2019** The Human Element of Planning and Design | Co-Presenter
American Planning Association Maryland Chapter 37th Biennial Conference
- 2018** Design 101 | Presenter
Main Street Basic Training, Elkton, MD
- 2018** Strong Partners Develop Strong Neighborhoods | Panelist
Maryland Economic Development Administration, Elkton, MD
- 2017** Innovations in Planning Technology | Co-Presenter
American Planning Association Maryland Chapter Annual Meeting and Conference, Annapolis, MD
- 2017** Building on Strength: Creative Economic Development | Co-Presenter
American Planning Association National Planning Conference, New York, NY
- 2016** Get Engaged! Including Everyone in the Park Design Process | Co-Presenter
Maryland Recreation & Parks Association, Ocean City, MD
- 2016** Responding to Civil Unrest Through Community-led Planning | Moderator
American Planning Association Maryland Chapter Event, Baltimore, MD
- 2014** Navigating a Career in Planning | Presenter
Morgan Association of Planning Students, Professional Development Institute, Baltimore, MD

CONTACT ME



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[/MeganOliver](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MeganOliver)



[@theurbangranola](https://twitter.com/theurbangranola)



Baltimore, Maryland

NOTE: Megan "Oliver" is my professional ("known as") name, while my legal name is Megan Schwartz.