

Melanie A. Markowicz

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Greektown Neighborhood Partnership | Detroit | Michigan **Executive Director**

July 2019 – Current

Chief executive officer of a nonprofit community development organization dedicated to the long-term economic and cultural vibrancy of the historic Greektown district. Responsibilities include developing and implementing the organization's strategic direction, development, programs, and community engagement.

- :: Development and implementation of the *Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision*, an urban planning and development effort focused on connectivity, increasing built density and activation, the introduction of new public parks, the creation of a mixed-use neighborhood, and amplifying cultural heritage.
- :: Awarded \$425,959 National Park Service African American Civil Rights grant for the Second Baptist Church of Detroit Rehabilitation and Nomination Project.
- :: Development of a new downtown public park plaza and Monroe Streetscape Improvement Program.

Twosixfour LLC | Detroit | Michigan **Partner**

March 2019 – Current

Partner and project manager in historic preservation and urban planning consulting firm. Working on National Register of Historic Places Nominations for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office for the Orsel and Minnie McGhee House and Vaughn's Bookstore, both City of Detroit Civil Rights historic sites.

Charter County of Wayne | Detroit | Michigan **Department Executive | Economic Development Corporation**

February 2018 – July 2019

Special projects manager for countywide community and economic development programs with a focus on parks, development, historic preservation, connectivity, multi-modal transit, and nonmotorized facilities.

- :: Awarded \$1.9 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation for countywide trails, parks, connectivity, and heritage programs. Conceptualized and launched the Connecting the Rouge Project.
- :: Developed and managed the Mill Run Project, guiding the rehabilitation of Ford historic resources.
- :: Executed development, acquisition and disposition of property and parkland, purchase and redevelopment agreements, historic preservation restrictions, NEPA and Section 106 compliance, RFPs, and NOFAs.
- :: Oversaw federal reporting for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), totaling over \$8 million in annual allocations.

City of Hamtramck | Hamtramck | Michigan **City Planner**

September 2016 – February 2018

Strategic direction and execution of citywide urban planning and development programs. Responsibilities included plan and design review, technical assistance, community and stakeholder engagement, research, funding, ordinance interpretation, amendments, compliance, public policy, and master plan implementation.

- :: Spearheaded Veterans Park redevelopment planning including the rehabilitation of historic Hamtramck Stadium. Awarded the National Park Service African American Civil Rights grant.
- :: Oversaw Complete Streets planning and advancement of the Joe Louis Greenway Hamtramck Connector.
- :: Developed and executed City Council agenda items, briefings, resolutions, and legal recommendations.
- :: Served as staff to the City Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, tracking development projects.

Preservation Detroit | Detroit | Michigan **President | Heritage Conservation Planner + Advocacy Advisor**

September 2011 – February 2015

Chief operating officer of a nonprofit organization devoted to historic preservation and urban planning.

- :: Developed programs and policy focusing on community development, cultural heritage, sustainable urban planning and development, vacancy management, transportation, and greening.
- :: Advisor to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the Detroit Non-Traditional Reconnaissance-level Survey, reviewing and guiding the city-wide survey process.
- :: Planned the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partners Network 2013 Executive Retreat.

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Michigan Historic Preservation Network | Detroit | Michigan **Project Manager**

May 2014 – October 2014

Project manager for a cultural heritage community engagement project titled *My Neighborhood, My Heritage: Jefferson-Chalmers*. Responsibilities included project visioning, development, engagement, and execution.

- :: Conducted archival and onsite research of community heritage, preservation, and planning initiatives.
- :: Established relationships with local organizations, residents and stakeholders, fostering discussion and action on community urban planning needs, concerns, and program participation focused on historic resources.
- :: Project planning including schedule, budgets, fundraising, and grant application reviews.
- :: Created and executed neighborhood youth photography workshop, tours, and community pop-up events.
- :: Developed project messaging including exhibits, presentations, marketing collateral, and press releases.

Savannah College of Art and Design | Sham Shui Po | Hong Kong **Project Manager**

September 2010 – May 2012

Manager of an interdisciplinary cultural landscape studies project. Responsibilities included directing research, photography, and graphic design teams, creating a published book titled *Tilting the Lens: Telling the Story of Sham Shui Po* and curating international photography exhibitions. The goal of the collaboration was to interpret and illustrate the importance of the architectural and cultural heritage of a marginalized community while establishing lasting community relationships and dialogue.

- :: Archival and onsite research focusing on social dynamics, connectivity, history, architecture and the implications of current urban planning and land use directives on the cultural landscape.
- :: Planned and directed programs for the project; determined goals, priorities, and evaluating progress and setting standards for scholarly analysis and representation.
- :: Represented the project to the international media and public, including exhibitions, tours, and interviews.

Savannah College of Art and Design | Savannah | Georgia **Historic Preservation Department Intern**

June 2010 – August 2010

Complete development of new graduate level student course curriculum for the Department. Responsibilities included a full literature review, development of outcomes, goals, assignments, creative exercises and activities, syllabus, recommended prerequisites and required texts.

- :: Heritage Conservation and The Creative City: Explored the role of heritage conservation in creative city-making across the globe. Students analyzed ways to improve the urban environment, while addressing issues such as globalization, climate change, economic competitiveness, housing, technology, transit, and poverty.
- :: Shaped by the Past | The Evolution of the Historic Urban Landscape: Examined how preservation and planning decisions, such as zoning and land-use, have shaped the evolution of the historic urban landscape.

REDICO | Southfield | Michigan **Marketing Coordinator**

September 2006 – January 2009

Direction and coordination of marketing efforts for international real estate development and investment firm and all related entities. Responsibilities included public relations, strategic planning, market metrics and economic analysis, brand development, graphic design, websites, press releases, events, and presentations.

- :: Developed marketing campaigns for over 16 million sq. ft. of commercial real estate.
- :: Conducted real estate market research, ROI analysis, and financial forecasting for investment projects.
- :: Completed RFP and RFQ responses for real estate development, construction, and management.
- :: Produced project presentations, proposals, site development plans, architectural drawings, and phasing.

Asset Acceptance | Warren | Michigan **Corporate Relations Manager**

February 2005 – August 2006

Direction and coordination of corporate relations programs for financial corporation.

- :: Developed and managed \$1.5 million budget for marketing, advertising, and public relations.

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SELECT PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND EXHIBITIONS

- :: *The Plaza @ Gratiot + Randolph*. Park plaza pre-development plan. Detroit, Michigan, December 2021.
- :: “Greektown and Residential Development.” Exchange Groundbreaking. Press conference speaker. Detroit, Michigan, September 2021.
- :: “We Love Detroit Historic Preservation Roundtable: Student Pathways to Preserving the City We Love!” Panelist. Wayne State University. Detroit, Michigan, February 2021.
- :: “Designing the Plaza at Gratiot and Randolph.” Lecture presentation and speaker. Lawrence Technological University. Southfield, Michigan, February 2021.
- :: “Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision.” Guest speaker. Greater Downtown Business Association Event. Detroit, Michigan, November 2019. Downtown Detroit Partnership BIZ Connect Event. Detroit, Michigan, October 2019.
- :: “Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision.” Press conference speaker. Greektown Neighborhood Partnership Press Conference. Detroit, Michigan, September 2019.
- :: “Preserving African American Cultural Heritage Sites: Lessons from Hamtramck Stadium.” Conference speaker. Detroit Stars Centennial Conference. Romulus, Michigan, August 2019.
- :: “Bicycling, Greenway Development, and Cultural Heritage.” Lecture, presentation, and supplemental materials. Preservation Design Innovative Adaptation Studio, SCAD. Savannah, Georgia, May 2019.
- :: “Mill Run Project.” Presentation speaker. 2019 State of the County Address. Wayne County, Michigan, March 2019.
- :: “Hamtramck Stadium and the Preservation of African American Cultural Heritage Sites.” Conference speaker. Society for American Baseball Research Annual Conference. Detroit, Michigan, February 2017.
- :: “Experiments in Urban Evolution: The Power of Public Heritage, Memory and Identity in Changing Landscapes.” Conference speaker. Neighborhoods in America’s Legacy Cities: A Dialogue in Detroit. Detroit, Michigan, September 2016.
- :: “Shrinking Cities: Detroit Case Study.” Lecture and presentation. Urban Agglomerations, Sustainable Cities Course, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Frankfurt am Main, Germany, January 2016.
- :: “International Heritage Conservation in Megacities” and “Historic Preservation in Shrinking Cities.” Lectures and presentations. SCAD. Lacoste, France, May 2015.
- :: “My Neighborhood, My Heritage: Jefferson-Chalmers.” Exhibit, presentation, and tour for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Detroit, Michigan, September/October 2014.
- :: “Making the Connections: Historic Preservation in Detroit’s Rightsizing.” *Forum Journal*, Summer 2013 | Vol. 27 No. 4, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington D.C.
- :: “Rightsizing and Urban Agriculture Initiatives” and “Rightsizing and Historic Preservation.” Conference speaker, bus tour, and panel discussion for the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partners Network Executive Retreat. Detroit, Michigan, May 2013.
- :: “Rightsizing Detroit: Implications of Shrinking City Policy on the Historic Urban Landscape.” Research Poster. US/ICOMOS International Symposium. Savannah, Georgia, May 2013.
- :: “Detroit’s Packard Motor Company.” Roundtable panelist for graduate research. Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 2013.
- :: “The Ecology of Lafayette Park.” Panelist. *Inside Lafayette Park* Exhibition. Detroit, Michigan, April 2012.
- :: “Tilting the Lens: Telling the Story of Sham Shui Po Launch.” Panelist. Book launch at the Asia Society, New York, New York, March 2012. SCAD Atlanta, Georgia, and SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia, January 2012.
- :: *Tilting the Lens: Telling the Story of Sham Shui Po*. Author, Editor. Design Press Books, Savannah, Georgia, December 2011.
- :: “Urban Regeneration Research Camp.” Panelist for the University of Hong Kong in conjunction with Kyushu University. Hong Kong, October 2010.

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ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Savannah College of Art and Design | Savannah | Georgia
Master of Fine Arts | Historic Preservation

September 2009 – September 2011

- :: Concentrations in Urbanism, Development, and Cultural Landscape.
- :: 4.0 GPA. Outstanding Achievement Award, Best Thesis Proposal, and Knox Endowed Scholar.

Michigan State University | East Lansing | Michigan
Bachelor of Arts | Interdisciplinary Humanities

August 1999 – December 2003

- :: Concentrations in Mathematics, Philosophy, and History.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- :: Urban Land Institute (ULI) | Member *2021 - Current*
- :: US/ICOMOS | Member *2021 – Current*
- :: The Greening of Detroit | Board Commissioner *2021 – Current*
- :: World Monuments Fund | Member *2021 – Current*
- :: Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium | Board Member *2019 – Current*
- :: Downtown Detroit Partnership CBD Safety and Security Committee *2019 – Current*
- :: Downtown Detroit Partnership Traffic and Parking Committee *2019 – Current*
- :: MDOT I-375 Improvement Project Local Advisory Committee *2019 – Current*
- :: Southeast Michigan Trails Action Team *2019 – 2020*
- :: Southeast Michigan Nonmotorized Task Force *2018 – 2019*
- :: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Active Transportation Committee *2018 – 2019*
- :: National Trust Preservation Leadership Forum *2017 – 2019*
- :: American Planning Association, Michigan Association of Planning *2016 – Current*
- :: Michigan Historic Preservation Network *2012 – Current*
- :: National Trust Partners Network Retreat Planning Committee *2012 – 2013*
- :: Detroit Survey Advisory Committee | MI State Historic Preservation Office *2012 – 2013*
- :: Preservation Detroit | Board Member *2011- 2013, 2020 – Current*
- :: National Trust for Historic Preservation *2009 – Current*
- :: Urban Land Institute (ULI) | Young Leaders Group *2007 – 2009*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- :: Adobe Creative Suite programs including InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop.
- :: Microsoft Office applications including Project, PowerPoint, Excel, and Word.
- :: Website content management and communications applications including WordPress, Google Docs, Dropbox, Huddle, SurveyMonkey, Typeform, Constant Contact, and Zoom.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- :: Crain's Detroit Business 40 Under 40 Honoree *November 2021*
- :: ULI Larson Center for Leadership Cohort *October 2021*
- :: Michigan Historic Preservation Network Scholar *May 2016*
- :: Hong Kong Design Centre | Design for Asia Award Finalist *December 2011*
- :: SCAD Outstanding Achievement Award for Historic Preservation *June 2011*
- :: SCAD Best Thesis Proposal Award *January 2011*
- :: SCAD Documenting Hong Kong Scholar *August 2010*
- :: Knox Endowed Scholar *July 2010*