

NADIA ELOKDAH

MA | BArch

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<http://collectiveimaginaries.org>

As a researcher, design strategist, and urbanist who is based in New York, I am interested in researching the many facets of understanding and engaging our cities alongside marginal populations. My work explores ideas of global identity within urban cultures as a condition of our contemporary, globalized society. This has been explored through theoretical-based urban design interventions: the first reimagining historical architecture into contemporary urban culture; and second unpacking diversity politics in relation to urban arts and culture policy.

Prior to moving to New York, I lived and worked in Philadelphia practicing architecture, planning, and urban design. I partnered with several institutions toward achieving socially-minded design including: the International Design Clinic on a guerrilla-design and installation project for a community center in North Philadelphia serving single mothers and their children; Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, an arts and culture non profit in West Philadelphia joining diverse communities to explore, understand, and engage in positive images of Arabic culture; and an international design exchange for resilient urban in-fill project in Tokyo, Japan.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2017 - Present** **VICE PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, GRANTMAKERS IN THE ARTS**
New York www.GIArts.org
US
- Lead and manage four departments in national service organization; support President in fundraising and operations; develop and lead national Racial Equity in Arts Funding initiative through research, publications, and workshops. Lead development of program content, research, and publications, as well as a national annual conference for 600+ grantmakers.
 - Design curriculum and co-facilitate national racial equity trainings, centering anti-racist, regenerative, and resilient systems.
- 2016-2017** **SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER, NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
New York www.CreateNYC.org
US
- Led coordination of NYC first-ever comprehensive cultural plan including research, engagement, analysis, and authoring of CreateNYC.
 - Responsibilities included: public engagement strategy, community outreach with lead consultants, Hester Street Collaborative, and stakeholders, workshop design and facilitation, survey creation, data analysis, and coordination of the final plan document.
 - Co-authored and coordinated policy recommendations Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers.
- 2015 - Present** **PARTNER, IN.SITE COLLABORATIVE, PARSONS ENTREPRENEURIAL LAB**
New York www.insitecollaborative.com
US
- in.site collaborative aims to achieve a more equitable city through interdisciplinary design, research, and civic engagement. Through diverse partnerships, in.site is able to maneuver between policy and local stakeholders to implement innovative, community-driven projects and practices toward an agenda of equity, inclusion, and self-determination in the civic commons.
- 2016** **ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCHER, URBAN FIELD STATION AT CITYPARKS FOUNDATION**
New York
US
- Conducting field research in partnership with U.S. Forest Service's Urban Field Station, NYC Department of Recreation and Parks, and Prospect Park Alliance focused on urban ecological and social issues including parks as cultural assets and spaces for social cohesion.
- 2015-2016** **PART-TIME LECTURER, PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN**
New York
US
- Developing syllabi and leading seminars for the first- and senior-year curricula: Designing for Resilient Sustainable Systems and Global Issues in Design and Visuality of the 21st Century, respectively. Courses are compulsory in the School of Art & Design, History & Theory.
- 2015** **URBAN PRACTITIONER + RESEARCHER, AGENTS OF PUBLIC SPACE LAB**
New York www.agentsofpublicspace.org
US
- Qualitative research and strategic design - in collaboration with University of São Paulo Architects - to address informal urbanisms and street vending systems within New York City.
- 2014-2015** **RESEARCH FELLOW, TRULAB [LABORATORY FOR DESIGNING URBAN TRANSFORMATION]**
New York www.TRULAB.org
US
- Researching current design strategies and historical practices of designing urban transformation, including academic publication, workshop design, and presentations at national and international industry conferences.
- 2014** **DESIGN INTERN, DESIGNYC**
New York www.designyc.org
US
- Responsible for collaboration and design of 5th designNYC Annual Exhibition held at the Center for Social Innovation.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2015 **MA Theories of Urban Practice with honors**
New York Parsons School for Design
The New School

2010 **Bachelor of Architecture with honors**
Philadelphia Business Studies Minor
Tyler School of Art / Temple University

GRANTS + AWARDS

2016 **ELab Fellowship Entrepreneurial Lab**
New York The New School + Civic Hall

2015 **William Randolph Hearst Scholarship**
New York The New School + The Hearst Foundation

2014 **Grand Achievement Award**
Philadelphia Greater Philadelphia Preservation Alliance

2010 **National ARCC / King Student Medal**
National Architectural Research Centers Consortium

2010 **Honors Thesis Prize**
Philadelphia Temple University

2005 **University Merit Award**
Philadelphia Temple University

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2013**
Philadelphia
US
ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
ARCH 4141 Global Architectural Preservation Practice + ARCH 4199 Thesis Research Seminar for Architectural Preservation
Research Adviser and Assistant Lecturer, Responsible for leading discussion seminar, advising thesis research.
- 2014-2015**
New York
US
TEACHING ASSISTANT, PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Global Issues in Design and Visuality of the 21st Century, responsible for leading an undergraduate seminar including lecturing, advising students on capstone research design projects from gender bias in fashion to application of sustainable practices in industrial design.
- 2010-2013**
Moorestown
US
PROJECT COORDINATOR, TAO ARCHITECTURE | PLANNING | DESIGN
www.taodesign.com
Responsible for programming, conceptual and schematic design through construction documentation, and master planning for commercial, residential, and institutional projects from 5,000 - 200,000 SF across the Greater Philadelphia area including: Moorestown Friends School and the award winning Ruth L. Bennett House Historic Restoration.
- 2008**
Philadelphia
US
GUERRILLA ARCHITECT + HUMANITARIAN DESIGNER, INTERNATIONAL DESIGN CLINIC
www.internationaldesignclinic.com/make/sp08us/
Creative placemaking design-build, canopy and rain water collector for childcare center and bookstore.
- 2008**
Tokyo
Japan
PROGRAM INTERN, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS TOKYO
Joint Temple University Japan / Kokushian University design exchange for new Urban In-fill Project in Tokyo.
- 2005-2008**
Philadelphia
US
GRAPHIC DESIGNER + PROGRAM ASSISTANT, AL-BUSTAN SEEDS OF CULTURE
- Co-directed, produced, and edited 3 youth films, one nominated for award.
- Art Director, three exhibits for community fundraising events.

EXHIBITIONS

- We Went Looking for Home But We Found*, Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Gryphon Cafe, Philadelphia, June 2015.
- Actionable Theory*, Parsons Festival, Industry City, NYC, May 2015.
- We Went Looking for Home But We Found*, Art in City Hall + Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Philadelphia City Hall, Feb-April 2015.
- Five-Year Retrospective*, designNYC, Center for Social Innovation, NYC, Nov 2014.
- Perpetual Renewal: Investigating Urban Renewal in the Lower East Side*, Parsons The New School for Design + 596 Acres, Governor's Island, Aug 2014.
- Alumni Exhibition*, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, Feb 2011.
- Al-Quds / Jerusalem 2015*, Research Center for Islamic History, Art & Culture, Jerusalem, June 2010.
- Mourning, Recognition, and Tribute_Evoking Space*, Temple University, Philadelphia, Sept 2009.
- reclaimedSKY*, International Design Clinic, Philadelphia, May 2008.
- Reimagining Ibn Battuta*, Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Dec 2007.

SKILLS

Computer

- + Adobe Suite: Ps, Ai, InD
- + AutoCAD, Sketch-Up, Revit
- + Wordpress, Squarespace
- + Microsoft Office Suite
- + Final Cut Pro, Photography
- + Atlas.ti

Design Research

- + Exhibition Design
- + Curricula Development
- + Workshop Design
- + Community & Civic Engagement
- + Grant Writing & Fundraising
- + Historical & Archival Research
- + Ethnography, Qualitative & Quantitative Data Analysis

PUBLICATIONS + PRESS

- "The New School and the Pedagogy of Alternative Urban Practices" *TRULAB* blog, May 7, 2015. <http://trulab.org/blog>
- "Diversity Politics and Engaging Pluralism as Transformative Urban Practice": Panel Session at Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, Chicago, April 2015.
- "Designing for an Equitable New York": Policy Recommendations Book Developed by the graduate students in Theories of Urban Practice, Design & Urban Ecologies, and Design Studies Programs, Parsons School of Design, 2013.
- Identity Crisis: Creating a Contemporary Bathhouse in Cairo*, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing, 2010.
- "The Situationist Proxy" in *Theoretical Encounters: Seminar in Architecture Theory*, Philadelphia: Temple University Architecture, 2009.

PRESENTATIONS

- "Racial Equity in Arts Funding," Arts Lab, Race Forward, June 2019.
- "Cultural Policy and Design Intervention," guest lecturer, Parsons School for Design and Columbia University, 2019.
- "Advancing DEI in Arts Funding," *National Arts Action Summit* with Americans for the Arts, April 2019.
- "How to Begin Your DEI Initiative," *National Arts Action Summit* with Americans for the Arts, April 2018.
- "The Problem of Gender Based Discrimination in Egypt: Challenging the construction of Cairo's Public Realm," *Matters of Debate: Mapping Research on the Middle East at the New School*, The New School, 2016.
- The Irresistible Resistance: Earth Week 2016*, in.site collaborative + Tishman Environment and Design Center, The New School, 2016.
- Disturbanist Discourse I and II: Panel Series*, Hub for Urban Practices, The New School, 2014-15.
- Alternative News: Setting the Table for Change*, Hub for Urban Practices, The New School, 2014.
- Future Of Us: Diversity Panel Series*, Temple University, April 2009.

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