



# MATT LEASURE, AICP PLA LEED AP

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Matt has over 17 years of professional experience in urban design and landscape architecture on a wide-range of project types. His experience in both large scale planning efforts and built projects translate into ambitious and context-driven plans that are grounded in the realities of constructibility, regulatory processes, and cost. Matt utilizes a combination of historic narratives, sustainable design, creative placemaking, and landscape architecture to bring new energy to existing communities. He is also a strong proponent of public engagement as a fundamental element of the creative process because it weaves local storytelling into each design. Matt is also an experienced educator and public speaker. He has taught a variety courses at the Ohio State University and has provided numerous CEU-accredited presentations.

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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2018 - Present **Designing Local**  
Principal/Partner
- 2019 - Present **Designing Local Landscape Architecture**  
Principal/Owner
- 2009 - Present **Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University**  
Auxiliary Faculty
- 2011 - 2018 **MKSK**  
Associate
- 2003 - 2011 **Kinzelman Kline Gossman (KKG)**  
Landscape Architect / Planner
- 2002-2003 **Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks**  
Planning Intern

## LICENSURE & ACCREDITATIONS

- 2009 - Present **American Institute of Certified Planners**  
Member
- 2008 - Present **US Green Building Council**  
LEED Accredited Professional
- 2007 - Present **Professional Landscape Architect**  
Ohio Registration: 0701159

## SERVICE

- 2014 - Present **Columbus Landmarks**  
Past President & Nominating Chair, Former Advocacy Committee Chair
- 2006 - 2007 **Ohio Chapter ASLA**  
Buckeye Section Chair

## EDUCATION

- 2008 **The Ohio State University**  
Master of City & Regional Planning, with Distinction
- 2003 **The Ohio State University**  
Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture, Cum Laude

## ACTIVE AND RECENT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- 2021 - Present **Chillicothe Main Library, Northside Branch, and Kingston Branch Site Improvements**  
Chillicothe and Ross County Public Libraries | Chillicothe, Ohio and Kingston, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Lead, Landscape Architect of Record
- 2021 - Present **Xenia Community STE[A]M Academy**  
CSA - Xenia | Xenia, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architect of Record
- 2021 - Present **Ohio and Erie Canal Southern Descent Heritage Trail Planning**  
Canal Partners | Southern Ohio  
Project Role: Mapping, Trail Planning, Park Design, Graphic Communication
- 2020 - Present **Sullivant Bright Public Art & Parklet Project**  
City of Columbus Department of Public Service | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Urban Design, Graphic Communication
- 2019 - Present **Dublin Arts Council Grounds Enhancements**  
City of Dublin Parks & Recreation | Dublin, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Lead, Landscape Architect of Record
- 2019 - Present **Tuttle Park Lower Field Improvements**  
City of Columbus Department of Parks and Recreation | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Lead, Landscape Architect of Record
- 2019 - Present **Slocum Hall Entry Improvements**  
Ohio Wesleyan University | Delaware, Ohio  
Role: Landscape Architect of Record
- 2020 - 2021 **Atlas of Columbus Landmarks and Urban Ideas Forum**  
Columbus Landmarks | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Mapping, Urban Design, Graphic Communication
- 2019 - 2021 **Columbus Urban Forestry Master Plan**  
City of Columbus Department of Parks and Recreation | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Urban Planning, Graphic Communication, Public Engagement
- 2019 - 2020 **Ohio and Erie Canal Southern Descent National Register Nomination**  
Canal Partners | Southern Ohio  
2019 Public Education and Awareness Award: Ohio History Connection  
Project Role: Mapping, Technical Graphics
- 2019 - 2020 **Columbus North International School Site Improvements**  
Columbus City Schools | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Conceptual Landscape Architecture
- 2019 - 2020 **Brookhaven High School Site Improvements**  
Columbus City Schools | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Conceptual Landscape Architecture
- 2018 - 2020 **Delaware County Courthouse Entry Plaza**  
Delaware County | Delaware, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architect of Record
- 2019 **Lockbourne Veterans Park**  
Village of Lockbourne | Lockbourne, Ohio  
Project Role: Conceptual Landscape Architecture
- 2019 **Indianola Middle School Conceptual Plan**  
Campus Partners | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Conceptual Landscape Architecture
- 2018 - 2019 **Cape May County Creative Placemaking Plan**  
Cape May County Planning Department | Cape May County, New Jersey  
2019 Ohio Chapter ASLA Merit Award, Communications + Research  
Project Role: Project Lead, Graphic Communication, Public Engagement
- 2018 **Marysville Five Points Concept Study**  
City of Marysville | Marysville, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Lead, Urban Design
- 2018 **Sandusky Public Art and Placemaking Plan**  
City of Sandusky | Sandusky, Ohio  
Project Role: Urban Design, Graphic Communication

## ADDITIONAL PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- 2016 - 2018** **Shaping the Avenue - Michigan Avenue Street Design Standards\***  
City of Lansing, Capital Area Transportation Authority | Lansing, Michigan  
Project Role: Project Urban Designer
- 2017** **Huber Heights Parks and Recreation Master Plan\***  
City of Huber Heights | Huber Heights, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2016 - 2017** **Columbus Green Business and Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan\***  
City of Columbus | Columbus, Ohio  
2018 APA National Achievement Award for a Best Practice, Silver  
2017 Ohio Chapter ASLA Honor Award, Communications + Research  
2017 Ohio APA Best Practice Award:  
Project Role: Project Manager
- 2015 - 2017** **Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium Phase 1\***  
Pro Football Hall of Fame Village | Canton, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2016 - 2017** **Piqua Parks and Recreation Master Plan\***  
City of Piqua | Piqua, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2014 - 2017** **Wilson Road Park and Trailhead\***  
City of Columbus Department of Parks and Recreation | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2014 - 2017** **Centennial Plaza Conceptual Design\***  
City of Canton | Canton, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Manager
- 2014 - 2017** **River Gate Apartments\***  
Homestead American and Columbus Pacific Properties | Athens, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2015 - 2016** **Greening America's Communities: Columbus\***  
US EPA | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect
- 2013 - 2016** **Rose Music Center at the Heights\***  
City of Huber Heights | Huber Heights, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2014 - 2015** **Monroe County Urbanizing Area Plan\***  
Monroe County Planning Department | Bloomington, Indiana  
2015 Indiana Chapter ASLA Honor Award, Planning + Analysis  
2015 Ohio Chapter ASLA Merit Award, Planning + Analysis  
Project Role: Project Manager
- 2014 - 2015** **Historic East Piqua Master Plan\***  
City of Piqua | Piqua, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Manager
- 2014 - 2015** **OSU Mansfield EcoLab\***  
The Ohio State University at Mansfield | Mansfield, Ohio  
2015 Ohio Chapter ASLA Honor Award, Planning + Analysis:  
Project Role: Project Planner
- 2013 - 2015** **Rose Music Center at the Heights\***  
City of Huber Heights | Huber Heights, Ohio  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2012 - 2015** **Scioto Greenways\***  
Columbus Downtown Development Corporation | Columbus, Ohio  
2016 Ohio Chapter ASLA Award of Excellence  
Project Role: Project Design Team, Conceptual Design
- 2013 - 2014** **BioHio Master Plan\***  
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University | Wooster, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Planner

\*Projects completed with KKG/MKSK

## ADDITIONAL PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- 2010 - 2014 I-670/1-71 Interchange Reconstruction\***  
Ohio Department of Transportation | Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect
- 2010 - 2013 Clinton Elementary School\***  
Columbus City Schools | Columbus, Ohio  
LEED Gold  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2010 - 2013 Olde Orchard Elementary School\***  
Columbus City Schools | Columbus, Ohio  
LEED Gold  
Project Role: Landscape Architecture Project Manager
- 2009 - 2012 Historic Brookville Town Center\***  
Historic Brookville, Inc. | Brookville, Pennsylvania  
Project Role: Project Manager
- 2006 - 2012 Rich & Main Street Bridges & Parklands\***  
Ohio Department of Transportation | Columbus, Ohio  
2012 Columbus Landmarks James B. Recchie Design Award  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect
- 2010 - 2011 Downtown Scioto Bicycle Bridge Hydraulic Study\***  
City of Columbus Department of Parks and Recreation | Columbus, Ohio  
2011 Ohio Chapter ASLA Merit Award, Design not Constructed  
Project Role: Project Manager
- 2009 - 2010 Third Street Corridor Study\***  
City of Columbus | German Village, Columbus, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect
- 2008 - 2010 Riverscape Phase III Bike Hub\***  
Five Rivers MetroParks | Dayton, Ohio  
2011 Ohio Chapter ASLA Honor Award  
LEED Silver  
Project Role: Project Planner
- 2006 - 2010 Scioto Audubon Metro Park Master Plan\***  
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks | Columbus, Ohio  
2014 Ohio EPA Outstanding Achievement in Brownfield Redevelopment  
2010 Ohio Chapter ASLA Award of Excellence  
2009 Ohio Department of Development Clean Ohio Fund Impact Award  
Project Role: Project Design Team
- 2006 - 2010 Franklin County Court of Common Pleas\***  
Franklin County | Columbus, Ohio  
LEED Gold  
Project Role: Project Designer
- 2007 - 2009 Grange Insurance Audubon Center\***  
Audubon Ohio | Columbus, Ohio  
LEED Gold  
Project Role: Project Design Team
- 2007 - 2009 Fort Hayes Development Plan\***  
Columbus City Schools | Columbus, Ohio  
2010 Ohio Chapter ASLA Honor Award, Planning + Analysis  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect
- 2006 - 2009 NOBO Green House - 258 N. 21st Street\***  
Home B.A.S.E. | Columbus, Ohio  
2008 Columbus Landmarks James B. Recchie Design Award Finalist  
LEED Platinum  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect
- 2005 - 2006 Indian Run Falls Park\***  
City of Dublin Parks & Recreation | Dublin, Ohio  
Project Role: Project Landscape Architect

\*Projects completed with KKG/MKSK

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

- 2016 - 2021 (Spring) **ARCH/LARCH/CRPLAN 5960: Design Competition**  
ULI Hines Competition Course  
Graduate Level  
National Hines Competition Honorable Mentions: 2019, 2020, 2021
- 2016 - 2017 (Summer) **SU16-17: European Cities and Sustainable Urban Planning**  
Study Abroad program in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and the Netherlands  
Undergraduate and Graduate Level
- 2014 - 2016 (Spring) **CRP 6430: Outlines of Urban Design**  
Graduate Level
- 2012 (Autumn) **LARCH 457/CRP 4910 Making the Plan: Community Design Studio for West Columbus**  
Undergraduate Level
- 2010 (Autumn) **LARCH 750 Advance Community Design Studio, Service Learning Studio**  
Graduate Level
- 2009 (Autumn) **LARCH 457 Urban Landscape Design Studio**  
Undergraduate Level

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- April 26, 2021 **Achieving Carbon Neutrality via Adaptive Reuse**  
DesignColumbus 2021
- October 11, 2019 **The New Urbanism and Creative Placemaking**  
2019 Creative Placemaking Summit - Cincinnati
- September 24, 2019 **Placemaking & Preservation In & Around Ohio**  
2019 National Walking Summit - Columbus
- May 17, 2019 **Local Storytelling through Creative Placemaking**  
Central Ohio Planning & Zoning Workshop
- February 20, 2019 **Placemaking & Preservation In & Around Ohio**  
Franklinton Historical Society
- May 18, 2018 **Your History is Your Future**  
Central Ohio Planning and Zoning Workshop
- February 4, 2018 **The Landscape Architecture Podcast**  
[larchitect.org/leasure/](http://larchitect.org/leasure/)
- December 1, 2017 **Your History is Your Future**  
Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop
- October 18, 2017 **Columbus' 10 Most Endangered Places**  
Heritage Ohio Conference
- September 28, 2017 **Strengthening Local Food Systems**  
APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference
- December 2, 2016 **Local Food as a Revitalization Driver**  
Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop
- December 5, 2015 **A Lust for Rust: Utilizing Ohio's Industrial Heritage as an Asset for Revitalization**  
Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop
- September 25, 2015 **Historic East Piqua Plan: Deploying Legacy City Revitalization Strategies at a Neighborhood Scale**  
APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference
- December 5, 2014 **Calculating Sustainability, Utilizing CommunityViz to Measure Comprehensive Planning Decisions**  
Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop
- December 6, 2013 **A Non-Traditional Development Catalyst; The Music Center @ the Heights**  
Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop