
NAME: Jacob A. Wagner

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Urban Planning and Design / Natural and Built Environment

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor / Faculty Founder of UMKC Center for Neighborhoods

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date	FIELD OF STUDY
University of New Orleans	PhD	May 2004	Urban Studies, Planning and Urban Affairs
University of Oregon	Masters of Community and Regional Planning	May 1998	Urban Planning
University of Oregon	Geography	May 1994	Human Geography

A. Personal Statement

As the faculty founder of the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods, our team has worked with over 250 neighborhood leaders from more than 90 neighborhoods in the Kansas City area. Many of these volunteer leaders come from neighborhoods impacted by significant environmental injustices and racialized disinvestment due to redlining, real estate discrimination, and concentrated poverty. I am committed to ensuring that federal funds allocated for Climate Pollution Reduction in the Kansas City area are well-managed and that these funds go to the frontline, Justice40 communities that are the most vulnerable to climate change.

As a scholar of Urban Planning and Design, my expertise is focused on neighborhood and community-capacity building to address localized planning challenges, citizen control of planning processes, and efforts to advance social learning through applied research. This work builds upon a legacy of advocacy and equity planning in both professional practice and academic research.

Following Hurricane Katrina, I worked in the City of New Orleans through a HUD-funded research project to assist with the neighborhood rebuilding process. This led to the re-establishment of hundreds of local businesses, support for nonprofit organization recovery, and neighborhood-led rebuilding and redevelopment. I am a proud founding member of the Friends of Lafitte Greenway – which rebuilt a 2-mile green infrastructure corridor in the City of New Orleans, and transformed a dozen urban neighborhoods.

B. Positions

Deputy Coordinator, Cities of Music Subnetwork, UNESCO Creative Cities Network, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, since 2023

Associate Professor, Urban Planning and Design, 2024-2011

Faculty Founder, UMKC Center for Neighborhoods, 2024-2015

Assistant Professor, Urban Planning and Design, 2011-2005

Visiting Assistant Professor, Community Development, St. Cloud State, 2005-2004

C. Contributions

Principal Investigator, Everyday Entrepreneurship, Kauffman Foundation: Community-Engaged Research, 2021-2024.

Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative, Advisory Board, Portland State University

Small Apartment Affordable Housing Survey. City of Kansas City, Missouri. Neighborhood and Housing Services, 2020-2021.

Public Service Award for a Leading Music Cities Professional, 2020, Music Cities Awards by Music Cities Events – Sound Diplomacy.

Kansas City, Missouri, UNESCO City of Music, established the City as a member of the international UNESCO Creative Cities Network – which uses creativity and culture to advance sustainable development around the world. With Mayor Sly James, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner, Anita Dixon, co-founder, and various community stakeholders.

UMKC Center for Neighborhoods, Development of the Center, Curriculum and Programs, 2014-2016. Worked to build the Center over the course of three years with Senator Shalonn Kiki Curls of Missouri.

Green Impact Zone Urban Planning and Design Studio III, Historic Resources Survey of the Green Impact Zone of Missouri, Kansas City, MO. Mid-America Regional Council, 2010-2011. Advanced the work of neighborhood planning with the Green Impact Zone of Kansas City MO.

Principal Investigator, “Planning for Heritage Tourism, Housing Resettlement and Neighborhood Economic Recovery in New Orleans, LA.” Universities Rebuilding America Partnerships-Community Design, Office of University Partnerships, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2006-2008