

RACHAEL SHARKLAND

Urban Designer + Engagement Specialist

Rachael has 8 years of experience working as a researcher, designer, and project manager on complex urban design projects including masterplans for higher education and health campuses and civic design and transit guidelines. Her background in dance, performance, and ecology inform her reverence for a holistic and participatory design process grounded in an ethics of resilience, equity, empathy, and agency. She is committed to design and leadership that promotes expression and well-being for all life.

FEATURED PROJECTS

NORTH VENTURA COORDINATED AREA PLAN | PALO ALTO, CA
Managed a comprehensive, community-centered engagement and design process with the City of Palo Alto to transform a light industrial site into a mixed-use neighborhood with an accessible and equitable open space, housing, and transit strategy. Outreach included stakeholder and community advisory meetings, surveys, polls, digital mapping, and facilitated walking tours.

UCSF AT ZSFG DESIGN GUIDELINES | SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Engaged practicing clinicians, medical researchers and students, and patients in a collaborative space planning and design process for a new clinical research facility at the ZSFG campus. An extensive engagement process with both ZSFG and UCSF staff, faculty, students, and patients included interviews, visioning and advisory meetings, and medical facility tours.

BRANNAN LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING | SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Managed the space planning, urban design guidelines, and landscape design for a life sciences building in San Francisco that included artist studios and a public gallery at the groundfloor.

EAST CUT DESIGN GUIDELINES | SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Collaborated with the East Cut Community Benefits District to create public space and right-of-way design guidelines for the East Cut neighborhood in anticipation of significant housing construction and traffic improvements around the new transbay terminal.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE OUTREACH TOOLKIT
Researched and prepared a toolkit for urban designers and architects adapted from the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative that provides guidelines and tools for an inclusive, equity-based, and participatory public engagement process.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

MISSION ROCK DESIGN GUIDELINES | San Francisco, CA

GEORGE MARK HOUSE MASTERPLAN | San Leandro, CA

UCSF MISSION BAY DESIGN GUIDELINES | San Francisco, CA

ECOLOGY TOOLKIT FOR ARCHITECTS | PERKINS & WILL



EXPERIENCE

Plan to Place
Engagement Specialist
2021-present

PERKINS & WILL
Designer + Project Manager
2016-2020

GLS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Designer + Project Manager
2014-2016

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Project Manager
2008-2010

DANCE EDUCATOR
2016-present

EDUCATION

Masters of Landscape Architecture
Harvard University, 2010-2013

Bachelor of arts Philosophy, Literature, and History
Wesleyan University, 2003-2007

TRAINING

Integrative Counseling
Hakomi Institute, 2020-present

Equity + Anti-Racism Facilitation
Holistic Resistance, 2020-present



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