

RACHAEL SHARKLAND

Urban Designer + Engagement Specialist

Rachael has 9 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 well-being for all life.

FEATURED PROJECTS

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATES | CORTE MADERA, CA; PIEDMONT, CA LOS ALTOS, CA; MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

Designed and managed a comprehensive engagement strategy in compliance with State Law and AFFH requirements including project messaging and branding, a dynamic project website, interactive mapping, promotional materials, stakeholder interviews, pop-up events, and community workshops.

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.

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

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL PLAN UPDATE | South San Francisco, CA

PETALUMA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE | PETALUMA, CA

EAST CUT DESIGN GUIDELINES | San Francisco, CA

MISSION ROCK DESIGN GUIDELINES | San Francisco, CA

UCSF MISSION BAY DESIGN GUIDELINES | San Francisco, CA

ECOLOGY TOOLKIT FOR ARCHITECTS | PERKINS & WILL



EXPERIENCE

PLAN TO PLACE

Urban Designer + 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

