

BRITTNEY DRAKEFORD

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I am a believer in FATE – the practice of combining faith, arts, and technology to energize communities to create equitable places for generations today and tomorrow. My research and practice centers on the legacies of African American communities; the ways in which the built environment and public infrastructure hold the memories of discrimination; and how the intangible cultural heritage of the marginalized can be leveraged to establish shared leadership and collective action.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, School of Architecture, Planning, and Design, College Park, MD

Urban and Regional Planning and Design Doctoral Student, expected 2021

Focus on asset-based community development approaches to address the impacts of natural hazards on post-Reconstruction African American communities.

Wake Forest University, School of Business, Winston-Salem, NC

Master of Arts in Management, May 2011

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communications (Media Management), December 2009

Bachelor of Science in African American Studies, December 2009

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prince George's County Planning Department, Upper Marlboro, MD

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Core Team Member and Senior Planner (September 2014 – Present)

- Community engagement lead for Zoning Rewrite core team that was successful in modernizing County's 50-year-old zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, which was adopted by the County Council in October 2018.
- Zoning Rewrite Team lead for developing, analyzing, and evaluating evidenced-supported practices for zoning policies related to equitable food systems, agriculture-oriented development, and urban agriculture
- Representative to the County's Health Care Action Coalition's Health Equity workgroup; Health Department's Healthy Corner Store Initiative Committee; and the Department of Public Works and Transportation's Health Equity Corridor Planning program to design and implement multi-sector policies to better address health inequities and the social determinants of health through the built environment.
- Present and defend zoning policy recommendations to the Planning Board, District Council, County Council, Economic Development Corporation, Zoning Hearing Examiner, County agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Author policy papers and deliver presentations on topics including Community Engagement; Health and the Built Environment; Food Justice; Equitable Development; Environmental Justice; and other contemporary planning topics.
- Supervise graduate assistants and intern teams to analyze and provide recommendations on development applications in conformance with the Prince George Landscape Manual, Zoning Ordinance and County Master Plan and Sector Plan strategies.
- Develop and implement a neighborhood planner curriculum to educate residents on critical urban planning topics including land-use; transportation; zoning; housing, community plans, and government structure in Prince George's County.
- Developed and analyzed the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission's 2017 Employee Diversity Survey and presented results to the Prince George's and Montgomery Counties Planning Boards.
- Maintained vendor/consultant relationships, project budget, procurement, and provided staffing recommendations for \$1.2 million contract.
- Designed and evaluated the Health Equity Organizational Self-Assessment to identify direct contributions to addressing the root causes of health inequity in organizational policies, practices, and procedures.
- Facilitated stakeholder committees including the Zoning Technical Panel; Municipal; Civic Association; Business; and Real Estate Development groups.
- Coordinated and facilitated over 400 stakeholder meetings to address questions regarding draft and adopted zoning policies, community engagement, and development proposals.

Cottage City Community Garden, Cottage City, MD

Coordinator (October 2015 – Present)

- Advocate for the resources needed to provide access to local natural food in a manner that fosters inclusive community networking and neighbor-to-neighbor interactions.
- Work with Cottage City Commissioners on annual budget for the garden and the events related to the garden.
- Support the facilitation of the Town's Sustainable Communities designation.

Prince George's County Parks and Recreation, Riverdale, MD

Program Assistant (June 2007 – September 2014)

- Assisted with developing and implementing place-based cultural heritage programs and interpretations for various

historical sites throughout Prince George's County.

- Utilized qualitative and quantitative research methods to collect historical data and personal narratives
- Processed, arranged, digitized, preserved, and maintained photographic, artifact, and print materials collections.

End Time Harvest, Upper Marlboro, MD

Program Director (September 2013 – September 2014)

- Designed and facilitated programs to encourage youth to actively participate in community revitalization and economic development initiatives.
- Fostered partnerships with stakeholders in the local economy, including the Port Towns CDC, Port Towns Community Health Partnership, Community Forklift, ECO City Farms, Ernest Maier, and local municipalities.

The Salvation Army National Capital Area, Washington, DC

Development Administrator (August 2012 – September 2013)

Cultivated strategic relationships with non-profits, local businesses, and individuals with the specific purposes of promoting social advocacy and fostering dialogue and outreach with new audiences/communities.

African-American Atelier, Greensboro, NC

Youth Director (October 2007 – 2012)

- Curated art exhibitions and community-based programs for individuals of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds by conceptually framing a community issues; coordinating with artists and patrons; and interpreting the issue to the community for dialogue and discussion.
- Managed year-round youth arts program and implemented creative place-making strategies including community paint days; mural installation, and art parties.
- Lobbied state and local elected officials to support policies that expand funding and resources.
- Provided human resources management including recruiting, training, coaching, and off-boarding a part-time staff of 15.
- Coordinated meetings, scheduled travel arrangements, and managed calendars for international artists.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2019 William Averette Anderson Fund Fellow

2019 Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts Inductee

2018 University of Maryland, Urban and Regional Planning and Design Fellowship

2017 Culture of Health Leader, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2016 Directors Award, Prince George's County Planning Department

2015 Prince George's County Forty Under Forty, Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund

2014 Senior Fellow, Environmental Leadership Program

2013 Talent Management Program, Associated Black Charities of Baltimore

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Angela Alsobrooks 2018 Transition Team, Economic Development Subcommittee Member

Prince George's County Food Equity Council, Member

Prince George's County Healthcare Action Coalition, Data and Assessment Subcommittee Chair

Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Leveraging Kinship to Support Civic Activism.** Co-presented with Ashley Drakeford and Kyle Reeder. Black Communities Conference; Durham, North Carolina. September 11, 2019.
- **Inclusive Community Engagement for Parks and Recreation.** Co-presented with Steve Brigham. Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation; Landover, Maryland. June 19, 2019.
- **Zoning & Environmental Justice.** Co-presented with Bryan Barnett-Woods. Symposium on Environmental Justice and Health Disparities; College Park, Maryland. May 11, 2019.
- **City Planners Need to Talk about Race. The Lives of Our Residents Depend on It.** Co-authored with Ras Tafari Cannady. Greater Greater Washington. March 12, 2019.
- **Improved Public Outreach, Improved Zoning Ordinance.** Co-presented with Bryan Barnett-Woods, Sydney Daigle, and Bradley Heard. American Planning Association – National Capital Area Chapter Annual Conference; Washington, DC. October 18, 2018.
- **Good News for Farmers and Foodies: Prince George's Zoning Rewrite Promotes Urban Farms and Gardens.** Greater Greater Washington. December 7, 2017.
- **What's Land Got to Do with It!?: A Discussion on Zoning and Urban Agriculture.** Co-presented with Cedric Southerland. 2016 Black Urban Growers Conference; Harlem, New York. November 6, 2016.
- **Best Practices in New Zoning Codes.** Co-presented with Derick Berlage, and Rose Krasnow. American Planning Association – Maryland/Delaware Chapter Annual Conference; Towson, Maryland. October 16, 2016.