



**The American  
Institute  
of Architects**

# DESIGN AS PROTEST

Advocating for Social Justice in the Built Environment

10.12.2019

9 AM - 3:30 PM

A Workshop Dedicated to Building  
Design Justice in our Profession

Funded by the  
American Institute of Architects

AIA Kansas City  
1801 McGee St.  
Kansas City, MO 64108

\$40 Member/Nonmember  
\$15 Student

# Design as Protest October 12, 2019

## Advocating for Social Justice in the Built Environment

For every injustice in the world, there is an architecture that perpetuates it. A national movement is growing in our field to understand how designers contribute to social change through the built environment. The AIA hosted 24 architects at the first "Design Justice Summit" last Fall in New Orleans to explore these issues and identify opportunities to create inclusive communities. As a response to this movement, AIA KC will host their first Design as Protest workshop connecting activists and community organizers with architects and designers to utilize our skill set and stand up to injustice, discrimination, and hate.

### This interactive workshop will:

- Explore issues related to social injustice and how they manifest themselves in the built environment.
- Develop an understanding of a designer's role in reimagining projects, policies, and pedagogy around social justice.
- Connect architects with other members of the design and arts community to work with community leaders to design opportunities for POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE.

### Facilitators

**Ashley Sadowski**, AIA, Senior Architect, Odimo Design Justice Advocate

**Stephenie Smith**, MSW, Co-founder, Sophic Solutions, LLC

**Dr. Rodney Smith**, Co-founder, Sophic Solutions, LLC

**Register online at: [aiakc.org/event](http://aiakc.org/event)**

**Tickets:**        \$40 member or non-member  
                      \$15 student

*Space is limited and advanced registration is required.*

Sponsored by AIA National and facilitated by Ashley Sadowski, a Design Justice Advocate, and Sophic Solutions, the event will include small group discussions with community leaders working in neighborhoods across Kansas City. Join us on October 12th and take community engagement to the next level!

### Schedule

- 9:00 am- Registration + Networking
- 9:30 am- Welcome and Introductions
- 10:30 am- **Workshop 1:** Ecosystems of Power
- 11:30 am- Lunch + Kaleidoscope Questions
- 12:30 pm- **Workshop 2:** Identify Injustices and their Disproportionate Impact
- 1:00 pm- **Workshop 3:** Spatial Injustice
- 1:40 pm- **Workshop 4:** Design Opportunities
- 3:15- 3:30 pm- Closing

### Selection of Participating Community Leaders

- **Jacob Wagner**, PhD, Co-founder for the Center for Neighborhoods.
- **Matt Kleinmann**, Co-Director of the Dotte Agency, Design Justice Advocate
- **Gloria Ortiz-Fisher**, Executive Director, Westside Housing Organization
- **Anna Marie Tutera**, Executive Director of the Kansas City Museum
- **Ina Anderson**, Deputy Director, LISC
- **Paul Barham**, Code for KC Captain, Code for America Local Chapter
- **Jameson Wells**, Kansas City Organizer, Jobs with Justice
- And Many More!

# Design as Protest Workshop Schedule

## Introductions

Facilitator introductions and defining the ideology behind Design as Protest and its history. Discuss the core principles and questions we will address today. Introduction of advocates and local initiatives that speak to design justice principles. Group discussion defining concepts surrounding social justice to ensure a common language among advocates.

## Workshop 1 | Ecosystems of Power

Define the transmitters and receivers within the ecosystems of power and examples found nationally. Small group discussion to define local initiatives and their place in influencing existing power structures. Small group selection of two systems of power and discussion of their resulting privileges and injustices.

## Lunch + Kaleidoscope Questions

Asking questions from every angle. Large group discussion surrounding the questions that we ask ourselves about our work in design, social justice, and the conflict that arises in that space.

## Workshop 2 | Identify Injustices and their Disproportionate Impact

Considering the transmitters and receivers of power in our communities, define resulting injustices that result. Develop through small group discussion.

## Workshop 3 | Spatial Injustice

For each injustice, storyboard how this manifests itself in the built environment. Develop through small group discussion. Small groups to present ideas back to larger group for discussion.

## Workshop 4 | Design Opportunities

Where it all comes together. Small groups will develop design solutions addressing the spatial injustices defined by previous workshops. Facilitators will share precedents that range from the individual to the collective, ephemeral to the permanent. Using these categories of intervention, small groups will develop a storyboard for each. Large group presentations and discussion to follow.

## Closing + Next Steps

Where do we go from here? Through collective ownership, we will develop a path for integrating social justice within the Kansas City design community.



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*This Design as Protest Workshop is funded by AIA National who is making Design Justice a priority as part of its Blueprint for Better Initiative. By advancing issues of social justice and increasing the diversity and inclusion in the profession, we can fundamentally change the role of architects in society. Learn more from AIA President Bill Bates [https://www.architectmagazine.com/aia-architect/aiaerspective/social-justice-by-design\\_o](https://www.architectmagazine.com/aia-architect/aiaerspective/social-justice-by-design_o)*

# Design as Protest

## Facilitators



### Stephenie Smith, MSW

As co-founder and managing partner, Stephenie Smith is Sophic Solutions' lead authority on executive project management, organizational structure and design and operations improvement. She has led a number of efforts to align not-for-profit policy with community investments, with a special emphasis on large-scale transformation. With over 20 years of experience, Stephenie's work has explicitly focused on the effects of poverty and oppression. In so doing, community revitalization, change management and diversity, equity & inclusion have taken center stage. These involvements have led to her serving on a number of local boards and national committees.



### Dr. Rodney Smith

As co-founder and managing partner, Rodney Smith is Sophic's lead authority on issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. His expertise specifically pertains to African American student achievement, urban education and culturally responsive pedagogy. He is also a Group and Collaborative Learning expert. Smith also holds a Graduate Adjunct Professorship with the School of Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he specializes in courses that address racial and ethnic diversity, and cultural understanding. Over the course of a 22-year career, Dr. Smith's scholarly interests have taken aim at the implications of race and racism in American society.



### Ashley Sadowski, AIA

Ashley Sadowski is a senior architect at Odimo with an extensive background in architecture, urban design, and community development. As a licensed architect, she has managed and designed a diverse portfolio of architectural projects including affordable housing, sustainable + prefab residential development, higher education, hospitality, urban infill, and healthcare. She has a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Kansas and a Certification in Real Estate Development from New York University. She has received several grants in recognition of her community development work by the Urban Land Institute and AIA National and was selected as one of the 24 architects to attend AIA's first Design Justice Summit in 2018. She is passionate about developing long-term solutions for equitable and inclusive neighborhoods in Kansas City's urban core.

## Acknowledgments



### Brian Lee, Founding Organizer of the Design Justice Platform Director of Design at Colloqate

This workshop would not be possible without the leadership of Colloqate, a multidisciplinary Non-Profit Design Justice practice who developed the Design Justice Platform and organized the Design as Protest National Day of Action. Their mission is to expand community access to, and building power through the design of social, civic, and cultural spaces. Bryan Lee is the Design Director of Colloqate and a national Design Justice Advocate. Learn more about their work at <https://colloqate.org/>