

Laura Walker, RA, NOMA

Laura Walker is an architect and artist practicing in Detroit, Michigan. She is the recipient of AIA Detroit Young Architect of the year Award in 2019, and featured in Crain's 2022 Notable Women in Construction, Architecture, and Design and Crain's 2020 Notable Women in Design. Laura is co-founding Owner of Other Work, an arts-based experimental studio focused on architecture and city-making that promotes liberation and justice through spatial agency. Her 17 years of professional and academic experience ranges across all scales and typologies -- from small-scale design-build installations and commercial spaces to expansive higher education, urban design, healthcare, workplace, and research laboratories. As a White, queer woman, she is interested in power struggle and alliance building in racialized territories and traditionally gendered spaces. Her work reimagines how human bodies perform and interact with one another and their surroundings. Engaged in transdisciplinary and inclusive collaboration, she designs participatory environments that radically affirm and celebrate marginalized human identities, expressions, and desires -- queer, Black, Indigenous, (dis)abled folx and people of color.

## Current Employment

|                   |                   |             |                |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Co-founder, Owner | <b>Other Work</b> | Detroit, MI | 2019 - Current |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|

## Past

|                             |                                 |                |             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Design Architect, Associate | <b>SmithGroup</b>               | Detroit, MI    | 2011 - 2022 |
| Design Architect, Artist    | <b>Synecdoche Design</b>        | Ann Arbor, MI  | 2016 - 2017 |
| Adjunct Faculty             | <b>Lawrence Tech University</b> | Southfield, MI | 2014 - 2016 |

## Relevant Work (as Design Leader, Designer or Partner)

### Other Work

|  |                             |             |              |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Black Rose Gallery, Motor City Match                       | Detroit, MI                 | In Process  | 2022-Current |
| Handyman Training Center, Motor City Match                 | Detroit, MI                 | In Process  | 2022-Current |
| East Lawn Development                                      | Riverbend, Detroit, MI      | In Process  | 2021-Current |
| Shelter Bay Animal Hospital                                | Novi, MI                    | In Process  | 2021-Current |
| Streetscape Installations, with Ujjiji Davis               | Eastern Market, Detroit, MI | In Process  | 2021-Current |
| PDD, City of Detroit, Neighborhood Design Hubs Field Guide | Detroit, MI                 | Completed   | 2021         |
| Garden Novella Installation                                | Southwest Detroit, MI       | Constructed | 2019-2021    |
| Stitch City Community Design Center                        | Old Redford, MI             | Constructed | 2019-2020    |
| Dandy Acres Dog Lodge                                      | South Lyon, MI              | Unbuilt     | 2019         |

### SmithGroup

|   |                        |             |      |
|---|------------------------|-------------|------|
| MSU College of Human Medicine and Health Expansion    | Flint, MI              | In Process  | 2022 |
| MSU College of Human Medicine and Health              | Grand Rapids, MI       | Constructed | 2022 |
| Manistique Community Center Treehouse                 | Jefferson Chalmers, MI | In Process  | 2020 |
| LinkedIn Office, Repurposing Historic Building        | Detroit, MI            | Constructed | 2019 |
| MSU Interdisciplinary Science + Technology Building   | Lansing, MI            | Constructed | 2018 |
| Design Guidelines for Repurposing the Fisher Building | Detroit, MI            | Unbuilt     | 2017 |
| 1001 Woodward Plaza                                   | Detroit, MI            | Constructed | 2016 |
| MSU College of Human Medicine and Health              | Flint, MI              | Constructed | 2015 |

### Synecdoche Design

|                          |               |             |      |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|------|
| Nightcap Cocktail Lounge | Ann Arbor, MI | Constructed | 2017 |
| Cantina Taqueria         | Ann Arbor, MI | Constructed | 2016 |

### Commissioned Art

|  |                          |                  |      |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|------|
| Portrait of Fisher Building for The Platform | Detroit, MI              | Acrylic, 36"x48" | 2017 |
| Sidewalk to Utopia, Sidewalk Festival        | Old Redford, Detroit, MI | Wood, Tarp       | 2019 |

## Affiliations / Community Involvement

|  |                   |             |            |
|--|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| NOMA Detroit Board                             | Marketing Manager | Detroit, MI | 2018-2022  |
| AIA Detroit Committee on Diversity + Inclusion | Chairperson       | Detroit, MI | 2018-2019  |
| ABC:D Architects Building Communities: Detroit | Mentor            | Detroit, MI | 2017- 2018 |

## Awards / Fellowships

|   |                                 |             |              |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Notable Women in Construction, Architecture, and Design | Crain's Michigan                | Detroit, MI | 2022         |
| Notable Women in Design Award                           | Crain's Michigan                | Detroit, MI | 2020         |
| Young Architect of the Year Honor Award                 | AIA Detroit                     | Detroit, MI | 2019         |
| "Garden Novella"  | Detroit City of Design (Winner) | Detroit, MI | 2019-Current |
| "Stitch City"   | Design Center in a Box (Winner) | Detroit, MI | 2018-Current |

## Relevant Publications / Lectures / Exhibitions

Shop and See, Design Core Detroit for Detroit Month of Design, 2022  
City of Design Competition Neighborhood Showcase, Design Core Detroit for Detroit Month of Design, 2021  
Laura Walker, "Collective Healing Through Arts-based Development." AIA Eastern Oklahoma ChitChat, 2021  
Walker, Laura and Styczynski, Mike. "Queering Arts-based Development." Proceedings of the 2021 ARCC Architectural Research Conference. University of Arizona: Tucson, AZ.  
Laura Walker, "Joy-Informed Practice" Keynote Speaker for the AIA Christopher Kelley Leadership and Development Program  
Laura Walker, Mike Styczynski, Curator and Exhibition Designer, "Artist as Developer, Transforming Places Through Social Infrastructure." Selected Event by Design Core Detroit for Detroit Month of Design, 2020  
Invited Lecture, "Designing for Social Justice", Design Theory Graduate Course, Lawrence Tech University, 2020

## Conferences

2022 ULI Michigan Annual Real Estate Summit Panel, "Rethinking Placemaking." Detroit, MI.  
Walker, Laura and Styczynski, Mike. "Queering Arts-based Development." 2021 ARCC Architectural Research Conference. University of Arizona: Tucson, AZ.  
Walker, Laura and Styczynski, Mike. "Artist As Developer: Radical Approaches to Equitable Urbanization in Rustbelt Cities." Presentation at 2021 EDRA52 Just Environments Research Conference. Detroit, MI.  
Conference Panelist/Moderator, "Transforming Physical Structures through Social Infrastructure." Panel Discussion with Alicia George, Jim Walker, Shauta Marsh, and Michel Flournoy, Reclaiming Vacant Properties, Atlanta, GA. 2019,

## Project Awards

|   |                                |               |      |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|------|
| AIA Film Challenge Award Finalist, w/ AIA Detroit       | Manistique Community Treehouse | Detroit, MI   | 2020 |
| AL Light & Architecture Design Commendation Achievement | ISTB, MSU                      | Lansing, MI   | 2020 |
| Illuminating Engineering Society Award                  | ISTB, MSU                      | Lansing, MI   | 2020 |
| Engineering Society of Detroit Honor Award              | ISTB, MSU                      | Lansing, MI   | 2020 |
| CAM Magazine Award                                      | LinkedIn Detroit Office        | Detroit, MI   | 2020 |
| AIA Detroit - Interiors Award                           | LinkedIn Detroit Office        | Detroit, MI   | 2019 |
| AIA Detroit Award - Urban Design                        | 1001 Woodward Plaza            | Detroit, MI   | 2017 |
| AIA Michigan - Building                                 | Oakland University Engineering | Rochester, MI | 2016 |