



LAUREN A. HOOD

Ms.laurenhood@gmail.com

Laurenahood.com

EDUCATION

University of Detroit Mercy:
Master of Community Development
Bachelor of Business Administration

CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

Policy Link Advisory on Spatial Justice

C. H. Wright African American Museum
Board of Trustees
Chairwoman Community Advisory

Center for Social Solutions
University of Michigan
Community Reparations Fellow

RECOGNITION

American Institute of Architects (AIA):
2020 Charles Blessing Awardee

Harvard Business School:
Young American Leaders Program

Theaster Gates Place Lab:
Ethical Redevelopment Fellow

Damon J. Keith Center:
Detroit Equity Action Lab Fellow

Detroit Regional Chamber:
Leadership Detroit XXXIX Class

FORMER

Chair Detroit City Planning Commission
Co-Chair Detroit Reparations Task Force
Historic District Commission
Preservation Detroit Board
Detroit Sound Conservancy Board

Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) 2023–Present

Assistant Professor of Practice

5 year Faculty appointment teaching self-created electives based on research at the Institute for AfroUrbanism on reparative planning and culture centric urban design.

Institute for AfroUrbanism – IAU (Detroit, MI) 2021–Present

Founder/Director

Founded a think tank and action lab working at the intersection of Black aspiration and community transformation. Research at IAU seeks to uncover the social, structural, spiritual and spatial conditions necessary to support “Black Thriving”. The Black Thriving Index will be published Q2 of 2024, with an associated citizen research fellowship to launch at the same time. In Q3, IAU will break ground on it’s Dreamstead Campus for Black Imagination in the North End neighborhood.

Deep Dive Detroit, LLC (Detroit, MI) 2012–2021

Community Development Strategist/Consultant

Served as cultural context expert and engagement engineer on neighborhood development projects. Leveraged place based knowledge, experience and social capital to design and execute authentic and generative citizen engagement plans. Served as engagement lead on Wayne State University Master Plan, Co-Lead on East Warren Cadieux Framework Study, and Engagement Advisor on the city’s Sustainability Action Agenda.

Facilitator

Designed curriculum and moderated group dialogues on racial equity, privilege, equitable development, and community engagement. Have successfully engaged more than a thousand participants at more than a dozen organizations.

Live6 (Detroit, MI) 2015–2017

Founding Executive Director

Successfully launched place based, community development organization in Northwest Detroit. Designed multiple platforms for convening neighborhood stakeholders, city government and development entities to create a shared vision for recruiting new businesses, sustaining exiting businesses, vacant property activation and community programming. Over the course of a 2 year period, engaged over 1000 residents in monthly public dialogues, monthly stakeholder advisory meetings, quarterly cultural events and bi-weekly placekeeping initiatives.

Loveland Technologies (Detroit, MI) 2013–2015

Director of Community Engagement

Partnered with place based non-profits to develop and execute neighborhood specific outreach strategies to engage residents in a city wide land use process. On behalf of the City’s Blight Task Force, convened and trained over 700 residents on data collection and research applications.

Select Publications and Press Coverage

The Institute for AfroUrbanism – Working at the Intersection of Black Aspiration and City Change

Detroit Is It Feature, October 2022

Interview on AfroUrbanism

Discuss Detroit, April 2022

AfroUrbanism For Thriving Black Communities with Lauren Hood

Threesixtycity Podcast Feature, February 2022

Yearlong project will seek feedback on what Detroit's Black Residents need to thrive

Crain's Detroit Feature, February 2022

Lauren Hood on AfroUrbanism

WXYZ Feature, January 2022

On Reparations

Bridge Detroit Interview – January 2022

Black and Thriving – Detroiters Take Over Paris and Pay Homage

Michigan Chronicle Feature, December 2021

Black Thriving in Paris and AfroUrbanism

Authentically Detroit Feature, December 2021

A Tale of Two cities: Imagining and Realizing Black spaces; Afroubanism, Detroit's Black history and future

Michigan Public Radio Feature, February 2021

How centering Black Detroiters in development plans creates a more vibrant, equitable city

Michigan Public Radio Feature, September 2020

The case for AfroUrbanism

Congress for New Urbanism Journal Op-Ed, September 2020

America's Black Journal on equitable development

Detroit Public Television Interview, July 2017

Michigan Change Makers: Ones to watch

Crain's Detroit Business, June 2017

Detroit needs to preserve the cultural integrity of its black neighborhoods

Model D Op-Ed, February 2017

Gentrification in Detroit

The HUB Detroit Op-Ed, December 2016

How to talk about racism and unconscious bias

Michigan Radio Interview, July 2016

Realign your thinking to be a force against racism

Detroit Free Press Op-Ed, June 2015

[A new road for Detroit: Redevelopment prompts tough questions](#)

Michigan Daily Feature, March 2015

["New Detroit": A Critical Perspective](#)

Huffpost Feature, May 2014

[Deep Dive Detroit helps start conversations about social justice](#)

Michigan Radio Interview, February 2014

Select Public Speaking/Conferences

[University of Washington – College of Built Environment Lecture on AfroUrbanism](#)

March 2023

[PBS – Americas Black Journal Interview Reparations: What Is Owed to Black Americans](#)

March 2022

[American Institute of Architects \(AIA\):COMMONS | AfroUrbanism and REPAIRations](#)

January 2021

[Landmark Society of Western New York | Keynote: Decolonizing Development: A Restorative Approach to the Practice of City Change](#)

December 2020

[LISC | Culture First: Restoring Swagger in Communities of Color](#)

October 2020

[re:publica Detroit | Access Ain't the Issue Keynote](#)

September 2019

[Urban Consulate – Destination: Reparation](#)

August 2020

[Urban Consulate | Parlor Talk: "Preserving Black Space"](#)

February 2017

[Bamboo Detroit | Community Engagement Lecture](#)

May 2016

[Detroit Policy Conference | Keynote](#)

February 2016