

THE CULTURE KEEPER

OLAYAMI DABLS' GRAND VISION



URP 610-002 AfroUrbanism Studio: Reimagining Dabls' African Bead Museum

Winter 2025 - Tuesdays 2:30 - 5:30 pm – Prof. Lauren Hood

The urgent demolition of a structure at the Dabls African Bead Museum site this past Summer, underscores the critical need for visionary planning rooted in an AfroUrbanist ethos of cultural preservation, self-determination, and collective thriving. This graduate-level studio invites students to reimagine Dabls' nearly full city block as the centerpiece of a transformative cultural and eco-district. By integrating zoning innovation, land use, environmental justice, historic analysis, and cultural stewardship, students will craft a master plan that not only safeguards this iconic portal but also amplifies its potential to inspire diasporic connection and sustainability. With Detroit at a crossroads, this course is a call to action: harness the power of AfroUrbanism to shape a future where Black heritage and creativity lead the way. Join us to design a legacy that honors the past while shaping the future.

