

Elizabeth Richards

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Education

Virginia Tech | Master of Urban Planning and Urban Design August 2022-May 2024

- Developed sustainable design guidelines for affordable housing for the City of Alexandria
- Wrote Greenway Plan and ArcGIS [Storymap](#) for Annandale VA, [presented](#) to the Annandale Greenway Alliance.

Liberty University, B.S. (graduated early) August 2017-December 2020

Relevant Experience

Urban Designer | Metro Nashville Planning Design Studio January 2025-Present

- Wrote outdoor dining and street food kiosk standards for formerly bombed 2nd Ave Rebuild.
- Wrote streetscape design standards for the entire 550-acre East Bank development.
- Created infill housing designs for 1,400 housing units on metro-owned land.
- Designed concepts for public space, mixed-use, transit-oriented, and prominent waterfront development.
- Presented regularly to developers, city council, community boards, and partner firms.

Junior Landscape Planner | Lardner Klein Landscape Architects, Alexandria, VA August 2023-December 2024

- Authored parks master plans for Cities of Alexandria and Fredericksburg assessing service and risk.
- Surveyed sites, compiled photos and maps using historic research, demographics, and mobility data.
- Organized and cleaned data to create tables and matrices for risk assessment reports and transportation plans.
- Wrote copy and designed report layouts using Adobe InDesign and Illustrator.
- Prepared presentations for and collaborated with public, private, and civic sector clients.

Junior Community Development Specialist | Memphis Community Redevelopment Agency August 2022-July 2023

- Copyedited a successful EPA Clean-Up grant application for environmentally contaminated sites in Memphis.
- Managed legal acquisition process for blighted properties.
- Developed early design sketches for mixed-use, infill, transit oriented, and public art projects.

Landscape Architect Intern | Memphis Parks Partnership January 2023-May 2023

- Created park signage and blog content about the Mississippi Flyway and protected species.
- Developed placemaking strategies to activate open space in the park.

AmeriCorps Fellow | Global Center for Digital Innovation, Chattanooga, TN August 2021-August 2022

- Designed and taught courses in creative technology, coding, robotics, and fabrication.

Awards and Certifications

Placemaking: Sense, Space, and Strategy | University of Amsterdam July 2023-August 2023

I attended the University of Amsterdam for a summer program in Placemaking. We attended strategy sessions with local planners and officials, toured neighborhood interventions, and volunteered at an urban farm and garden.

National Student Design Competition | American Planning Association January 2023-April 2023

Earned second place in nationwide competition, judged at the 2023 APA conference. We created a comprehensive small area plan for an environmentally contaminated site. I designed the website and strategy report using WordPress, Adobe InDesign, and Illustrator.

Tool Experience: Adobe Creative Suite, ArcGIS, ArcUrban, Rhino, Sketchup, ArchiCAD, V-Ray, TwinMotion, Test Fit, Strava-Metro