Presents

Senior Project

Film Festival

Highlighting capstone projects from the class of 2020 in the Community, Environment, and Planning major

Date
May 14
2020

Time
6-8 PM
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Rebecca Fogel, rfogel2@uw.edu
Throughout the past four years, I have discovered what I’m especially passionate about and have truly found a home within CEP. My interests in community development and global health in African cities have only grown deeper, and much of my time at UW has been shaped by my transformative experiences in Tanzania, South Africa, and Ghana. I hope to work in the international development and non-profit sector, drawing on these experiences and interdisciplinary education to promote equitable development.

Development of Underdevelopment: Foreign Aid, Debt Dependence, and the Value of Community in Ghana, 6:15 PM
The international development landscape in the Global South is characterized by a long history of increasing foreign aid from the Global North, yet many scholars, economists, advocates, and community organizers recognize that this method does not result in poverty alleviation, and in fact leads to greater dependence upon foreign aid. This project analyzed whether community-driven development initiatives are a more socially and economically sustainable alternative to official development assistance in the Global South. To examine this question, I researched the history of development assistance in Africa in general beginning after World War II, as well as the history of economic policy and aid in Ghana. During a three-month internship with Global Mamas in Cape Coast, Ghana, a non-profit committed to promoting women’s empowerment and economic self-sufficiency through fair trade clothing production, I conducted impact assessment interviews with the employees and producers in four locations, gathering data on how the organization has improved their quality of life. The impact assessments revealed that every person, employee or producer, is much happier and more financially stable since working with Global Mamas. The vast majority are also able to pay their rent, afford their children’s school fees, and pay medical bills while also saving for the future. I compiled this information into a report, with recommendations on how community-driven
development can provide a more economically and socially sustainable alternative to official development assistance. I then abbreviated the final report, including only my own observations and reflections, to create a shorter document for Global Mamas in order to help attract future interns and reflect on some of the problematic discussions and attitudes on doing international development work in Africa, as well as toward the continent as a whole.

Honglin Chen, honglin9@uw.edu

I have always been interested in city planning and smart cities. In CEP, I gained a lot of professional knowledge and hands-on planning experiences. With my passion for smart cities and academic background in city planning, I want to introduce smart city technologies into cities to make our daily lives easier and more efficient, and to make our communities stronger.

Building Smart Cities by Improving Public Infrastructure, 6:45 PM

Today, many cities are in a phase of transformation, taking a step towards becoming smart cities, where information is collected, analyzed, and connected to better serve the residents. I want to find out how smart city technologies such as smart bus stops, auto-dimming streetlights, and smart parking lots can make our daily lives in the city safer, more efficient, and more enjoyable. I researched and studied examples of existing smart infrastructures in cities around the world. I then evaluated the current condition of cities in the greater Seattle area and came up with eight practical recommendation proposals for adapting smart cities technology into public infrastructure for cities in the greater Seattle area. I expect to find that cities that adapted smart city technologies are benefiting from them and the result of my stated evaluation is true. I have also compiled an academic paper with my smart city infrastructure evaluations and proposals. This paper can be used as a guide and reference to help decide what steps a city in the greater Seattle area can take next to become a smart or smarter city.
Morgan Matthews, mam1295@uw.edu

I transferred to the University of Washington three years ago and fell in love with CEP. My time at UW has allowed me to expand my interest in community development and sustainability with my own creative flair. I hope to explore the endless possibilities that the planning field has to offer while challenging myself and playing a part in the building and strengthening of communities around me.

The Creative Play Initiative, 7:15 PM

Through the Creative Play initiative, I have researched what design concepts are best for facilitating creative play. The Creative Play Initiative has created a platform to explore the connection of one’s environment to play, play to creativity, creativity to learning, and that learning to long-term benefits of child development. The designs that I have produced represent a variety of creative play concepts. Studies have shown that creative play enhances child development by facilitating manual skills. The development includes, but is not limited to, divergent thinking, problem-solving, experimentation, and risk-taking. For example, a portion of designs covers play tactics that involve imaginative discovery, involving magnifying glasses and microscopes. Furthermore, risk-taking has been demonstrated through obstacle courses made up of natural resources such as logs, rocks, and stumps. Throughout the entirety of my research, I familiarized myself with landscape design processes, in order to build upon the foundation of my skill set. My results are presented in a video format compiling the context, habits, and benefits of creative play. To represent my designs, I included small sculpted models along with a "How to Guide for Kids" so that I could engage the community on a larger scale, with a format that encourages creative play at home.
Ryan Barbee, ry1999@uw.edu
I am a student in the College of Education and the College of Built Environments with a passion for creating community in educational spaces. After graduating, I aspire to be a leader in education and plan to get my master’s degree in teaching. The CEP learning community has been one of the most defining parts of my time spent at UW, and I will take the lessons I have learned in this program with me for the rest of my life!

Preparing for Post-Graduate Success, 6:15 PM
This project outlines the plan for creating a University of Washington undergraduate course titled, “Preparing for Post-Graduate Success.” Through the process of reading peer-reviewed literature and conducting survey research, this project aimed to answer the following question: How can a student-led, peer-facilitated, undergraduate course prepare students for post-graduate success? There are structures at UW that already serve this purpose, such as the Career & Internship Center, but these resources are not used to their full potential. My project fills this gap as a quarter-long, student-driven course offered for two credits. I have done this by developing a syllabus and reaching out to peer undergraduates that have confidently, accurately and successfully helped me facilitate topics in this course. I am measuring the growth of students’ preparedness by giving them pre-, mid- and post-course surveys. The results of these surveys indicate that my course did help increase students’ preparedness for post-graduate life, which was the main goal of this project.

Steffan Ortega, sfortega@uw.edu
I am a curious person, and I constantly find myself asking why or how things came to be. Looking at humankind, I believe that our ability to cooperate is a powerful tool which has allowed us to thrive. As a result, I enjoy studying forms
of community organization, and am honored to have been given the opportunity to participate in a program such as CEP.

**Urban Legends: Teotihuacan, 6:45 PM**

Central Mexico is home to the ruins of an ancient city called Teotihuacan. This city was active sometime between 100 BC – 650 AD and was responsible for numerous urban design innovations that were otherwise unheard of in its time and region. Residents lived in communal apartment complexes, and the city was built around a massive, central avenue – just to name a few. Nearly one thousand years after its collapse, Teotihuacan was discovered by the Aztecs, who then revived and emulated its design practices in their own city, Tenochtitlan. As a result, Teotihuacan’s influence reaches far into Mexico’s history, and has become an important site to study if one wishes to understand Mexican forms of urban expression. With this project, we explore the question: What are Teotihuacan’s unique design and community practices, and what effect have they had on its successors? This project involves the creation of a web-based exhibit, created to display examples of ancient urban expression to an academic urban planning community. Recognizing patterns in humankind’s urban history, which this project aims to promote, may help improve the decisions we make for humankind’s urban future. Additionally, this project allows for the study of native Mexican heritage.

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**Emily Aoki Yamashita, emilyay@uw.edu**

*Having grown up in Seattle my whole life, I started to become increasingly aware of my built environment and the city’s rapid development, which prompted me to become more engaged in my own communities. My education in Community, Environment & Planning confirmed my passion for examining the interconnectedness within urban planning, which inspired me to learn the ways in which our built environments can represent a community’s cultural or historical identity. I want to focus on innovating holistic solutions to address our community’s issues and emphasize the necessity of highlighting voices often overlooked in the decision-making process to ultimately strengthen the human aspect of urban planning.*
Identity Displacement: Examining Place Attachment in Developing Communities, 7:15 PM

Planning has often been identified as a top-down process where a group of people belonging to a company, firm, or government enter a community and make decisions about the development of land. This process can overlook the community’s place-attachment to their neighborhood, which is defined as a person’s emotional connection to their built environment, community, or neighborhood. With top-down decision making, communities can be displaced due to rising land values and housing costs, resulting in many culturally significant or sentimental sites of place-attachment being lost. In Seattle, this problem can be found in fast-developing neighborhoods such as the Central District or Chinatown International District. This project addresses how the impact of gentrification and development on a community can bring awareness of more holistic urban planning practices that involve voices often overlooked in affected communities. My project consists of a collection of oral histories centered around the people and places of the International District. These histories document stories, memories, and thoughts of residents in the neighborhood to highlight those most affected by the developments in the neighborhood while providing a resource to the public towards understanding the human aspect of community. With the implementation of oral histories in urban planning practices, there is an opportunity to bridge the gap between planners and community members that humanizes the development process and creates new methods for holistic information sharing that legitimizes place-attachment in highly developing neighborhoods.
Kaelyn Thede, kaelynt9@uw.edu

I am fascinated by how we as humans interact with and perceive the world around us. Throughout my time at UW, I explored many aspects of environmentalism and how to build a stronger understanding of how humans and nature are connected. I am passionate about sustainable food systems, environmental education, and the power of place connections.

Closing the Loop: Urban Agriculture Solutions, 6:15 PM

With more people moving to cities, and cities themselves expanding, the need for a sustainable urban farming system is more apparent than ever. While there are various urban gardens and agriculture systems already in use, many are inaccessible due to high costs and complex operations. This project seeks to design and build an urban farming system that provides urban residents with fresh, healthy food in a way that leaves minimal impacts on the earth. Nothing is truly sustainable until it can be done over and over again without resources running out or creating excessive waste.

The question I set out to answer is: What is the most sustainable low-tech, closed loop agriculture system I can implement in Seattle that can be managed by a single individual with minimal farming knowledge? I researched urban agriculture movements, social and political roadblocks, and technical aspects of different designs before I finally settled on a low-tech, compact aquaponics system. From there, I read many guides about how to build home aquaponics systems and made adjustments to their designs such as adding a solar-powered pump in order to match my goal of being versatile, accessible, and suitable for the Seattle climate. The result is a fully functioning aquaponics system that successfully grows food in an urban setting without being reliant on a central power source or producing waste. This project gives an example of what a sustainable urban farming system could look like. In the future, I want to implement this system in a community and get feedback from the public to truly assess the practicality of making this system more widespread.
I moved to Washington from Pago Pago, American Samoa, and started college with the primary goal of landing a career path that’d allow me to give back to the community that raised me. Since then, I’ve discovered a passion for social and environmental justice, particularly in community organizing and education. My time at the UW has been heavily influenced by my involvement with my Pacific Islander community, whom have in turn inspired this senior project, and taught me the value of knowledge and power found right at home on our little islands.

**Pacific Testimonies: Climate Resilience in Oceania, 6:45 PM**

Pacific Island nations contribute least to carbon gas emissions globally yet are disproportionately vulnerable to the first-hand effects of climate change. Because of this, Pacific Islanders are at the highest risk of displacement, emigration, and loss of identity within communities. Nevertheless, conversations about climate change and adaptation principles in the Pacific are heavily dominated by Western scientific and political discourse. This project works to de-center that narrative by highlighting the experiences, voices, and resilience of local indigenous communities that make up the Pacific.

Over the course of an eight-week seminar, this project facilitated discussions amongst Pacific-affiliated undergraduate students at the University of Washington regarding the perceptions and influence of Pacific Islanders in climate justice, education, and policy from the perspective of decolonized community-produced knowledge. Through these discussions, course participants were able to construct for themselves a personal narrative of climate change effects in their lives and communities. My aim for this project was to create an opportunity and outlet for members of my Pacific Islander community to battle feelings of apathy and helplessness in light of environmental injustice, by empowering them to use their voices as testimony for inciting change.
Blair Ivy, blairi@uw.edu
As a kid, I had the privilege of traveling all over the world to explore with my family. Because of this, I love to learn new things and explore different ways of thinking and living. My time at the UW and in CEP has allowed me to do both while meeting new people and learning more about myself. In the future, I am looking to help communities become stronger and better connected by working with people who want to make a difference.

The Comeback Community: Stories of Resilience, 7:15 PM
Washington state is one of the most at-risk states for a wide array of hazards and is at increased risk to many more as global warming increases; it is vital that we can prepare and be ready for the changes to come. As the effects of climate change become more of an everyday concern, we must plan for the future and aim to create programs and connect with each other in order to stay organized. Washington, Oregon, and California among others, have already begun practicing earthquake drills through The Great Shakeout as well as educating people about the dangers of aftershocks which can trigger tsunamis, but no one nation or city has been completely successful in preparing for a pandemic in this day and age. So how do we prepare for risks such as these? We must survive, adapt, and grow from these situations. We must connect with one another, and we must find ways to build resilient communities that can withstand a variety of hazards and adversities, from the impacts of climate change, to the destruction of earthquakes, to the disruption of global pandemics. In order to explore these ideas, I have interviewed a variety of key people involved in their communities including front-line responders, federal officials, planners, and community members. The final result of this work is a podcast that documents these stories of resilience and examines the key lessons that we should all learn and adapt if we are to ensure that our communities – and ourselves – are prepared for these challenges before they arise.
Eléni Marie Williams, eleniw12@uw.edu

Coming from small town Sandpoint, Idaho, to the University of Washington was not the easiest transition for me. Yet, I have grown an immense amount here in Seattle. My time here at the University of Washington has consisted of my commute on the Burke-Gilman trail, solace at the IMA playing basketball and working out my worries, making coffee at the Bean and Bagel, and hours laughing with classmates and professors. With these experiences, I plan to become an entrepreneur by creating my own business in health and wellness. I will travel and seek out sunshine, surf, pursue yoga, and continue my journey of learning outside of the university.

Changing the Nature of Play, 6:15 PM

With the abundance of technological advancements, our daily lives are flooded with overstimulation, clutter, and excessive amounts of materials that take away from life's simplicities. These impacts leave children without opportunities to form foundational relationships with nature. Scientific research demonstrates that nature provides a significant number of benefits to human's health and well-being. Studies further show that nature play offers children significant opportunities to engage creatively and utilize their imagination. These opportunities engage children in developmental challenges that stimulate physical, psychological, social, and emotional growth. Despite these benefits, modern society bombards children with an excess of manufactured toys, equipment, and technology that separate them from nature and hinder their creative abilities. As a result, children are increasingly removed from nature's simple, yet abundant, gifts. Standard playgrounds are some of the few remaining recreational spaces for children to play outdoors. However, they typically lack natural elements. My project focuses on the value of providing children with foundational experiences in nature. I have compiled research on standard playgrounds, nature playgrounds, and the benefits of nature play, and collaborated with the UW Arboretum's outdoor pre-
school to demonstrate the necessity of nature for holistic child development and well-being.

Alex Kazuhiro Tagami, tagamakt@uw.edu

Holding an ever-expanding set of values shared among my friends and communities, I love to explore new societies and groups to discover new ways of viewing life. Through this interest, I found life in CEP to be an enlightening venture in my academic career, gaining new insight on how I approach the world and myself. With a passion for cross-cultural interactions through media, I look forward to engaging with new communities utilizing my experiences at the UW, in CEP, and from my fellow peers and CEPsters that shared this academic hike forward with me.

Behind & Beyond the Screen: Examining the Relationship Between Participation in Online Gaming Communities & Offline Conditions, 6:45 PM

In an era when technology and digitization has become more prevalent, the participation in online-based activities and communities is relevant among people young and old. Individuals become more heavily invested in online communities through certain interests such as gaming and can create strong relationships that take place in this virtual space that would not have been possible through the constraints of offline communities. For this project, I reviewed the latest research on online gaming communities (OGCs) to understand how participation in these communities impacts, and is impacted by, offline conditions and practices. To complete this work, I read scholarly articles published between 2015 to 2020 found through the UW Libraries online databases to hold a systematic literature review on OGCs. The literature that was available to me showed that there is significant evidence on both positive and negative relationships between the offline and online self/experience. This is vital when determining the significance of OGCs in individuals. While it is difficult to determine specific effects of online participation on offline conditions and actions, it would be intriguing to expand on that subject to further gauge positive and negative outcomes.
Kori Carter, cartec3@uw.edu
I am originally from Kansas City and currently pursuing my degree in CEP with a focus in Real Estate. I began college on a different career path, and in searching for fulfillment I decided to take a class in Real Estate Appraisal and I was so enthralled with the process of evaluating a space not only for the asset's investment opportunities but more importantly assessing the asset's benefit to the community. With my new passion for Real Estate, I plan to develop properties of my own!

Exposing the Truth that Perpetuates Segregation in the Pacific Northwest, 7:15 PM
American cities have long been environments of segregation and racism. From Jim Crow, to redlining, to racial covenants, the people responsible for building and shaping cities have found ways to separate and exclude Black people and communities from White neighborhoods and sections of the city. Today, though such overtly racist policies are no longer legal, practices of race-based exclusion continue, and the effects on the urban landscape and Black communities are no less profound. In this project, I analyze the impacts of contemporary planning and real estate development on urban segregation, particularly focusing in King County. To explore this in depth, I interviewed a number of professional Black developers and planners to learn more about their struggles with inclusivity and how they have learned to advocate for their communities. These conversations are recorded in a video that I hope will help expose the importance of inclusivity, document the challenges that still remain, and reveal methods that can ultimately fix these problems.
Aury Banos, sbanos@uw.edu
I am a Senior in CEP motivated by community engagement and urban planning. After graduating, I plan to continue working on my podcast and collecting stories from a wide range of backgrounds.

**Hip Hop and the Built Environments, 6:15 PM**
The purpose of this project is to look into how Hip Hop culture allows one to creatively tell a story about their built environments. Hip Hop can be considered a cultural phenomenon and a way to creatively express oneself through rapping, graffiti, beat-making, and knowledge. This project will go deeper into what Hip Hop tells us about experiences, community and neighborhoods. This project will focus on a multitude of community members from different cities to distinguish the connections of Hip Hop and the built environments. My methods will be broken down into three phases including: research, analysis, and broadcasting. The research will consist of researching the definition of cultural identity and examples of artists who have and are making a difference using their platform. The analysis will be focused on song selection in relation to the built environments and broadcasting will consist of recording a podcast. My findings will pursue what cultural identity and placemaking is, the historical content of how urban policies affected Hip Hop culture and the different ways hip hop influences communities. The final product for this project will be creating a playlist and recording a podcast which will interview community members within Seattle, about how Hip Hop influenced their built environments. Hip Hop is a growing culture and has a worldwide fan base, therefore one might get to know the built environments better through knowing more about the culture: Hip Hop.
Kate Merifield, merifk@uw.edu

I grew up in the Puget Sound area and have now spent the last four years at UW. I double majored in Mathematics and Community, Environment, and Planning, with an emphasis on urban planning. Having a wide focus of study has allowed me to learn about a lot of different subject areas and get involved in a wide span of research projects and extracurricular activities. My senior project brings together a few of my areas of interests including community development and STEM education.

Math is Fem, 6:45 PM

There are many reasons that there are fewer women and non-binary people represented in STEM than men. Some of these are a lack of feeling of belonging and a perception of STEM, and mathematics specifically, as masculine. Women and non-binary people are valuable additions to STEM fields and bring new perspectives to many issues, and it is important to attract and retain women and non-binary students to the STEM fields. This research asks how women and non-b people can be supported in STEM and made to feel more comfortable entering STEM fields. Although it cannot completely remove these barriers, creating a positive and supportive community for women and non-binary members of STEM fields can help to get past some of these barriers. To help support women and non-b people in STEM, I created a community. Specifically, I hosted a community event near campus to create in person connections, created a website to provide resources and testimonials, and after many schools were moved online due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I created a network of free tutoring for affected students. These steps will helped create an environment for women and non-binary STEM professionals and students that fostered a sense of belonging and challenged the idea of STEM as masculine through interactions with non-masculine STEM individuals.
Emily Forsberg, emilydf@uw.edu
I am a California gal who loves the outdoors – mountain biking, climbing, and surfing. My interests in the built and natural environments have inspired me to focus my studies on community and food systems. My professional experiences in geographic information systems, market research, and farming have guided me toward pursuing a career related to sustainability.

Teeny the Tiny House, 7:15 PM
Tiny homes are unique housing structures that explore the simplicity and complexity of 400 square feet or less. While tiny homes can take many different shapes and forms, my research focused on mobile units complete with a living space, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom, essentially, fancy boxes on wheels. I have explored the idea of “going tiny” from many different angles in attempt to answer two questions: (1) what structural issues can tiny homes help solve and (2) what would the ideal tiny house look like for myself? I have answered these questions through in depth research using articles, blogs, books, TV series, virtual conferences, and social media platforms, as well as phone and email interviews with people who build and live in tiny homes. My final product is similar to a construction plan and includes: (1) feasibility analysis of tiny homes (2) a materials list (3) a price analysis and budget and (4) inspiration boards, drawings, and floor plans. Housing insecurity is on the rise and tiny homes are able to address a range of housing affordability problems. As a soon-to-be college graduate, a tiny house would not only give me a place to live, it would also allow me to live intentionally, sustainably, and independently.
Kona Farry, konaf@uw.edu
I am a Puget Sound native and lover of coffee who can usually be found riding a bus. While most of my work focuses on transportation and education, I saw my capstone project as an opportunity to spend some time in a different area I enjoy: Local history.

Temporal Ties: Connecting Past, Present, and Future Through Time Capsules, 6:15 PM
As our cities continue to evolve, historic preservation can often become a matter of increasing concern for citizens. This usually manifests as a desire to protect culturally significant structures before they are demolished and the land repurposed, but cultural significance extends far beyond just the built environment. Time capsules, when used effectively, offer a unique insight into what life was like for the people who planted them: Personal mementos, significant objects, and other everyday items provide a far more intimate interpretation of culture than a monolithic structure. For those that plant them, time capsules are also an opportunity to bring people together to dream about what the future of their community will look like, what they want to say to those future people, and how they might contribute to creating a future community; in some ways, capsules can be more impactful for their planters than their openers. The aim of this project is to make time capsules more visible in daily life by collecting information on Seattle-area time capsules into an interactive website, including their contents, reason for being planted, and other metadata. The website also presents discussion for a general audience on how this overlooked temporal tie can strengthen a sense of community and place. In exploring the website, visitors will find pieces of history they can connect to, consider their future in their community, and gain a deeper appreciation for the richness of the places around them.
Reb Zhou, rz33@uw.edu

I am a 21-year-old who has grown up in the great Seattle area. I am a proud parent of two guinea pigs named Naruto and Enid. I have plans to one day bike from Seattle to Los Angeles (BIKE IS LIFE!!!). I love romping around in the forest foraging for mushrooms as well as spending time at parks, writing poetry, and gardening.

**QTPOC in the Woods: Joy & Resistance, 6:45 PM**

Queer and/or Trans People of Color (QTPOC) have long been pushed out-through policing and criminalization—from public spaces, especially public greenspaces such as city parks, state parks, and National Parks. Mainstream environmental/conservation movements have emphasized the importance of protecting public lands so that people can have access to environmental features such as mountains, rivers, forests, and etc. However, studies show that the people most likely to use and benefit from such spaces are overwhelmingly white. To address this problem, this project brings members of the QTPOC community into public greenspaces. My project centers on the questions of how QTPOC camping can create joy and ultimately fit into a desire-based framework for resistance and eventually fitting in to the larger project of resistance and liberation. Specifically, I organized a series of minimal-barrier camping trips centered on QTPOC healing and community building. I found that the camping trips are a positive experience for Q-mmunity members through feedback surveys, informal interviews, and collaborative poetry. I also have been able to witness moments of vulnerability, intimacy, and strength during these camping trips. The end product of this project is a QTPOC camping handbook, a toolkit that future QTPOC can use to organize their own camping trips, without needing extensive camping experience, as well as a collection of collectively written poems by the community, or rather the Q-mmunity.
Hailey Petersen, hp016@uw.edu

Hailing from Las Vegas, Nevada, I came to the University of Washington to get out of the bubble I was raised in. Motivated to become a more erudite individual, I found my home in the non-traditional academic path of the Community, Environment, and Planning major. It allowed me to pursue my curiosities and passions in the built environment and the world of art through coursework, internships, and a studying abroad in Berlin, Germany.

Artscapes Representing Terrain, 7:15 PM

The University District in Seattle, Washington, like the rest of the changing urban landscape of the city, is on the cusp of gentrification. Additionally, the community has become less attached to the community image as a whole given that the population mainly consists of a demographic that is not permanent. However, certain elements have been resolute through it all and that is the art. How can public art, in particular, muralism, be utilized in place making and community building in a neighborhood with a rich history and culture that is continually transforming, such as the University District. Methods entail outreach to different experts and entities involved in the Seattle art scene as well as the Built Environment and Community of the U District while collecting empirical data about way finding and U District boundaries. I will collect images and videos of the artworks within these boundaries. The culmination will be an interactive art walk, akin to the fact Seattle was the genesis of art walks in the United States.
Helen L. Ganahl, hlganahl@uw.edu
Despite – or perhaps because of – all the challenges, I have learned so much these past two years in CEP. I am thrilled to be receiving my bachelor’s degree in June, just weeks after my 32nd birthday, and am looking forward to some restorative sitting-in-the-sun-with-trees time.

Spread Roots in the City! An Urban Agriculture Zine, 6:15 PM
Property values continue to soar in Seattle, and more and more people are displaced. Displaced communities lose food sovereignty as they are pushed into food-poor neighborhoods. Without equitable, dynamic city policies, these underserved peoples have adapted various tactics to create and retain accessibility and resilience in local food systems. This project builds on their work by investigating how information about agricultural resources can be equitably aggregated and dispersed within the city of Seattle. Its goal is to help promote individual agency and community action. Three pathways of investigation are emphasized: scholarly research, urban agriculture site visits, and informational interviews with affected community members and change-makers immersed in food systems work. An iterative writing and design process informs the production of a free urban-agriculture zine. This zine will become one of the grassroots resources available to individuals and communities. It will serve those striving to increase the visibility of their needs, build resilience and food security, and establish place-attachments in Seattle. To fight for hyperlocal food production is to fight for a type of justice and to offer a powerful strategy for strengthening the interconnected web of ecologically, economically, and socially sound urban practices.
Matthew Ellis, mwe9@uw.edu

I am a transfer student who found a home and a family in CEP. My brain was made for urban planning, and I look forward to a long career in disaster and coastal planning. Looking into the future, I am excited about the path I have laid ahead of myself.

Inclusive Open Space: Moving Beyond the ADA, 6:45 PM

This project explores the intersection of the lived experience of people with disabilities and their desire to use public spaces. I examine whether meeting Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessibility guidelines provides adequate inclusion for people who experience mobility impairment at Green Lake Park. I try to understand the challenge of incorporating access to the park planning process by talking to city staff and private contractors. Also, I uncover the problems that a group of people with mobility challenges face in their local park using narrative interviews. Finally, I assess Green Lake Park using Seattle Parks’ ADA Checklist for Parks to understand the space as those who manage it do, reflecting on its contents during and after its use. I found that the ADA does not do enough to guarantee inclusive spaces, and we should go above and beyond the requirements in the policy by adjusting local code or adopting the UN CRPD. My project is significant because I incorporate the narratives of a group that planners often leave out of the planning process at a time when the park is preparing for redevelopment.

Anabella King, kingana@uw.edu

Gender in Public Universities, 7:15 PM

The transgender and gender non-conforming community has remained unacknowledged in many facets of public universities. While the Community, Environment, and Planning major at the University of Washington has tried to create a culture where students, faculty, and staff share their gender pronouns in classroom settings as a form of inclusion, a lack of contextual understanding for this practice has led some people to not fully understand its importance. To address this problem, my project examined the best practices for educating students, staff, and
faculty about gender (identity, expression, pronouns, etc.) in public universities. My goal was to establish the equity training provided by the Q Center of the University of Washington, called SaferZone, as part of the annual Community, Environment, and Planning new student orientation. This equity training creates shared context for incoming students, faculty, and staff members about gender, as well as sexuality, race, ethnicity, ability, age, positionality, and microaggressions. To establish the SaferZone training as part of the new student orientation, I researched the communication surrounding gender at other public universities, looked at the history of gender in the United States, and collaborated with the Q Center of the University of Washington. I found that successful dialogue surrounding identity and equity should happen in an environment where students, faculty, and staff feel comfortable being vulnerable. Providing these groups with a curriculum that explores identity and equity allows them to be more informed in their actions and, ideally, become stronger allies towards members of marginalized communities.
Sean Long, xlong16@uw.edu

I have lived in four different cities on two different continents, each of them in striking contrast to the last. Of those, Seattle has been my favorite because of its dense urban landscape and complex mobility network that is evolving before our eyes. My project looks at one aspect of the evolution of that mobility network, a new mobility solution designed to serve people in places that have been historically neglected by regular transit service.

Transit on Demand: Microtransit and its Implications on Regional Mobility, 6:15 PM

Regional mobility is currently facing a crisis in greater Seattle. As more and more people move to a thriving region, the demand for mobility has exposed major design weaknesses in existing car-centric development patterns and left government agencies in search of innovative solutions. With the rise of “shared mobility” and expansions in public transit infrastructure, how can transit agencies in the greater Seattle area harness new modes of transportation to better facilitate car-free journeys in the region? In this project, I am interested in how transit agencies can harness new modes of transportation, such as shared mobility, to better facilitate access to alternative modes of transportation. Specifically, this project analyzes the potential of “microtransit”, a new form of small-scale public transit, to address access challenges to and from transit hubs. This project focuses on Via, a pilot program in South Seattle that is designed to connect residents to and from Link light rail stations, to better understand the potential of microtransit in the greater Seattle region. The results of this project will focus on ridership data on Via as well comparisons with other regional microtransit pilots such as Ride2 in Eastgate and West Seattle. Much of this analysis is centered on examining Via’s role in the transit network, and whether it can fill a mobility gap that is underserved by traditional public transit due to sprawling development patterns. The project assesses of the viability of microtransit and other modes of new shared mobility as an integral part of a connected transit network and can
serve as a roadmap for future pilot projects that can influence the development of microtransit and other small-scale transportation networks moving forward.

Zak Mohamed, zakm206@uw.edu

I am a senior studying CEP, specifically focusing on community and planning. My education and work experience are something I want to use to prepare myself to help build better communities back home in Africa.

3D Printing in Africa, 6:45 PM

Initially, for my project, I was looking at how providing aide without sufficient support for a community poses the risk of a community becoming impotent and destitute. The framework for my project was looking at how communities in Africa can be supported through investment in themselves by using their unique resources, talent, and cultural knowledge. My answer to what can transform Africa to be more economically sustainable and self-sufficient after extensive research is 3D printing. In my project, I researched 3D printing as an industry and looked at how it can transform Africa economically to be more sustainable and self-sufficient without relying on foreign support. This proposal looks at 3D printing as a partial solution to economic sustainability in Africa. Comparing 3D printing to the Ford production model reveals that this new method is more efficient, less expensive, and produces products at an equivalent or superior quality. The literature review includes the history of 3D printing, the needs of local communities, and the prospects of including 3D printing at the local level.

Jenna Brewington, brewijen@uw.edu

My roots are in an Eastern Washington town, where I was encouraged to be curious, get my hands dirty with work, and live in each moment. But I felt a pull to Seattle, where I was inspired to learn and promote environmental consciousness – on both sides of the mountains. Due to this, I’ve shaped my undergraduate education to focus on societal environmental norms and integrating sustainability into the corporate mindset. I discovered CEP as a
community that fostered my journey and pursuit of holistic knowledge to be an understanding individual and bridge perspectives.

**Igniting Sustainable Business, 7:15 PM**
To help contribute to the growth of the sustainable business culture, this project was a partnership with Stocked, a local small production business, to analyze and improve their sustainability efforts, specifically packaging. The project addressed the increasing need for and deficient understanding of sustainability within the business world. It investigated the question, “In what ways can businesses become more sustainable, and what are the accompanying opportunities and challenges?” To answer this, I conducted an analysis that informed and demonstrated a local company's potential to mitigate their impact on the environment. I did this by communicating to several small businesses and then securing Stocked as a partner; researching and professionally communicating with them; organizing a kickoff meeting to determine the charge, expectations, and scope of analysis; researching key sustainability benchmarks and actionable changes for them; compiling information into a comprehensive report; and facilitating a final wrap-up meeting. The background research conducted was based on academic and professional resources and supported throughout by a local and prominent consulting firm, Sustainable Business Consulting. The findings identified an increased monetary and social value for Stocked from sustainability changes and their subsequent effect. The implications of these impacts, and their inherent necessity, is closely tied to climate change. As climate change continues to intensify, it is increasingly evident that human activity is contributing to the degradation of the planet and thus the health of the all who live on it. Recommendations identified through this project helped strengthen Stocked's sustainability foundation and introduce them to new sources of awareness and differentiation. Businesses are leaders in society and this project is taking them a step in a more sustainable direction.
Tyler Simpson, tylsimp@uw.edu
Having gained awareness of Seattle's deep injustices growing up in a rapidly gentrifying Seattle, I came into UW wanting to focus on equitable urban development. For my first two years, I was a member of Tent City Collective, which advocated for and facilitated Tent City 3's on-campus encampment stay. It's been wonderful to be part of the CEP cohort, developing community through ongoing teamwork, facilitation, and interdependence. I hope to use my degree to work in public and non-profit affordable housing.

Limited Equity Cooperatives: Combatting Displacement Through Collective Ownership, 6:15 PM
The past decade of job and population growth that Seattle experienced was met with dwindling housing affordability and a record displacement and homelessness crisis. Seattle's homeownership housing reached values too high for working class families to afford down-payment, and new construction was dominated by rental housing that offers residents no long-term cost stability or tenancy guarantee. The City of Seattle hopes to see thousands of affordable homes built in the next decade to address the crisis. Limited Equity Cooperatives (LECs) are a model where residents of a building collectively pay a blanket mortgage and maintenance fund each month, enabling very small buy-in values and permanent affordability. LECs common in several cities are as financially accessible as renting while maintaining the protections of homeownership. This project asks, “What public policy and organizational movements are necessary for spurring cooperative housing development as a method for combating gentrification and displacement in Seattle?” Researching case studies of LECs across North America, recommendations were identified through literature review, housing market data analysis, and stakeholder interviews.
Yohaly R. Camacho, yrc3@uw.edu

I grew up in Bellingham, WA but fell in love with Seattle’s diverse community and energetic city buzz. I knew that CEP would be a great fit for me because I love connecting with people and being intentional about my learning. My time at UW has allowed me to connect many of my passions like traveling, food, and people. My newfound knowledge and experience excite me as I learn to navigate the world around me.

Food Book, 6:45 PM

Food and Community Building: How does food shape the experience that students of color have at the University of Washington?

Food as a community-building tool is essential to ensuring that people will have positive interactions with those around them as well as the food they eat. A positive experience with a community will stay with someone and encourage them to share that experience with others. That experience is what brings communities together. This project is aimed to understand the role food plays in the experience for students of color at the University of Washington. I am doing this by exploring the question of how food shapes the experience for students of color at the University of Washington. The final product of my senior project will be a food book comprised of pictures and text of students cooking a meal that is meaningful to them. The main subject of the pictures will be the individual interacting with the food. This book will incorporate a photo essay by telling a story through photographs while using the outline of a look book, used to display a subject and generate inspiration. Based on the experiences shown the book will end with the recipe of each dish featured and the role food has played in the experience of each individual. Students will show their favorite dish or restaurant that has had an impact on them. Many organizations at the University of Washington Seattle campus already use food as a tool for community building, the food book will be a visual representation of how this is being done. The goal is for the book to inspire students to continue connecting to their identity through food and hopefully inspire them to share their experiences with people around them.
Abby Tish, ajtish@uw.edu

Growing up here in the Pacific Northwest, I fell in love with the outdoors and the natural beauty that surrounded me. This inspired me to study the intersection between people and nature. I'm particularly interested in how people interact with the natural environment and how communication influences environmental affairs and policies.

Greening Husky Athletics, 7:15 PM

The University of Washington's Football Stadium’s slogan is “the Greatest Setting in College Football” but the same can be said for all their sports fields. Located alongside Union Bay, the natural beauty of this area is truly unmatched. However, student-athletes, who spend much of their time here, have begun to notice the damaging impact people have on the area's wildlife and biodiversity. In response, these student-athletes came up with a plan to hold an ecological restoration event in order to clean up the natural lands they train and compete on every day. I began working with this group of students last fall to start managing and executing this project idea. We asked ourselves, how can the UW Athletics adopt greater environmental responsibility and use their platform to spread awareness of environmental stewardship? The ultimate purpose of this project is to assist in the recovery of the Union Bay ecosystem while also leveraging the power of Husky sports to inspire widespread environmental stewardship. To achieve this, I organized an Earth Day ecological restoration event for student-athletes and middle school aged youth to remove trash and non-native species. We will also film the event to create a video about ecological restoration that can be shown at UW sports games. This final product will demonstrate the dedication that student-athletes have in maintaining the health of the natural environment and inspire others to take action to reduce environmental degradation. This project aims to leverage the power of sport and student-athlete leadership to encourage environmental sustainability.
Hi, I’m Izumi [they/them/theirs]. I’m a fiery Aries (sun, Libra moon Virgo rising), Nissei Japanese American, and musician. I love creating community through art, learning how to be a better person, and writing music with friends.

In the Studio, Under the Lights, and Every Stage Between: A Genderqueer Experience in Seattle’s Informal Music Industry,
6:15 PM

Investigating the question, ‘how is the music-making process in Seattle’s informal music industry an opportunity for Genderqueer community building?’, this project focuses on the community-building possibilities of music, using my experience in a Genderqueer arts community to create a digital (MP3) album and an online album-release concert. In a literature review, I contextualized this project by analyzing relevant historical music communities, Genderqueer histories, and cultural theory. My own written account of the production and performance experience as well as qualitative interviews with the artists are situated within this contextualization. The interview questions were directly informed by my research on Genderqueer representation and arts activism. My senior project film combines interviews with written reflection to relay the significance of Genderqueer creatives building community together, and promote the livestreamed album-release concert. The final writeup shares the strengths and barriers a Genderqueer arts community faces, the importance of community during social distancing, and the impacts of legacy-building through Genderqueer arts. My findings also recount my personal growth through this process, despite major hiccups à la COVID-19.
Stuart Danford, sdanford@uw.edu

When I'm not exploring the city with friends or taking photos of local bands, I'm working on projects on campus or in Gould, and I value spending time learning new things and meeting new people. During my time in CEP I have focused on urban design and planning and sociology while interning at UW Photography as a visual media intern. As a result, I have grown to love cities and the people who live in them, and plan to continue working in the planning field in the future.

The Mentor Mindset: Building Community through Peer Mentorship at the Undergraduate Level, 6:45 PM

My involvement as a peer mentor at the University of Washington led to some of my most influential experiences as an undergraduate student. I was guided by the support of capable peer mentors as a first-year student and strived to provide that support myself later in my undergraduate career. As a mentee and mentor, I felt the impact of peer mentorship opportunities, and this project is my exploration of that impact. The purpose of this project is to understand the relationship between involvement in peer mentorship opportunities and the development of a desire to invest in the wellbeing of others, within the context of undergraduate education. To do this, I started by reviewing literature on peer learning and mentorship as individual teaching tools, their combination as peer mentorship, and the application of peer mentorship in the undergraduate context. Next, I interviewed 20 current UW student peer mentors and leaders to document the impact peer mentorship opportunities had on them in different aspects of their professional and personal lives. I then presented these findings online as a virtual catalogue of stories and advice for future peer mentors that is available to students and university staff. My hope is that this work will inspire future undergraduates at the UW and beyond to participate in peer mentorship programs and possibly even to become peer mentors themselves.
Sydney Solis, ssolis@uw.edu

I hail from Olympia, Washington, but I have found homes in various places throughout the past four years as I have traveled with a curious heart. I am intrigued by food’s complex role in communities, culture, and the environment, and I am particularly interested in encouraging a deeper awareness of the origins and impacts of the foods we consume.

Table and Harvest: A Restaurant and Garden Rooted in Community, 7:15 PM

To provide an avenue for community members to celebrate and share local, seasonal, and beautiful food, I have written a strategic plan for a small organic farm and on-site café. Through my project I am setting out to answer the following question: What are the best business practices for a small organic farm and on-site restaurant that are community-rooted, environmentally sound, and financially sustainable? I have answered this question through both qualitative and quantitative research, including case studies and a market analysis. The final written strategic plan includes details on the planned management and financial structures, and a sample menu. Through this project I hope to reconnect a community with their local food sources through a culinary, agricultural, and educational context. I aim for this plan to be a replicable and feasible way for communities to reclaim the power of growing their own food.
Zhuoheng (Brian) Liu, zhuoheng@uw.edu

I am an explorer. When I first got into UW, I devoted myself to the study of geography, exploring the world through the maps I created. But I wasn't satisfied with looking at the world from a two-dimensional perspective; I wanted to get in touch with the colorful stories and people behind those maps. In CEP, I am able to explore diverse representations of communities, fascinating histories imprinted in the built environment, and practical methods for building more equitable societies. In my journey of exploration, I will keep learning to use my experiences to search for creative solutions for our global communities.

Planning for Inclusiveness: Evaluating the Public Engagement Process of the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project in Seattle’s Chinatown International District, 6:15 PM

Facilitating cross-cultural interaction has become unprecedentedly critical in contemporary planning practices due to an increasingly diverse population across global cities. Since the City of Seattle adopted the neighborhood planning method in the 1990s, citizens have a better channel to voice up their opinions on the design of the urban environment. However, neighborhood planning also has its limitations when the channels for voicing up are not equally distributed for ethnic minorities, and when decisions cannot fulfill the actual needs of communities. Using the Hing Hay Park expansion project in Seattle’s Chinatown International District as a case study, this research project aims to explore the level of representation and inclusion in the public involvement process. It asks: how inclusive was the planning process of the Hing Hay Park expansion project? Seattle’s Chinatown International District is a diverse neighborhood where Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Filipino communities settled and grew together. As a major public space in the neighborhood, the newly expanded Hing Hay Park should showcase the rich and diverse history of the neighborhood; and its participatory design process should also reflect the diversity of community groups. Based on a review of literature and planning archives, structured
interviews were conducted with community members, planners, designers, and community organizers who participated in the planning process. Analysis of the responses demonstrated design paradoxes incurred by conflicting values, cultural differences, and communications between decision-makers and participants. To resolve these paradoxes requires a more nuanced and transparent community engagement process. Further research is needed to explore possible ways of improving the accessibility of participatory design processes and promoting the role of ethnic minorities in urban decision-making.

**Ashley Wright, aarie4@uw.edu**

*When I decided to go back to school, I was looking for a degree program that could satisfy my varied interests. CEP has offered me the flexibility to not only fulfill these needs, but to further explore and expand upon my interests. Originally, my educational focus rested in sustainable agriculture in urban environments but has since expanded to incorporating our food system as a whole – questioning and critiquing not only the measures of environmental sustainability, but also, the numerous social implications expressed throughout our system’s function.*

**The Nourishing Complex, 6:40 PM**

This project has been dedicated to developing a deep and well-informed understanding of the relationship between the dominate, US industrial food system, and the various progressive Alternative Food Movements (AFMs), as a means to generate a manifesto that expresses my educated opinions and beliefs about how to build an equitable, sustainable, and counter-hegemonic food movement. Commonly, it seems that the ‘general population’ passively assumes AFMs to be inherently “good,” without considering or recognizing the inequities and bad practices that are maintained throughout their operations. I began my journey into food system studies in a similar position until I discovered a more critical academic trail. I found that, despite their ever-growing popularity, many AFMs fail to combat the core issues responsible for inequities and disparities expressed throughout the major food regime. I believe that in order for us to attain a food system that ensures food security and access,
human health, sustainability, and environmental wellbeing, these fundamental issues must be critically examined, addressed, and rectified. By drawing on food-systems-theory and academic research relating to this topic, my project has worked to uncover these issues, and analyze how AFMs are, or are not, addressing them. Complementing my research, I have engaged with various members of AFMs, involved in diverse backgrounds and fields, as a way to identify issues experienced ‘on the ground,’ and to recognize the strengths and limitations these community members work within. Using these connections, I invited feedback on my work in order to check and compare my conclusions against the experiences of those who are working within the AFM sphere. The purpose of my manifesto has been to present, in plain language, the contradictions exhibited throughout our food system and food movements while expressing why, and how, we should work to overcome and eradicate them.

Ethan Jone, ethansj@uw.edu
My years at UW have been marked by my philosophical and expressive spirit. During my time at school, I've become passionate about meditation, which has evolved into a life of metaphysical inquiry. I use this lens to interpret this world and myself, and I hope my future ventures empower others to do the same: to see and understand themselves as a connected part of a greater whole.

Meditation Magic: An Exploration into the Metaphysical Nature of Reality, 7:05 PM
Metaphysical inquiry has been an integral part of every human culture. Questioning what's beyond the physical experience of being a human is a challenging, enlightening, and useful pursuit. My research question is: What is the most effective way to engage young people on an online video platform to convey metaphysical ideas, practices, and experiences? My methods for answering this question include the creation of a YouTube channel, and creating videos of myself discussing various metaphysical ideas, practices, and experiences. My channel will also include interactive experiences such as guided meditations. I will also be learning how to optimize my videos for YouTube's search algorithm and improve my
graphic design skills to create attractive video thumbnails and other online materials. I anticipate that my videos will have a positive effect on my viewers and spark some intrapersonal and philosophical inquiry. In the pursuit of this project, I have learned the skills I set out to and hope that this channel establishes credibility for myself as a specialist in this area. I am passionate about this field and I look forward to deepening my understanding of how to spark inquiry and inspiration within various demographics of inquisitive people.

Hannah Wetter, hjw96@uw.edu
I am a 23-year-old Seattleite born and raised in Ballard. I decided to join CEP in an effort to take control over my education and pursue a holistic path toward a bachelor’s degree in Urban Design and Planning. I look forward to beginning my career post-graduation with a focus in sustainability and hope to empower others to make conscious decisions about the impact we have on this planet.

Houseplants and Air Quality, 7:30 PM
It is a common belief that houseplants clean the air in our homes. But is this true? This study attempts to examine whether the claims surrounding air quality and owning a houseplant are verifiable or whether they are simply a marketing tool that cannot be corroborated. My guiding question throughout this process was, how can owning a houseplant in an urban, residential neighborhood influence and/or improve a home’s air quality?

Using an air quality monitor in a home, I took baseline recordings that detail the standard levels of various chemicals present. I then gradually introduced plants into the area in 6 groups increasing in intervals of 6, starting with 6 plants and then completing the study with 36 plants total. Throughout this process the monitor continued to run, recording all changes from the plants for 2 weeks. Ultimately, the plants produced a bell-curved result: the first few sets of plants gradually improved the air quality, but then reversed and began polluting the air when any further plants were introduced. While this study was relatively small, the results are intriguing, suggesting that plants can contribute to cleaner indoor air, but that this contribution is limited. Further research is required.
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